PSYU3333

Advanced Topics in Social Psychology

Session 2, Online-flexible, North Ryde 2026

School of Psychological Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Charlie Topping
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to BPsych or BPsych (Hons) AND 130cp at the 1000 level or above

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).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Media Information Campaign	25%	No	03/09/2026	Individual	No	Observed
Op-Ed	35%	No	22/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Final Examination	40%	No	Exam Period	Individual	No	Observed

Media Information Campaign

Assessment Type [1]: Presentation task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 25 hours
Due: **03/09/2026**
Weighting: **25%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach: Observed

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).

Op-Ed

Assessment Type [1]: Written Submission
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 25 hours
Due: **22/10/2026**
Weighting: **35%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: Yes
AI Approach: Open

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).

Final Examination

Assessment Type [1]: Examination
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 32 hours
Due: **Exam Period**
Weighting: **40%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach: Observed

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).

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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
- Academic Success 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.

[3] An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the Service Connect Portal.

Delivery and Resources

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of online learning activities, including readings, videos, interactive content, and tutorial workbooks. 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.

Unit Schedule

Week	Date commencing	Weekly topic	Tutorial workbook
1	27th July	Introduction to the unit	
2	3rd August	Social cognition	Workbook 1
3	10th August	The social self	
4	17th August	Attitudes: Perception & action	Workbook 2

5	24th August	Social challenges	
6	31st August	Language & social interaction	Workbook 3
7	7th September	Social change	
8	14th September	Current issues in identity	Workbook 4
		BREAK WEEKS	
9	5th October	Current issues in intergroup relations	
10	12th Octboer	Organisations: Interaction & change	Workbook 5
11	19th October	Human-machine interaction: Dynamics & complexity science	
12	26th October	Social motor coordination	Workbook 6
13	2nd November	Conclusions & revision	
		FINAL EXAM	

Please note: schedule subject to change - please check iLearn regularly

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
- 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). 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 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/

Academic Success

Academic Success provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Ask a Study Coach
- 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 https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk.

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.

Artificial Intelligence Tools

Macquarie University recognises that artificial intelligence (AI), especially generative AI, is rapidly reshaping education and the modern workplace. As AI becomes increasingly accessible, the University and your teaching staff are committed to preparing you to use these tools effectively, ethically, and with strong professional judgment. Rather than restricting technology, the emphasis is on helping you understand when and how AI can be used to enhance productivity, support learning, and reflect real-world professional practice. Across your degree, we will support you to develop the critical thinking, adaptability, and values-based decision-making skills required to navigate evolving AI tools responsibly, including acknowledging their use appropriately. You should always appropriately acknowledge when you have used AI tools within assessment tasks, including which AI tools you have used and how you have used them.

To provide clarity, Macquarie University uses a simple, two-tiered approach to AI in assessment:

- AI Open assessments allow you to fully incorporate AI, reflecting authentic tasks where AI would normally be used in professional settings.
- Observed with AI Optional assessments involve tasks where you either demonstrate essential knowledge without technology or show how you apply AI under supervision.

Across both categories, the goal is to ensure you build foundational knowledge, exercise sound judgment, and engage with AI in ways that uphold ethical, cultural, and university values.

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 towards 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, 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, you 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.

Another dimension of professionalism is respecting your peers. It is every student's right to learn in an environment free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive at 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 2026.04 of the Handbook