

# SOCPSY 2E03: PSYCHOLOGY OF INTERGROUP RELATIONS

## Fall 2023

**Instructor:** Dr. Taigan MacGowan

**Email:** macgowat@mcmaster.ca

**Pronouns:** she/her

**You can call me:** Dr. Mac / MacGowan

**Lecture:** Asynchronous online delivery; Recorded lectures available on Avenue

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## **Course Description**

This course explores social psychological theories and research on intergroup attitudes and behaviour. Topics include stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, conflict, and cooperation.

## **Course Objectives**

The Honours Social Psychology Program has 6 program learning objectives. This course meets the following 4 objectives in the following ways:

- 1. Appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of Social Psychology and evaluate the contributions that different disciplines contribute to the field**
  - Students will examine class material through social, cognitive, and developmental lenses
  - Learners will engage with both empirical evidence and pragmatic problems in the field of intergroup relations
  
- 2. Understand critically the major theoretical perspectives and debates in the field and be able to articulate a position**
  - Students will engage in weekly readings that grant direct exposure to empirical studies in the field of psychology
  - Learners will be exposed to multiple psychological theories of prejudice and intergroup conflict
  
- 3. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills through participation in class discussions, debates, activities, presentations, course papers and assignments**
  - Students will have the opportunity to practice concise, summative, and intentional writing through regular precis writing
  
- 4. Understand and apply a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods relevant to the field**
  - Learners will participate in a Research Methods tutorial at the outset of the semester and apply this knowledge to their weekly readings
  - Students will be encouraged to deeply engage with paper and video readings

## **Materials and Texts**

- Each week, students will complete one paper reading and a set of video readings
- All Paper Readings are Outlined Below – most are available through the McMaster Library, those that are not will be posted to A2L
- Video Readings will be available on A2L

## **Class Format**

This course will be delivered asynchronously. Lecture recordings will be posted at the beginning of the week. Students will be expected to keep on top of course material (lectures and readings) from week to week and complete regular quizzes, assignments, and precis submissions. One synchronous online midterm and one synchronous online final will be administered throughout the semester.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Precis Submissions (18%), One submission for each Topic due Fridays by 8pm
2. Quizzes (15%), Due Fridays by 8pm
3. Assignments (9%), Due Friday, Sept 22, Oct 6 + Nov 10 by 8pm
4. Midterm (25%), Thursday, October 19 at 6pm
5. Final Exam (33%), TBD

Specifications for these evaluations, including instructions and rubrics, will be posted on Avenue. Please note that all course requirements will be governed by McMaster's policies on academic misconduct.

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Precis Submissions (18% total), due Fridays by 8pm**

For each Topic covered, students will write a precis of 50 words that captures the most important takeaway(s) of the Topic lecture. Precis submissions will be due on Fridays at 8pm to an Avenue dropbox for a total of 10 submissions at the end of the term. Each precis will be worth 2% - the lowest grade of the term will be dropped for a grand total of 18%. Students will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit 2 precis assignments for a regrade. Resubmissions will typically be due two weeks after the original due date. See the weekly course schedule for due dates. See also the 'How to Write a Precis' handout available on Avenue.

### **Quizzes (5 at 3% each), due Fridays by 8pm**

Five online, open-book quizzes will be available for three-day intervals on Avenue to Learn. These assignments are to be completed independently.

### **Assignments (3 at 3% each), due Fridays by 8pm**

Three assignments will introduce students to course material through interactive online activities. Students will answer questions about their experience with these activities. These assignments are to be completed independently.

### **Midterm (25%), Thursday, October 19 at 6pm**

The midterm will be held virtually on Avenue to Learn using Respondus proctoring software. This assessment will cover course content drawn from lectures, assignment

activities, and readings that were presented prior to this date and will include T/F, multiple choice, and short answer questions.

As the midterm is worth 25%, it is not eligible for an online MSAF. If the midterm is missed, please email me and reach out to the Faculty of Social Science for relief. Where appropriate, you will be granted an accommodation. There is no make-up test for a missed midterm.

### **Final Exam (33%), Time and Date TBD**

The final exam will be held virtually on Avenue to Learn using Respondus proctoring software. This assessment will cover course content drawn from lectures, assignment activities, and readings and will include T/F, multiple choice, and short answer questions. This assessment will be cumulative, but with a focus on content covered following the midterm.

