PSYU3333

Social Interaction in the Modern World

Session 2, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2021

Archive (Pre-2022) - Department of Psychology

Contents

Disclaimer

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Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update

The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities.

Visit the MQ COVID-19 information page for more detail.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Rachel Kallen
rachel.kallen@mq.edu.au
4FW 808
By appointment

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
PSYU2234 or PSYX2234 or PSY234 or PSYX234

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Human beings are fundamentally social creatures. Our relationships to others and the world around us are critical for our physical and psychological well-being. We all have powerful needs for connection, and a sense of identity and belonging. Similarly, we actively seek to protect ourselves from rejection, loneliness and inequitable treatment by others. While there is a long history of research on this topic, contemporary social psychology has started to examine how societal and technological advances create new challenges and opportunities for how we interact as individuals, members of groups and larger communities. This unit explores a variety of topics concerning interpersonal and intergroup dynamics, which may include social connection; individual and group identity; stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination; social justice and socio-political movements; cultural diversity and inclusion; and social interaction in the virtual world. Emphasis is placed on critical examination of current theoretical and empirical approaches, as well as innovative methodologies from a range of interdisciplinary fields. Students are encouraged to integrate cultural, methodological, and theoretical perspectives to examine the complexities of social interaction across individual, group, and system levels.

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:

ULO1: Explain contemporary issues in social interaction from a psychological perspective with reference to relevant literature.

ULO2: Critically analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing theories and explanations for issues in the field of social interaction.

ULO3: Explain the strengths and limitations of traditional and modern research methods and analyses used in research on social interaction.

ULO4: Apply the relevant literature in order to demonstrate how one's own cultural and social background, beliefs and experiences influence one's own social behaviour.

ULO5: Clearly communicate a critical appraisal of competing approaches to the study of social interaction from a theoretically and scientifically informed perspective.

General Assessment Information

There are three forms of assessment for PSYU/X 3333: A report, an essay and a final exam. Grades for the unit will be determined by adding together total marks for the three assessments. Please see the university policy on grading for further information. It is Psychology policy that letter grades, not numeric marks, are released for written assessment tasks.

A **written report** (700 - 750 words), worth 25% of final grade, will be due by close of business (5pm) on Friday, September 3. Students should submit their assignment via Turnitin on the iLearn webpage for the Unit. Feedback on the report will be returned via iLearn at the end of week 9. No submissions will be accepted after 5pm on Friday 24th September.

The report will be based on materials covered in Tutorials 1 and 2. The requirements of the assignment will be covered in the tutorials and students will be able to self-assess their performance prior to submission of the assignment against the criteria (rubric) which will be used by the tutors marking the assignment and will be available via the iLearn webpage for the unit prior to the submission date. A penalty will be applied for going over the word limit of 750 words: 5% of the maximum assignment mark (i.e., 25/100) for every 100 words written over the word limit. For example, if the assignment is 850-949 words, 1.25 marks out of 25 will be deducted; if the assignment is 950-1049 words, 2.5 marks out of 25 will be deducted, etc. Feedback will be provided relative to those criteria.

A **written essay** (1350 - 1500 words), worth 35% of final grade, will be due by close of business (5pm) on Friday, October 29. The essay will ask students to critically evaluate scientific knowledge and formulate a coherent and intelligent discussion of a relevant issue within the psychology of social interaction. Students should submit their assignment via Turnitin on the iLearn webpage for the Unit. Feedback on the report will be returned via iLearn at the end of week 9. No submissions will be accepted after 5pm on Friday 19th November.

The requirements of the assignment will be covered in the lecture and details and topics will be made available via iLearn by week 8. Students will be able to self-assess their performance prior to submission of the assignment against the criteria (rubric) which will be used by the tutors marking the assignment and will be available via the iLearn webpage for the unit prior to the submission date. Feedback will be provided relative to those criteria. A penalty will be applied for

going over the word limit of 1500 words: 5% of the maximum assignment mark (i.e., 35/100) for every 100 words written over the word limit. For example, if the assignment is 1600-1699 words, 1.75 marks out of 35 will be deducted; if the assignment is 1700-1799 words, 3.5 marks out of 35 will be deducted, etc. The word limit excludes the title page and References pages.

The **final exam** is currently scheduled to occur on Macquarie University campus. You are expected to present yourself for examination at the date, time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable, in line with assessment policay and procedures. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations. Sitting the final exam is compulsory in order to be eligible to pass the unit. Any student who does not attempt the final exam will be granted a Fail Absent grade.

Special Consideration

If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration. There is a link to the policy in the Policies and Procedures section of this Unit Guide. Procedures specific to this unit are noted below.

Macquarie University operates under a **'Fit to Sit'** model. This means that, in sitting an examination and/or in-class test or otherwise submitting an assessment, a student is declaring that they are fit to do so. It is the responsibility of the student to determine whether they are fit to sit an examination or test, or otherwise submit an assessment. Therefore, if a student is feeling unfit to sit the examination or test, or otherwise submit the assessment, they should not do so.

- **If you are unable to submit the Written Report or Essay on time**: Ordinarily, *no extensions of time for submission of written work will be granted* because ample time for its preparation will have been given. If an extension is required for medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may request Special Consideration via ask.mq.edu.au with supporting documentary evidence (i.e., medical certificate) within five (5) working days after the due date for the assignment. Supplementary assessment tasks can be in a different format to the original assessment task. ***Assignments submitted after the due date where an extension has not been granted will be penalised*** at the rate of 5% of the maximum assignment mark for every day late, incuding weekends and holidays.Assignments submitted ten days after submission or more beyond the due date will only awarded a maximum of 50%. Thus a grade of 100% will be needed to achieve a passing mark for the assessment. *Assignments will not be accepted after marked assignments have been returned*.

