



PSYX3333

Advanced Topics in Social Psychology

Session 1, Online-flexible 2025

School of Psychological Sciences

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	3
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	4
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	7
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	7
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	8
<u>Inclusion & Diversity</u>	9
<u>Professionalism</u>	10

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Lecturer

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

30cp at 2000 level PSYU or PSYX

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. In this unit, you will explore 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. You will be 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: Demonstrate broad and coherent knowledge of the underlying principles, theories and concepts, and skills in select core topics within social psychology (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).

ULO2: Demonstrate research-informed and self-directed pursuit of scholarly inquiry in psychology to analyse, critique, and discuss theory and research in social psychology (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).

ULO3: Communicate effectively across a range of lay and scientific audiences including researchers, policy makers and the wider community (Capability 2: Practitioner).

ULO4: Apply social psychology knowledge and skills in a manner that is reflexive, culturally appropriate, and sensitive to the diversity of individuals (Capability 3: Citizen).

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the Assessment Procedure (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11:55 pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70

2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40
>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

No submissions will be accepted after the marked assignments are returned and feedback is released to students.

The *final exam* for this unit will occur online with invigilation. Students are expected to make themselves available for the final exam, at the date and time set by the University, in line with the Assessment Policy and Procedure. 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.

Word count penalty: 5% of the possible mark will be deducted per 100 words over the word limit for the assessment task. An additional 99 words beyond the limit can be written without penalty.

Illness or Significant Disruption to Assessments

In the event of illness or significant disruptions during an examination or timed assessment, students must promptly cease their work. If the incident occurs in a classroom setting, they must inform the supervisor or invigilator immediately. If the disruption takes place outside the classroom, it should be reported immediately to the appropriate course authority. Subsequently, students are required to submit an application for special consideration.

Students who have already submitted an assessment or participated in an examination or timed assessment without reporting any issues during the assessment process will only be considered for a second opportunity to undertake that assessment only under exceptional circumstances. The decision to grant a second opportunity will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, with careful consideration given to the nature and validity of the exceptional circumstances that significantly affected their performance in the initial assessment. A statement of fact cannot suffice as evidence in such cases.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Op-Ed</u>	35%	No	27/04/2025
<u>Media Information Campaign</u>	25%	No	18/05/2025

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Online invigilated examination</u>	40%	No	Exam Period

Op-Ed

Assessment Type ¹: Professional writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **27/04/2025**

Weighting: **35%**

Op-ed piece on the topic of the major project 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:

- Demonstrate broad and coherent knowledge of the underlying principles, theories and concepts, and skills in select core topics within social psychology (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Demonstrate research-informed and self-directed pursuit of scholarly inquiry in psychology to analyse, critique, and discuss theory and research in social psychology (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Communicate effectively across a range of lay and scientific audiences including researchers, policy makers and the wider community (Capability 2: Practitioner).
- Apply social psychology knowledge and skills in a manner that is reflexive, culturally appropriate, and sensitive to the diversity of individuals (Capability 3: Citizen).

Media Information Campaign

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **18/05/2025**

Weighting: **25%**

Media presentation on the major project

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate broad and coherent knowledge of the underlying principles, theories and concepts, and skills in select core topics within social psychology (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Communicate effectively across a range of lay and scientific audiences including researchers, policy makers and the wider community (Capability 2: Practitioner).
- Apply social psychology knowledge and skills in a manner that is reflexive, culturally appropriate, and sensitive to the diversity of individuals (Capability 3: Citizen).

Online invigilated examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 32 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

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:

- Demonstrate broad and coherent knowledge of the underlying principles, theories and concepts, and skills in select core topics within social psychology (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Demonstrate research-informed and self-directed pursuit of scholarly inquiry in psychology to analyse, critique, and discuss theory and research in social psychology (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Apply social psychology knowledge and skills in a manner that is reflexive, culturally appropriate, and sensitive to the diversity of individuals (Capability 3: Citizen).

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

This unit consists of scheduled lectures and tutorial classes. Lectures are available via Echo360. Tutorial classes are available via iLearn under weekly tabs. See iLearn for full details.

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of online learning activities, including readings, online modules, videos and lectures. Further details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

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

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device. Students who do not own their own laptop computer may borrow one from the university library.

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture	Psychology Lecture Topic
1	Thursday, 27 February 2025	Introduction to the Unit
2	Thursday, 6 March 2025	Social Cognition
3	Thursday, 13 March 2025	The Social Self
4	Thursday, 20 March 2025	Attitudes: Perception & Action
5	Thursday, 27 March 2025	Social Challenges
6	Thursday, 3 April 2025	Social Change
7	Thursday, 10 April 2025	Language & Social Interaction
		SESSION BREAK
8	Thursday, 1 May 2025	Current Issues in Identity
9	Thursday, 8 May 2025	Current Issues in Intergroup Relations
10	Thursday, 15 May 2025	Organizations: Interaction & Change
11	Thursday, 22 May 2025	Human-Machine Interaction: Dynamics & Complexity Science
12	Thursday, 29 May 2025	Social Motor Coordination
13	Thursday, 5 June 2025	Conclusions & Revision
	TBA	FINAL EXAM

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](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 \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

The [Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Inclusion & Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable,

diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute to the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction, or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical/tutorial, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however, you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success and that by not engaging may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join the activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

Unit information based on version 2025.06 of the [Handbook](#)