The Final Exam is not eligible for an online MSAF. If the exam is missed, please email your respective Faculty office with appropriate documentation for review.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1 (Week of Sept 4)**

**VIDEO: Course Introduction**

**VIDEO: Navigating Academic Articles**

### **Week 2 (Week of Sept 11)**

**VIDEO: Topic 1 - Definitions and the Big Picture**

**Jove VIDEO: Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination**

**VIDEO: Implicit Bias**

**VIDEO: Research Methods**

#### Readings:

1. 'Key Concepts' section (p. 5-11) of Dovidio, Hewstone, Glick, & Esses. (2010). Ch 1: Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination: Theoretical and Empirical Overview. In *The SAGE Handbook of Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination*. [Available on Avenue]

#### Evaluations:

Quiz 1 Due Friday, September 15 at 8pm

Precis 1 Due Friday, September 15 at 8pm

### **Week 3 (Week of September 18)**

**VIDEO: Topic 2 - Basics of Categorization and Stereotyping**

**Jove VIDEO: Stereotype Content Model**

**Jove VIDEO: The Representativeness Heuristic**

**Jove VIDEO: The Availability Heuristic**

**Jove VIDEO: The Implicit Association Test**

Readings:

1. Section 12.1 of *Principles of Social Psychology* [Available on Avenue]

Evaluations:

Precis 2 Due Friday, September 22 at 8pm

Assignment 1 Due Friday, September 22 at 8pm

### **Week 4 (Week of September 25)**

**VIDEO: Topic 3 - Cognitive Efficiency in Categorization**

**Jove VIDEO: Schemas**

Readings:

1. Pendry, L.F. (1998). When the mind is otherwise engaged: Resource depletion and social stereotyping. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 28, 293-299.

Evaluations:

Precis 3 Due Friday, September 29 at 8pm

Quiz 2 Due Friday, September 29 at 8pm

### **Week 5 (Week of October 2)**

**VIDEO: Topic 4 - Stereotype Maintenance**

**Jove VIDEO: Confirmation Biases**

**Jove VIDEO: Groupthink**

**Jove VIDEO: Group Polarization**

Readings:

1. Moreno, K. N., & Bodenhausen, G. V. (1999). Resisting stereotype change: The role of motivation and attentional capacity in defending social beliefs. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, 2, 5–16.

Evaluations:

Precis 4 Due Friday, October 6 at 8pm

Assignment 2 Due Friday, October 6 at 8pm

**Week 6 (Week of October 9)**

**READING WEEK – NO CLASS**

**Week 7 (Week of October 16)**

**Midterm on Thursday, October 19 at 6pm on Avenue to Learn**

**Week 8 (Week of October 23)**

**VIDEO: Topic 5 - Stereotype Threat**

**Jove VIDEO: Social Facilitation**

**Jove VIDEO: Stereotype Threat and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies**

**Jove VIDEO: Highlighting and Reducing the Impact of Negative Aging Stereotypes During Older Adults' Cognitive Testing**

Readings:

1. Inzlicht, M., Tullett, A. M., Legault, L., & Kang, S. K. (2011). Lingered effects: Stereotype threat hurts more than you think. *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 5, 227-256.

Evaluations:

Precis 5 Due Friday, October 27 at 8pm

**Week 9 (Week of October 30)**

**VIDEO: Topic 6: Ingroup-Outgroup Categorization**

**Jove VIDEO: Ostracism**

**Jove VIDEO: In- and Out-Groups**

**Jove VIDEO: Deindividuation**

**Jove VIDEO: Creating the Minimal Group Paradigm**

Readings:

1. Section 12.2 of *Principles of Social Psychology* [Available on Avenue]

Evaluations:

Precis 6 Due Friday, November 3 at 8pm

Quiz 3 Due Friday, November 3 at 8pm

**Week 10 (Week of November 6)**

**VIDEO: Topic 7 - Development of Intergroup Reasoning**

**Jove VIDEO: Categories and Inductive Inferences**

Readings:

1. Rhodes, M., & Baron, A. (2019). The Development of Social Categorization. *Annual Review of Developmental Psychology*, 359–386.