- **If you are unable to sit the Final Exam at the scheduled time**: Students who are unable to complete the final exam at the specified time due to serious and unavoidable circumstances must make a claim for Special Consideration via ask.mq.edu.au attaching appropriate supporting documents within five (5) working days from the day of the

examination. The unit convenor will determine eligibility for a supplementary final exam and eligible students will be notified via email (using the official university email address for the student) about the time of the supplementary final exam. There will be only one alternative time. The format of the supplementary exam is at the unit convenor's discretion and is subject to change from the original examination.

Grade Appeals

Individual Assessments: Any requests for remark will need to follow the Psychology process and must be applied within 2 weeks of the assessment task being returned. Information will be provided on iLearn.

- Read over your marker's feedback

- Wait at least 24-48 hours and reread your marker's feedback

- If you are still not happy with your grade, contact your marker and organise a time to discuss your assignment in-person (generally, this does not result in a change in grade but an increase in clarity as to why you received the grade you did).

- If you are not happy with the outcome of this, you will need to lodge a formal request for a remark. Remarking is done by the unit convenor and their grade will be final (i.e., if they mark you lower than your original marker, you will receive the lower grade).

Overall Grade

Detailed university policy information can be found at: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/appeals

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Report	25%	No	Week 6
Essay	35%	No	Week 12
Final Examination	40%	No	See Exam Timetable

Report

Assessment Type [1]: Report
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **Week 6**
Weighting: **25%**

Report to critically review relevant literature on contemporary social interaction issue, written for wide communication across both academic and non-academic audiences.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Explain contemporary issues in social interaction from a psychological perspective with reference to relevant literature.
- Critically analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing theories and explanations for issues in the field of social interaction.
- Apply the relevant literature in order to demonstrate how one's own cultural and social background, beliefs and experiences influence one's own social behaviour.
- Clearly communicate a critical appraisal of competing approaches to the study of social interaction from a theoretically and scientifically informed perspective.

Essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **Week 12**
Weighting: **35%**

Essay to critically evaluate the body of scientific literature on a contemporary issue within the psychology of social interaction.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Explain contemporary issues in social interaction from a psychological perspective with reference to relevant literature.
- Critically analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing theories and explanations for issues in the field of social interaction.
- Explain the strengths and limitations of traditional and modern research methods and analyses used in research on social interaction.
- Apply the relevant literature in order to demonstrate how one's own cultural and social background, beliefs and experiences influence one's own social behaviour.
- Clearly communicate a critical appraisal of competing approaches to the study of social interaction from a theoretically and scientifically informed perspective.

Final Examination

Assessment Type [1]: Examination
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 32 hours
Due: **See Exam Timetable**
Weighting: **40%**

Final examination held within the University's formal exam period, in accordance with relevant requirements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically analyse the strengths and weaknesses of competing theories and explanations for issues in the field of social interaction.
- Explain the strengths and limitations of traditional and modern research methods and analyses used in research on social interaction.
- Apply the relevant literature in order to demonstrate how one's own cultural and social background, beliefs and experiences influence one's own social behaviour.

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Lectures

There is one 2-hour lecture each week of the session, apart from week 9 (Public Holiday). Students can watch recordings of the lecture available via the link on the iLearn page to Echo360.

Readings associated with lectures will be listed in the weekly lecture modules posted on iLearn and will be either from the required text or made available through Unit Readings tab in iLearn.

All lecture material is examinable.

Tutorials

There are six 2-hour tutorials in Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, & 13. Tutorials will be held with both on-

campus and online class options. At the time of publishing this unit guide, most tutorial classes are scheduled to be held on campus. Class availability can be seen via eStudent class enrolment: the location of the class indicates if it is an online class or an on-campus class. However, in line with Public Health guidelines, this approach will be revised if and when necessary due to the COVID pandemic, in alignment with University policy. Changes or updates will be communicated via iLearn and/or emails sent to student email accounts. Students should stay up to date with the latest University advice at the following website: https://www.mq.edu.au/about/coronavirus-faqs/information-for-students

Attendance at practicals is *strongly* advised - the material will be assessed, but more importantly, it is in the tutorial classes that application of the material from lectures is discussed and demonstrated, and in some cases the only source of required information to complete assignments.

All practical material is assessable.

Required Text

Advanced social psychology: the state of the science (2019). Finkel, E. J., & Baumeister, R. F., editors. Second edition. New York, NY : Oxford University Press.

Recommended Resources

The *Seventh Edition* of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (2019) provides necessary guidelines for APA format for your second assignment.

Unit Schedule

1	26 JULY	Introduction to the unit	
2	02 AUGUST	Social Cognition	
3	09 AUGUST	Social Perception I: Self & Others	
4	16 AUGUST	Social Perception II: Attitudes & Influence	
5	23 AUGUST	Identity & Interaction I	
6	30 AUGUST	Identity & Interaction II	
7	06 SEPTEMBER	Language & Social Interaction	
		Mid-Session Break	
8	27 SEPTEMBER	Challenge and Change	
9	*04 OCTOBER*	*NO LECTURE - PUBLIC HOLIDAY*	
10	11 OCTOBER	Human Machine Interaction I: Social Robotics	
11	18 OCTOBER	Human Machine Interaction II: Dynamics & Complexity Science	

12	25 OCTOBER	Virtual Embodiment in Social Interaction	
13	01 NOVEMBER	Conclusions	
	TBA	FINAL EXAM	

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy

Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Grading

Macquarie University, and Psychology undergraduate courses, follow standards-based assessment of student performance. All individual assessment tasks are subject to moderation, consistent with the Assessment Policy and Procedure. A student's final mark for this unit, and associated grade, must reflect their attainment of the unit learning outcomes, and isn't necessarily a simple summation of their individual assessment items.

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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment
- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.