

SOCPSY 2YY3: THEORIES IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2020 term

Course Outline Updated August 30, 2020

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of various social psychological perspectives and theories and the studies that have contributed to their development. In addition, applications of these theoretical frameworks and current research based on these theories will be discussed.

Course Objectives

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

- Describe major theories within social psychology
- Identify research studies that have contributed to the development of psychological theories
- Use theories to formulate novel research questions and hypotheses

Required Materials and Texts

No textbook is required for this course.

Information presented in this course is an amalgamation of information from various books and journal articles. A list of references/recommended readings will be provided at the end of each lecture. The lists provided at the end of each lecture can be used to identify helpful resources to read if you would like to learn more about a specific topic, but you are NOT required to read them unless it is indicated. The **required readings** for this course are indicated below in the section titled “Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings.” All of the readings can be found in pdf format through Google Scholar or on Avenue to Learn, in accordance with the Fair Dealing Policy. A demonstration on how to obtain these articles will be provided during the first lecture.

Class Format

This is an online course that will be held asynchronously. This means that with the exception of midterms/examinations and assignment due dates, students will be able to work through course material at their own pace.

Lectures will be posted by 9 am each Thursday. Each lecture will include power point slides and an video/audio recording of the content. **The power point slides will be briefer than the video/audio content, as would be the case for in-person lectures. Thus, students are strongly encouraged to take notes when reviewing video/audio content**, supplement their learning with the readings, and/or contact the instructor/TA with questions about course content. **Also, please note that this course differs from previous versions of the course. Therefore, existing documents you may find online for this course code may not reflect the contents of this course.**

Students can communicate with the instructor/TA via e-mail and/or schedule virtual meetings with the instructor/TA as needed. Commonly asked questions about course content will also be reviewed during the final lecture (Thursday December 3, 2020). If

you have a question that you would like answered during this lecture, please e-mail it to the TA (Larissa) by Friday November 27th at 5 pm.

The instructor /TA will try to reply to e-mails and/or schedule meetings within three days. Since it can take up to three days to receive a response from the instructor/TA, students are encouraged to review course content/assignment guidelines more than three days before a test/assignment deadline.

Course Evaluation

Item	Date/Time	Percentage of Final Grade
Midterm #1	Thursday Oct. 8, 2020 @ 5:30 pm	25%
Midterm #2	Thursday Nov. 12, 2020 @ 5:30 pm	25%
Paper	Instructions will be released during the midterm break. Paper is due Thursday November 19 th @ 5:30 pm	15%
Final Exam	TBD - will occur during the exam period which is December 10-23, 2020	35%

Course Evaluation – Details

Midterm #1 (Oct. 8) will be conducted online and be in multiple-choice format. The content for Midterm #1 will be based on course content from weeks 1-4 including the required readings.

Midterm #2 (Nov. 12) will be conducted online and be in multiple-choice format. The content for Midterm #2 will be based on course content from weeks 7-9 including the required readings.

Paper (Due: Nov. 19) - There will be an **independent** written assignment worth 15% of your total grade. Instructions for the paper will be posted during the midterm break and the paper will be **due on Thursday November 19th at 5:30**. See late assignment policy below.

Final Exam (Date: TBD) will be conducted online and be in multiple-choice format. The exam will be cumulative, meaning content from the entire course, including the required readings will be testable. Content from weeks 11 and 12 will be more heavily weighted and account for approximately 25-30% of the final exam.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 - Lecture will be released on Thursday, September 10th and should be watched before October 8th.

Topic(s): Course overview
Theories – What they are and why they're important
Symbolic Interactionism

Reading(s): Hewitt, J. P. & Schulman, D. (2011). *Self and Society: A Symbolic Interactionist Social Psychology (11th Edition*; pages 1 – 8).
Pearson

Week 2 - Lecture will be released on Thursday, September 17 and should be watched before October 8th.

Topic(s): Theories and research relating to Self-worth/self-esteem
Reading(s): MacDonald, G., Saltzman, J. L., & Leary, M. R. (2003). Social approval and trait self-esteem. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 37(2), 23-40.