Evaluations:

Precis 7 Due Friday, November 10 at 8pm

Assignment 3 Due Friday, November 10 at 8pm

**Week 11 (Week of November 13)**

**VIDEO: Topic 8 - Realistic Group Conflict Theory**

**Jove VIDEO: Robbers Cave**

Readings:

1. Gaertner, S. L., Dovidio, J. F., Banker, B. S., Houlette, M., Johnson, K. M., & McGlynn, E. A. (2000). Reducing intergroup conflict: From superordinate goals to decategorization, recategorization, and mutual differentiation. *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 4, 98–114.

Evaluations:

Precis 8 Due Friday, November 17 at 8pm

Quiz 4 Due Friday, November 17 at 8pm

**Week 12 (Week of November 20)**

**VIDEO: Topic 9 - Social Identity Theory + Other Theories of Prejudice**

**Jove VIDEO: The Social Dimension of Stress**

Readings:

1. Scheepers, D., Ellemers, N., & Sijm, N. (2009). Suffering from the possibility of status loss: Physiological responses to social identity threat



in high status groups. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 39(6), 1075–1092.

Evaluations:

Precis 9 Due Friday, November 24 at 8pm

**Week 13 (Week of November 27)**

**VIDEO: Topic 10 - Modern Prejudice and Discrimination**

Readings:

1. 'Microaggressions: What we Know and Should Know' [Podcast available at [https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-uqbhs-10dd223?utm\\_campaign=w\\_share\\_ep&utm\\_medium=dlink&utm\\_source=w\\_share](https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-uqbhs-10dd223?utm_campaign=w_share_ep&utm_medium=dlink&utm_source=w_share)]

Evaluations:

Precis 10 Due Friday, December 1 at 8pm

Quiz 5 Due Friday, December 1 at 8pm

**Week 14 (Week of December 4)**

**REVIEW SESSION: Tuesday, December 5 at 6pm**

**Course Policies**

**Submission of Assignments**

Specifications for these evaluations, including instructions and rubrics, will be posted on Avenue. Please note that all course requirements will be governed by McMaster's policies on academic misconduct.

Documents will be submitted to Avenue to Learn under 'Assignments' in 12 pt. Times New Roman, double spaced, with 1-inch margins, a title page, and APA reference style.

**Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

The instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks up or down on an individual basis in the case of special circumstances. Final grades may also be adjusted up or down on a class-wide basis depending on overall performance.

### **Late Assignments**

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work” [www.mcmaster.ca/msaf](http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf). Valid MSAF requests received by the instructor within 24 hours (including weekends) of the missed evaluation(s) will be accommodated. In the event of an MSAFed assignment, the student will be given a three-day extension. I do not require the disclosure of any personal, family, or medical details, but you may need to provide documentation to the Faculty in the case of an MSAF for evaluations worth 25% or more.

If you are planning to obtain a Faculty-approved absence for any evaluation, you must alert me as soon as possible, ideally before the due date. Do not simply wait for the paperwork to come through to me, as this can take many days.

**Requests to ‘bump’ final grades to the next grade level or earn extra credit will not be granted in this course** to maintain fairness among students. If you are struggling with any material, please reach out to your instructor or TA as soon as possible so that we can best help you.

### **Course Modification**

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. If any modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### **Artificial Intelligence Use**

Students are not permitted to use generative AI in this course. In alignment with [McMaster academic integrity policy](#), it “shall be an offence knowingly to ... submit academic work for assessment that was purchased or acquired from another source”.

This includes work created by generative AI tools. Also state in the policy is the following, “Contract Cheating is the act of “outsourcing of student work to third parties” (Lancaster & Clarke, 2016, p. 639) with or without payment.” Using Generative AI tools is a form of contract cheating. Charges of academic dishonesty will be brought forward to the Office of Academic Integrity.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Integrity**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection**

**Some courses may** use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **Courses with an On-line Element**

**Some courses may** use on-line elements (e.g., e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **Online Proctoring**

**Some courses may** use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

### **Conduct Expectations**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

### **Academic Accommodation of Students With Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### **Requests For Relief For Missed Academic Term Work**

[McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

## **Academic Accommodation For Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## **Copyright And Recording**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.