

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

## Winter 2023

**Instructor:** Dr. Erica Speakman  
**Email:** hiltze@mcmaster.ca  
**Lecture:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
11:30-12:20  
**Room:** PGCLL B138

**Office:** KTH 213  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 10-11am  
**TA:**  
**TA email:**

### **Course Description**

At its core, social psychology explores the relationship between the individual and society, and systematically studies the nature and causes of human social behaviour. This course is designed to introduce you to the theory and empirical research of social psychology. We will begin by laying the groundwork and discussing the different theoretical and methodological tools that social psychologists utilize to understand a plethora of phenomena. This will provide the foundation for our exploration of topics that are of particular interest to social psychologists, such as: socialization, the development of self and identity, behaviour and attitudes, and group processes, ultimately just scratching the surface of the amazing field of social psychology!

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand the dominant theoretical and methodological perspectives that are utilized to study social psychology, as well as appreciate the strengths and limitations of these approaches
- Gain a critical understanding of the impact that the individual and society has on the development of the self and identity
- Be able to apply concepts and ideas learned in this course to current situations and events in the community and around the world.
- Be able to apply social psychological principles and concepts to students' own experiences and everyday life
- Enhance students' critical thinking, writing, and organizational skills through course assignments, as well as enhance students' communication skills through class discussions.

## **Required Materials and Texts**

- **Required:** Myers, D., J. M. Twenge, C. H. Jordan, and S. M. Smith (2021) *Social Psychology* 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Ed. McGraw-Hill.
  - The text can be purchased at the *Campus Store*. There are both physical copies and an e-book version.
  - The publisher's website also offers the option to rent the text at a lower cost
  - Any previous editions purchased are done so at the student's own risk
- All other assigned and supplemental readings will be posted on Avenue to Learn

## **Class Format**

Lectures will be held in-person, unless otherwise specified. Lectures will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30-12:20 in PGCLL B138. Tutorials will also be in-person. You must attend the tutorial that you have been assigned through Mosaic.

Please do not come to lecture/tutorial if you feel unwell. This is especially the case if you are experiencing COVID symptoms and/or have tested positive. Contingencies will be in place if you are unable to attend. This will be addressed during the first lecture

The format of this class may change due to the ever-changing nature of the pandemic. If the university closes, the lectures will be moved to a virtual format until it is safe to return to campus.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Tutorial Attendance and Participation – 10%
2. Quizzes - 20% (2 quizzes at 10% each)
3. Mid-Term Exam – 15%,
4. Final Assignment – 25%
5. Final Exam – 30%

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Tutorial Participation (10%), Due throughout the term**

Over the course of the semester, you are asked to attend tutorials where you will have the opportunity to work on practice test questions, discuss course material in a more in-depth manner, and, perhaps most importantly, connect with your peers. If you are unable to attend your tutorial for that week, please contact your TA to work out alternatives for assessment

**Quizzes (10% Each = 20%), Due: January 31 and March 21, 2023**

Throughout the term, you will complete TWO quizzes that will be based on both lecture and reading material. Each quiz will consist of 20 multiple choice/true or false questions. They are open-book assessments and will be administered through Avenue to Learn. You will have 30 minutes to complete the test, which will be available from 9am-9pm on the day they are due

**Final Assignment (25%), Due: March 16, 2023**

For the final assignment, you will carry out a film analysis, where you will take ideas from the course, and ground them within the film assigned. Note, this is not a film review, but rather an opportunity to develop your analytical and critical thinking skills. Further instructions will be provided on Avenue to Learn

**Midterm Exam (15%), Due: February 16, 2023**

The exam will be based on both the lectures and the readings. It will consist of multiple choice and true or false questions. Unless otherwise specified, the exam will be held in-person during class time

**Final Exam (30%), Due: TBD**

The exam will be based on both the lectures and the readings. It will consist of multiple choice and true or false questions. Please note that the exam is **not cumulative**. Unless otherwise specified, the exam will be in-person and will be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar

**Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	DUE
<b>Week 1</b> <b>(Jan. 10/Jan. 12)</b>	Introduction to the Course  What is Social Psychology?	<b>No Readings!</b>	
<b>Week 2</b> <b>(Jan. 17/Jan. 19)</b>	What is Social Psychology Cont'd  How Do We <i>Do</i> Social Psychology?	Chapter 1	
<b>Week 3</b> <b>(Jan. 24/Jan. 26)</b>	Self, Identity, and Impression Management	Chapter 2	

