

INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

Fall Term

Instructor: Dr. Cyril Levitt
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Lecture: Online

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment
online

Course Description

The dominant tradition in the study of social psychology whose major focus is on the relation between individual and society derives from the writings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth scholar George Herbert Mead, whose posthumously published book: *Mind, Self, & Society*, compiled from lecture notes taken by his students, is a key source in the development of the school of social psychology known as symbolic interactionism, a term coined by one of Mead's students and the one who took over his position at the University of Chicago, Herbert Blumer. Mead's approach was broad and deep beginning with the work of Charles Darwin and looking at the evolution of the human species in terms of its continuity and discontinuity in its evolution in relation to the evolution of other life forms. Blumer and his followers had a narrower focus, namely, the question as to how the individual gets society into its head, to put it in colloquial terms. Another way of putting it concerns the evolution of the human mind, the human self in the context of human society which is both like and unlike the societies of other non-human gregarious animals such as bees, ants, termites and the like.

Another, marginal tradition within social psychology concerned with the relation of individual and society, comes out of the development of psychoanalysis, an approach which came out of psychiatry at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century by Sigmund Freud and his followers in Central Europe as a therapeutic approach to mental illness. Now outside of social psychology and sociology, Freud's name calls to mind one of the towering figures of the last hundred years, as a figure who changed the way that people think about themselves and their well-being. It is sometimes said that Freud developed an approach to individual psychology but had little to say about social psychology or that his approach to social psychology was simply an extension of his understanding of the individual. In this course we will look at the fundamental texts of both traditions. We will have occasion to look at the main lines of approach in *Mind, Self, & Society* as well as in the major texts of Freud who explicitly claimed that psychoanalysis was fundamentally a social psychology. We will have an occasion to compare and contrast Mead's approach to that of Freud's psychoanalysis.

Course Objectives

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

- Recount the major themes in the tradition of social psychology with regard to the relation of individual and society stemming from the seminal work of George Herbert Mead
- Recount the major themes in the tradition of psychoanalysis as developed with regard to the relation of individual and society in the work of Sigmund Freud
- Compare and contrast the approaches to the understanding of the relation of individual and society in the works of Mead and Freud
- Understand the similarities and differences in the theory of mind, self and society in the writings of Mead and Freud

Required Materials and Texts

- Sigmund Freud, *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*, John Strachey translator.
- George Herbert Mead, *Mind, Self, Society* – the definitive edition.
- These texts are widely available for ordering online through a variety of book sellers or through the McMaster University bookstore. Please make sure that you have the Strachey translation of the Freud and the definitive edition of the book by Mead.

Class Format

Due to the prevalence of the COVID-19 virus, all classes will be online through recorded lectures. Students will be able to access these recorded lectures via Avenue to Learn. In addition to the lectures, the instructor will set up a zoom session once a week and invite all class members to participate. This will occur in real time and allow students to interact with the instructor and one another in real time. During these zoom sessions students will be able to ask questions of the instructor arising from the recorded lectures and readings. Students with specific issues that require a private discussion with the instructor may contact the instructor via email and if required may have a one-on-one zoom meeting with the instructor.

The two programs through which the course will be delivered consist of an integrated package of Avenue to Learn and Echo360. Avenue to Learn will be the access point for students to the recorded lectures, to communications with the instructor, to the mid-term and final exams described below. Students are requested to access Avenue to Learn frequently for class announcements, recorded lectures, exams and the like.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. First mid-term exam on Avenue to Learn, date to be determined
2. Second mid-term exam on Avenue to Learn, date to be determined
3. Final exam, date to be determined

Course Evaluation – Details

The First Midterm will be taken online through Avenue, date and time to be announced. Two weeks' notice will be given prior to the date of the midterm. The first midterm will be based on the lectures concerning the fundamentals of psychoanalysis and the text of *Group Psychology* up to and including the end of chapter V.

The first midterm will consist of some 25-30 multiple choice questions. The midterm will be written at the same time on the same day by all students on Avenue to Learn. Each student will be given a unique set of questions. Students who have been granted specific dispensations by Student Accessibility Services in terms of extra time or specific times will be accommodated. The grade for this midterm will constitute 30% of the final grade in the course.

