



PSY 234

Social and Personality Psychology

S1 Day 2015

Department of Psychology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Unit Convenor

Trevor Case

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

[PSYC104(P) and PSYC105(P)] or [(STAT122(P) or STAT170(P) or STAT171(P) or PSY122(P)) and (PSY104(P) or PSYC104(P)) and (PSY105(P) or PSYC105(P))] or admission to GDipPsych

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This is an introduction to theory, research and applications in the scientific study of social and personality psychology. The personality section of the unit provides an in-depth background to the prominent theories of personality and examines recent developments in personality research. The section on social psychology covers foundational scientific research in social psychology, focusing on developments in the three general domains of social thinking, social influence and social relations. The objectives of this unit involve acquiring a basic understanding of the principal theories, key empirical research, and basic issues in the fields of social and personality psychology. Overall, the following specific knowledge and skills are expected to be acquired from this unit:- an understanding of how the scientific approach to personality and social psychology differs from common sense or lay understanding;- an awareness of research methods used in personality and social psychology research; an ability to construct an overall critical evaluation of current scientific knowledge within personality or social psychology;- an understanding of the principal personality theories, research, and the controversies that arise in this field; and- an understanding of the key theories and research in the domains of social cognition, social influence and social relations.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Identify how the scientific approach to personality and social psychology differs from commonsense or lay understanding

Understand the differences between common research designs used in personality and social psychology research

Conduct an overall critical evaluation of current scientific knowledge of a topic within personality or social psychology

Demonstrate an understanding of the principal personality theories, research, and the controversies that arise in this field

Demonstrate an understanding of the key theories and research in social psychology

Discuss the concepts attained in the lectures and readings in a small class forum

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Essay	35%	Week 7
Mid-Semester Exam	25%	Week 6
Final Examination	40%	Examination period
Tutorial Participation	0%	Ongoing

Essay

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **35%**

Psychology Essay with maximum 1500 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the differences between common research designs used in personality and social psychology research
- Conduct an overall critical evaluation of current scientific knowledge of a topic within

personality or social psychology

- Demonstrate an understanding of the principal personality theories, research, and the controversies that arise in this field
- Demonstrate an understanding of the key theories and research in social psychology

Mid-Semester Exam

Due: **Week 6**

Weighting: **25%**

Mid-semester multiple-choice exam on lectures, tutes & readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify how the scientific approach to personality and social psychology differs from commonsense or lay understanding
- Understand the differences between common research designs used in personality and social psychology research
- Demonstrate an understanding of the principal personality theories, research, and the controversies that arise in this field

Final Examination

Due: **Examination period**

Weighting: **40%**

Multiple-choice exam on lectures, tutes & readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify how the scientific approach to personality and social psychology differs from commonsense or lay understanding
- Understand the differences between common research designs used in personality and social psychology research
- Demonstrate an understanding of the key theories and research in social psychology

Tutorial Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **0%**

Attendance at tutorials is compulsory

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify how the scientific approach to personality and social psychology differs from

commonsense or lay understanding

- Understand the differences between common research designs used in personality and social psychology research
- Demonstrate an understanding of the principal personality theories, research, and the controversies that arise in this field
- Demonstrate an understanding of the key theories and research in social psychology
- Discuss the concepts attained in the lectures and readings in a small class forum

Delivery and Resources

Lectures **TUESDAYS 4-6pm, W6D (LOTUS THEATRE)**

Tutorials Number of tutorials: One tutorial per fortnight

Length of tutorials: 2 hours

Tutorial Attendance: COMPULSORY

Note that the mid-semester exam is held during the lecture time in Week 6. Students who do not think they can attend this exam time due to work or other commitments should consider taking an alternate course. There is no separate arrangement available for evening students to sit this exam.

Prescribed texts

1. Gilovich, T., Keltner, D, Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2013). *Social Psychology* (3rd ed.). New York: Norton.
2. Custom bundle for PSY234 at Macquarie University, selected from: (a) Sollod, R. N, Wilson J. P. & Monte, C. F. (2009). *Beneath the mask: An introduction to theories of personality* (8th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley; (b) Monte, C. F. & Sollod, R. N. (2003). *Beneath the mask: An introduction to theories of personality* (7th ed.). New York: Wiley.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment task

- Tutorial Participation

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify how the scientific approach to personality and social psychology differs from commonsense or lay understanding
- Understand the differences between common research designs used in personality and social psychology research
- Conduct an overall critical evaluation of current scientific knowledge of a topic within personality or social psychology
- Demonstrate an understanding of the principal personality theories, research, and the controversies that arise in this field
- Demonstrate an understanding of the key theories and research in social psychology

Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Mid-Semester Exam
- Final Examination
- Tutorial Participation

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify how the scientific approach to personality and social psychology differs from commonsense or lay understanding
- Understand the differences between common research designs used in personality and social psychology research
- Conduct an overall critical evaluation of current scientific knowledge of a topic within personality or social psychology
- Demonstrate an understanding of the principal personality theories, research, and the controversies that arise in this field
- Demonstrate an understanding of the key theories and research in social psychology
- Discuss the concepts attained in the lectures and readings in a small class forum

Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Mid-Semester Exam
- Final Examination
- Tutorial Participation

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment task

- Essay

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms

effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Conduct an overall critical evaluation of current scientific knowledge of a topic within personality or social psychology
- Discuss the concepts attained in the lectures and readings in a small class forum

Assessment tasks

- Essay
- Tutorial Participation