<b>Week 4</b> (Jan. 31/Feb. 2)	Social Perception and Cognition	Chapter 3	<b>QUIZ 1 – Jan. 31</b> (covers weeks 2 & 3)
<b>Week 5</b> (Feb. 7/Feb. 9)	Behaviours and Attitude	Chapter 4	
<b>Week 6</b> (Feb. 14/Feb. 16)	<b>Review and Midterm Exam</b>	<b>No Readings!</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM – FEB. 16</b> (covers weeks 2-5)
<b>Week 7</b> (Feb. 21/Feb. 23)	<b>READING WEEK</b>	<b>No Readings!</b>	Time to Relax : )
<b>Week 8</b> (Feb. 28/Mar. 2)	Persuasion	Chapter 5	
<b>Week 9</b> (Mar. 7/Mar. 9)	Conformity	Chapter 6	
<b>Week 10</b> (Mar. 14/Mar. 16)	Group Influence	Chapter 7	<b>FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE MAR. 16 BY 11:59 PM on Avenue to Learn</b>
<b>Week 11</b> (Mar. 21/Mar. 23)	Altruism and Aggression	Chapters 8 and 9	<b>QUIZ 2 – MAR. 21</b> (covers weeks 8-10)
<b>Week 12</b> (Mar. 28/Mar. 30)	Prejudice	Chapter 11	
<b>Week 13</b> (Apr. 4/Apr. 6)	Conflict and Peacemaking	Chapter 12	
<b>Week 14</b> (Apr. 11)	<b>Wrap up and Review</b>	<b>No Readings!</b>	

## **Course Policies**

### **Email Policy**

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the term, please feel free to email either Dr. Speakman at [hiltze@mcmaster.ca](mailto:hiltze@mcmaster.ca), or your TA (contact information forthcoming).

When emailing either Dr. Speakman or the TA, please use your McMaster email. This is University policy. In addition, please do not use Avenue messenger, as these messages often get overlooked or missed entirely. In the subject heading of your email, please indicate the course code. It would also be helpful to include your name (this can either be the one on the registrar's list, or your preferred name) and student number in the email.

If you do not get a response within a week, please re-send the email as it may not have been received. In addition, please be aware that emails may not be responded to in the evenings or the weekends, and the instructor or TA will get back to you as soon as they are able

### **Submission of Assignments**

Please submit your final assignments to the appropriate folder on Avenue to Learn. When submitting an assignment, please use either a PDF or Word document as other formats are not recognized. Also ensure that you are submitting the correct assignment to the correct class

Note that all assessments must be completed to successfully finish this course. There will be no re-weighting of grades. If you miss a deadline, reach out to the professor as soon as possible to see if an arrangement can be made. If this is not done in a timely manner, a grade of zero for the assessment will be given.

### **Late Assignments**

The due dates for assignments are fixed and non-negotiable unless you are registered with SAS or submit a McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf>). The MSAF is a self-reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences for medical or other reasons that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work worth less than 25% of your overall. In these cases, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work". Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence. If you are absent for more than 3 days, or exceed one request per term, you **MUST** visit your Associate Dean's Office. You may be required to submit supporting documentation.

MSAF cannot be used for the Final Assignment (it is 25% or over), or the Final Exam. Late assignments will be deducted **1% per day late**. Any assignments that come in 2 weeks past the due date will receive an automatic grade of zero.

If you miss a quiz, please fill out an MSAF and contact Dr. Speakman as soon as possible to work out an alternative test date within a reasonable time

### **Review of Marks**

We will be diligent in marking all assignments fairly and accurately. Nonetheless, occasionally students disagree with the marks they receive. When this occurs, we will be happy to review the mark of any assignment or exam, if the procedure outlined below is followed. ***Please note that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.***

To request a review of a mark, write a ½ page memo describing in detail the nature of the perceived marking error and submit this memo to your Teaching Assistant. You may submit requests for review no sooner than **48 hours** after receiving a grade, and no later than one week after assignments/exams are released back to the class.

If, after this review of your mark, you continue to dispute the mark, you may submit an appeal to Dr. Speakman. Write a 1-page memo describing the dispute with the reviewed mark and submit it along with the original assignment and all written feedback from the Teaching Assistant. Dr. Speakman will not review any marks not already reviewed by the respective Teaching Assistant.

### **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **University Policies**

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## **AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION**

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. Avenue to Learn, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

## **COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT**

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn, LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any

questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

## **ONLINE PROCTORING**

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

## **CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

## **REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK**

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Policy on Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.<sup>3</sup>



## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## **COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## **EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, Avenue to Learn and/or McMaster email.

## **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

## **Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable

notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

## **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F