The Second Midterm will be taken online through Avenue, date and time to be announced. Two weeks' notice will be given prior to the date of the midterm. The first midterm will be based on the lectures concerning the text of *Group Psychology* from the beginning of Chapter VI to the end of the book and all of Part I of *Mind, Self & Society*

The second midterm will consist of some 25-30 multiple choice questions. The midterm will be written at the same time on the same day by all students on Avenue to Learn. Each student will be given a unique set of questions. Students who have been granted specific dispensations by Student Accessibility Services in terms of extra time or specific times will be accommodated. The grade for this midterm will constitute 30% of the final grade in the course.

The Final Examination will be taken online through Avenue, date and time to be determined by the Office of the Registrar. The final examination will be based on all the lectures concerning the entire text of *Group Psychology* and all of *Mind, Self & Society*.

The final examination will consist of some 60 multiple choice questions. The final examination will be written at the same time on the same day by all students on Avenue to Learn. Each student will be given a unique set of questions. Students who have been granted specific dispensations by Student Accessibility Services in terms of extra time or specific times will be accommodated. The grade for this midterm will constitute 30% of the final grade in the course.

Details about Assignment/test 2

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Please complete all readings BEFORE you access the recorded lectures. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AS AN APPROXIMATE GUIDE RATHER THAN A TIMETABLE ETCHED IN STONE. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LECTURES WILL BE RECORDED IN ADVANCE AND MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH AVENUE TO LEARN AT DIFFERENT TIMES. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU DO THE READINGS BEFORE ACCESSING THE LECTURES AND IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT YOU TRY TO LIMIT YOUR ACCESS TO ONE LECTURE PER WEEK. THE ZOOM SESSIONS TO WHICH ALL STUDENTS WILL BE INVITED WEEKLY WILL DEAL WITH THE LECTURE OF THE WEEK AS LISTED BELOW. FALLING BEHIND OR GETTING TOO FAR AHEAD WILL COMPROMISE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ZOOM SESSIONS WHICH WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A TUTORIAL IN WHICH QUESTIONS WILL BE FIELDED AND ANSWERED AND DISCUSSION ENCOURAGED.

Week 1 – Introduction

The first two lectures will present the students with an introduction to the fundamentals of Freud’s psychoanalytic concepts of the mind, psychic topography, psychic structure, psychic conflict, psychic development, the importance of dreams and parapraxes in understanding the unconscious mind, the theory of the drives, the development of Freud’s theory, Freud’s clinical work and the development of his understanding of the mind.

**No Readings

Week 2 – Introduction continued

The first two lectures will present the students with an introduction to the fundamentals of Freud’s psychoanalytic concepts of the mind, psychic topography, psychic structure, psychic conflict, psychic development, the importance of dreams and parapraxes in understanding the unconscious mind, the theory of the drives, the development of Freud’s theory, Freud’s clinical work and the development of his understanding of the mind.

**No Readings

Week 3 – Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego

Readings: *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*, Introduction (Chapter I), Chapter II Le Bon's Description of the Group Mind, Chapter III Other Accounts of Collective Mental Life, Chapter IV Suggestion and Libido.

Week 4 – Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego

Readings: *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*, Chapter V Two Artificial Groups: The Church and the Army. Chapter VI Further Problems and Lines of Work, Chapter VII Identification, Chapter VIII Being in Love and Hypnosis.

Week 5 – Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego

Readings: *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*, Chapter IX The Herd Instinct, Chapter X The Group and the Primal Horde, Chapter XI A Differentiating Grade in the Ego, Chapter XII Postscript.

Week 6 – Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego

No Readings: Semester Break

Week 7

No Readings: First mid-term exam on Avenue, date and time to be announced

Week 8

No Readings: Review of the first mid-term exam

Week 9

Introduction to George Herbert Mead: *Mind, Self & Society*.

**No Readings

Week 10

Readings: Parts 1 and 2 Mind, Self & Society.

Week 11

No Readings **Second mid-term exam on Avenue, date and time to be announced.

Week 12

Review of second mid-term exam.

Readings: Parts 3 and 4 Mind, Self & Society.

Week 13

Summary and Review

Final Examination on Avenue date and time to be set by the Registrars Office.

Course Policies

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

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".

In the case of illness and missed exams, students will have an opportunity to rewrite.

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, usernames 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 Statement

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.

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.

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](#).

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.

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.

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 requiring a [RISO](#) accommodation 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
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