

UNDERSTANDING LIVED EXPERIENCES: USING AN INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Fall 2023 Term

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Lecture: Tuesdays, 11:30am-2:20pm

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Course Description

This course will provide insight into understanding lived experiences using an intersectional perspective. We will begin by examining how social psychologists study lived experience, both theoretically and methodologically. This will be followed by a discussion of the theory and concept of intersectionality as it was coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw (in 1989), as well as more contemporary scholarship on the topic. The second part of this course focuses on case studies that examine lived experiences of disadvantage and oppression in various contexts and amidst diverse structural circumstances. For example, we will delving into topics and contexts such as eugenics, health, sport/physical activity, technology, education, and activism where intersectionality is lived and experienced. This course is designed to get students to think critically about how identities are experienced and the impact that these identities can have on the individual, the group, and society.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand the dominant theoretical and methodological perspectives that are utilized to study lived experiences more generally, and those living with minoritized identities more specifically, as well as appreciate the strengths and limitations of these approaches;
- Gain a critical understanding of the impact that the individual and society has on people living with multiple/minoritized identities;
- Be able to apply concepts learned to current situations and events in the community and around the world;
- Enhance students' critical thinking, writing, and organizational skills through course assignments, as well as enhance students' communication skills through class discussions.

Required Materials and Texts

- All readings will be available either through Avenue to Learn or online.

Class Format

This will be delivered in a 'blended' format, with lectures and class discussion occurring either in-person OR virtually by zoom (during scheduled class time) depending on the week in question. Announcements about whether we will meet in-person or virtually will be posted on Avenue to Learn. I will make every effort to give a minimum of one week's notice as to the format for the following week but may have to make last-minute changes as necessary. Lectures **will not be recorded**, and so attendance (whether in person or virtual, synchronous) is required during scheduled class time.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Reflection Assignment - 25%, due October 3
2. Discussion – 25%, weekly throughout the term
3. Topic Proposal & Annotated Bibliography - 20%, due November 7
4. Final Assignment - 30%, due December 5

Course Evaluation – Details

Reflection Assignment (25%), due October 3, 2023

The first assignment will require you to critically engage with your own lived experiences of intersectionality and use what has been learned in class to analyze these experiences. A more detailed breakdown of the assignment will be provided on Avenue to Learn.

Discussion (25%), throughout the term

In the weeks that we meet in person, we will be holding small group discussions with short assignments/reflections to submit for evaluation. You must be in class in order to participate, and for me to be able to document your participation in these discussions.

In the weeks that we meet virtually by zoom, we will be using the Discussion capabilities of Avenue to Learn, and your participation therein will account for your discussion mark. For each virtual week where we cover a substantive topic, you are asked to *either respond* to a discussion prompt OR *create* a relevant post/prompt for your classmates to respond to, on Avenue. More detailed instructions will be provided at the start of term.

Topic Proposal & Annotated Bibliography (20%), due November 7, 2023

For the final assignment, you are asked to explore the lived experiences of intersectionality via a topic of your choice. This assignment may be done individually or as a group (of no more than 3). You are first asked to submit a proposal for your approach to the final assignment, including outlining your selected topic and providing an annotated bibliography. This proposal is worth 20% of your final mark, is due on November 7th, and serves as a building block towards the development of your final assignment. A more detailed breakdown of this assignment will be provided on Avenue and reviewed in class.

Final Assignment (30%), due December 5, 2023

For this assignment, you are asked to EITHER to write a research paper OR to create an arts-based project to explore the lived experiences of intersectionality via a topic of your choice. This assignment may be done individually or as a group. This assignment

is worth 30% of your final mark, is due on December 5th. A more detailed breakdown of this assignment will be provided on Avenue and reviewed in class.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Sept 5)

Introduction to the Course – Structure and Expectations

Week 2 (Sept 12)

What is Lived Experience? How Do We Study Lived Experience?

Week 3 (Sept 19)

Intersectionality – An Introduction

Week 4 (Sept 26)

The History of Eugenics & Current Day Neo Eugenics

Week 5 (Oct 3)

Intersectionality & Health

Note: Reflection Assignment Due October 3rd by 11:59pm

Week 6 (Oct 10)

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Week 7 (Oct 17)

Intersectionality & Sport/Physical Activity

Week 8 (Oct 24)

Intersectionality & Technology

Week 9 (Oct 31)

Intersectionality & Education

Week 10 (Nov 7)

Reflection Week

Note: Topic Proposal & Annotated Bibliography Due on November 7 by 11:59pm

Week 11 (Nov 14)

Intersectionality & Activism

Week 12 (Nov 21)

The Future of Intersectionality

Week 13 (Nov 28)

Work/Consultation for Final Assignment

Week 14 (Dec 5)

Note: Final Assignment Due on December 5 by 11:59pm

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Please submit assignments to the appropriate assignment folder on Avenue to Learn, by 11:59pm on the day it is due. **Please submit all assignments as a Word document (.doc/.docx) and include your last name in the assignment file name.** Your assignments should be typed, double-spaced, and use a 12 point font of your choosing. Any citation style is acceptable, as long as it is correctly and consistently used. For assistance with citation style, please consult [McMaster's Library website](#).

McMaster University Library is a fantastic source for research assistance! Students may call or e-mail to get help finding library resources. Students may also get online research help by using the ["Ask a Librarian"](#) virtual reference service.

Note that a conversation about the integration and use of generative AI will be held during our first class.

Communication

I can be reached at my McMaster email address (griffmb@mcmaster.ca). I will endeavor to respond within 48 hours to all relevant course email that is sent to my McMaster address from Monday to Friday.

For all course-related email, please include SOC PSY 3B03: [your subject] in the email subject line. This helps flag your message in my inbox. For general questions about the class or assignments, please feel comfortable to ask your question(s) in the A2L forum discussion thread titled "Class questions" and I'll respond to your question there.

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.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
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

All course work will be carefully and thoughtfully graded. On occasion, students may disagree with the mark they receive. If this occurs, I would be happy to review your assignment, provided the following procedure is followed. Please wait at least 24 hours after receiving an assignment before contacting me. Write a one-page statement describing in detail why you think a grading error was made. Support your argument with examples from your assignment that demonstrate how you satisfied the assignment criteria better than your grade reflected. The statement should be submitted, along with the marked assignment, to me for review. You may submit the request for a re-grading no sooner than one week and no later than one month after the assignment was returned. I will review your assignment and will provide additional written feedback. *Please note that there is a possibility that when an assignment is reviewed, you may receive a grade lower than the original.*

Late Assignments

The due dates for assignments are fixed and non-negotiable. There will be a deduction of 5% per day for all late assignments unless the instructor grants an extension due to extenuating circumstances. Documentation for such may be required.

No Assignments Will Be Accepted 2 Weeks Past the Due Date

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](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), 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.

Courses with an On-line Element

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, 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 this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

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 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

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the [Policy on 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.