PSY 234
Social and Personality Psychology
S1 Day 2015

Department of Psychology

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General Information

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Unit Convenor
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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

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<td>Essay</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
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<td>Mid-Semester Exam</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Examination period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
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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

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

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/](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/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://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](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

**IT 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
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- 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