Buunk, A. P., & Gibbons, F. X. (2007). Social comparison: The end of a theory and the emergence of a field. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 102(1), 3-21.

Week 3 - Lecture will be released on Thursday, September 24 and should be watched before October 8th.

Topic(s): Theories and research relating to Identity and Culture
Reading(s): Sam, D. L., & Berry, J. W. (2010). Acculturation: When individuals and groups of different cultural backgrounds meet. *Perspectives on psychological science*, 5(4), 472-481.

Week 4 - Lecture will be released on Thursday, October 1st and should be watched before October 8th.

Topic(s): Theories and research relating to Self-perception
Reading(s): Harmon-Jones, E., & Mills, J. (2019). An introduction to cognitive dissonance theory and an overview of current perspectives on the theory. Only pages 1- 18

Week 5 - MIDTERM #1 will occur on Thursday October 8th at 5:30 pm

Week 6 - MIDTERM BREAK (October 12-16)- No lecture will be posted this week. However, instructions for the paper will be posted in case you want to start working on it. The following reading will be required in order for you to complete the assignment.

Reading(s): Puhl, R., & Brownell, K. D. (2003). Ways of coping with obesity stigma: review and conceptual analysis. *Eating behaviors*, 4(1), 53-78.

Week 7- Lecture will be released on Thursday, October 22 and should be watched before November 12th.

Topic(s): Theories and research relating to Attributions

Week 8- Lecture will be released on Thursday, October 29 and should be watched before November 12th.

Topic(s): Theories and research relating to Stereotypes, Prejudice, & Discrimination

Reading(s): Fiske, S. T., Cuddy, A. J., Glick, P., & Xu, J. (2002). A model of (often mixed) stereotype content: competence and warmth respectively follow from perceived status and competition. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 82(6), 878-902

Week 9 - Lecture will be released on Thursday, November 5 and should be watched before November 12th.

Topic(s): Theories and research relating to group dynamics and conformity

Reading(s): Murray, D. R., & Schaller, M. (2012). Threat (s) and conformity deconstructed: Perceived threat of infectious disease and its implications for conformist attitudes and behavior. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 42(2), 180-188.

Week 10 – MIDTERM #2 will occur on Thursday November 12th at 5:30 pm

Note(s): Friday November 13th is the last day to withdraw from this class.

Week 11 - Lecture will be released on Thursday, November 19 and should be watched before December 10th.

Topic(s): Theories and research relating to relationships and organizations

Reading(s): Taylor, D. A. (1968). The development of interpersonal relationships: Social penetration processes. *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 75(1), 79-90.

Note(s): Paper is due Thursday November 19th @ 5:30 pm

Week 12 - Lecture will be released on Thursday, November 26 and should be watched before December 10th.

Topic(s): Theories and research relating to prosocial and aggressive behaviour

Reading(s): Bushman, B. J., & Anderson, C. A. (2002). Violent video games and hostile expectations: A test of the general aggression model. *Personality and social psychology bulletin*, 28(12), 1679-1686.

Week 13 - Lecture will be released on Thursday, December 3 and should be watched before December 10th.

Topic(s): Applied social psychology
Course summary and exam preparation

Week 14 - Final Exam Period – December 10th – 23rd. Exam date TBD

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

[Insert policy on format of assignments and how to be submitted. Keep in mind our department policy that staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will not date-stamp or receive papers and other assignments.]

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	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

Late Assignments

Extensions for course assignments will only be granted under conditions of medical, family, or other extraordinary circumstances. All other late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day (including weekends). Late assignments will not be accepted after 7 days beyond the original deadline without appropriate documentation from the Office of the Associate Dean of Social Sciences (i.e., The paper for this course is due on November 19th. A paper submitted on Thursday November 26th would be deducted by 35% - 5% per day x 7 days. A paper submitted on Friday November 27th or later will be given a grade of 0 without appropriate documentation).

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.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

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 behavior 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.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

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 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

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

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, A2L and/or McMaster email.