

WHO AM I? SELF AND IDENTITY

Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Erica Speakman
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Lecture: Mondays 11:30-2:20
Room: ABB 163

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Course Description

Like many, you may have stopped and wondered at some point in your life *who am I?* This course will provide insight into this question (and others like it!), emphasizing a symbolic interactionist understanding of the *self and identity*. We will begin our exploration by laying the theoretical groundwork for understanding these ideas, allowing for a more critical engagement of these concepts as we move forward. We will then move on to discuss various topics related to self and identity such as polite fictions, stigma, identity transformation, imposter syndrome, and Instagram vs. reality, to name just a few.

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 the self and identity, 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 the development of the self and identity
- Be able to apply concepts and ideas learned in this course 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 in-person and on-line class discussions.

Required Materials and Texts

- All required readings can be found on our Avenue to Learn homepage – **there is no textbook for this course**

Class Format

Classes will be held in-person in room ABB 163. Please note that lectures will not be recorded. If you miss a class, I strongly encourage you to reach out to your peers and ask for their notes.

We will be using the first 2 hours of our slot for lecture and discussion. The remaining hour will be treated like a tutorial session where we will work on developing skills that are essential to not only do well in this class, but your other classes as well. Note, we will not have tutorials every week. A schedule will be posted on Avenue.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Discussion Posts - 30%,
2. Mid-Term Test – 20%,
3. Final Assignment – 30%,
4. Final Test – 20%

Course Evaluation – Details

Discussion Posts (30% - 3.33% each) Due Throughout the Term

Students will be required to respond to discussion questions throughout the term on Avenue to Learn. Contributions will be made on a weekly basis (contributions must be made by Friday at 11:59pm to be graded). These questions are designed to get students critically thinking about the course material. More detailed instructions will be provided at the start of term. Please note that with the exception of students registered with SAS, **NO** extensions will be granted for this assignment.

Mid-Term Exam (20%) – Feb. 12, 2024

The exam will take place during regular lecture time. The exam will consist of multiple choice/true or false, and short answer questions

Final Assignment (30%) Due March 18, 2024

For this assignment, you will get the opportunity to explore any aspect of the self and identity that interests you. You will conduct extensive research in your chosen area and identify any gaps that future research may be able to address. This is to be presented as a literature review. This assignment may be done individually or in pairs. A more detailed breakdown of the assignment will be provided on Avenue.

Final Test (20%) April 1, 2024

The final test for this course will be written in class. It will consist of multiple choice/true or false, and short answer questions

Weekly Course Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	DUE
Week 1 (Jan. 8)	Introduction to the Course	No Readings!	
Week 2 (Jan 15)	What is Self and Identity? Theoretical Perspectives of Self and Identity	Scott, S. (2015) "Negotiating Identity" – Ch. 1 pp. 1-21 Stryker, S., & Burke, P. J. (2000). The past, present, and future of an identity theory. <i>Social psychology quarterly</i> , 284-297.	Discussion Post Due Jan. 19 at 11:59pm
Week 3 (Jan 22)	The Researcher and the Reflexive Self	Jacobson, D., & Mustafa, N. (2019). Social identity map: A reflexivity tool for practicing explicit positionality in critical qualitative research. <i>International Journal of Qualitative Methods</i> , 18 Goffman, A. (2015). <i>On the run: Fugitive life in an American city</i> . Picador. - Appendix: A Methodological Note	Discussion Post Due Jan. 26 at 11:59pm
Week 4 (Jan 29)	Relating in Public	Schütz, A. (1944). The stranger: An essay in social psychology. <i>American journal of</i>	Discussion Post Due Feb. 2 at 11:59pm

		<p><i>Sociology</i>, 49(6), 499-507.</p> <p>Phillips, T., & Smith, P. (2003). Everyday incivility: towards a benchmark. <i>The Sociological Review</i>, 51(1), 85-108</p>	
Week 5 (Feb. 5)	Accounts and Motives	<p>Scott, M. B., & Lyman, S. M. (1968). Accounts. <i>American sociological review</i>, 33(1), 46-62.</p> <p>Murphy, E. (2004). Anticipatory accounts. <i>Symbolic Interaction</i>, 27(2), 129-154</p>	Discussion Post Due Feb. 9 at 11:59pm
Week 6 (Feb. 12)	Midterm Exam	No Readings!	Exam will take place during lecture time on Feb. 12 from 12-2pm
Week 7 (Feb 19)	Reading Week!	No Readings!	Time to Relax
Week 8 (Feb 26)	Spoiled Identities and Identity Careers	Goffman, E. (1963). "Notes on a Spoiled Identity." Ch. 1 pp. 1-42	Discussion Post Due Mar. 1 at 11:59pm
Week 9 (March 4)	Presentation of Self: The Theory	Goffman, E. (2002). <i>The presentation of self in everyday life</i> . 1959. Garden City, NY, - Chapter 1 pp. 18-76	Discussion Post Due March 8 at 11:59pm

<p>Week 10 (March 11)</p>	<p>Presentation of Self: Authenticity and Social Media</p>	<p>Lewin (2020) “Don’t call me white (or middle-class)’ Constructing an Authentic Identity in Punk-Subculture”</p> <p>Yau, J. C., & Reich, S. M. (2019). “It’s Just a Lot of Work”: Adolescents’ Self-Presentation Norms and Practices on Facebook and Instagram. <i>Journal of research on adolescence</i>, 29(1), 196-209</p>	<p>Discussion Post Due Mar. 15 at 11:59pm</p>
<p>Week 11 (March 18)</p>	<p>Presentation of Self: Organizations, Institutions, and Social Identity</p>	<p>Leidner, R. (1993) Meanings of Routinized Work: Authenticity, Identity, and Gender in <i>Fast Food, Fast Talk</i></p>	<p>Discussion Post due Mar. 22 at 11:59pm</p> <p>Final Assignment Due Mar. 18 by 11:59pm</p>
<p>Week 12 (March 25)</p>	<p>Presentation of Self: ‘Fake it Til You Make it!’</p> <p>Review</p>	<p>Smirnova, M. (2016). “I am a cheerleader, but secretly I deal drugs” Authenticity through Concealment and Disclosure. <i>Symbolic Interaction</i>, 39(1), 26-44.</p> <p>Edwards (2019) “Overcoming Imposter Syndrome and Stereotype Threat: Reconceptualizing</p>	<p>Discussion Post Due Mar. 29 at 11:59pm</p>

		the Definition of a Scholar”	
Week 13 (Apr. 1)	Final Test	No Readings	Final Test will take place in class from 12-2pm The test is NOT cumulative
Week 14 (Apr. 8)	Wrap Up!		

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Please submit assignments to the appropriate assignment folder on Avenue to Learn. Faxed or e-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Your assignments should be double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font.

Note that all assessments must be completed to successfully finish this course. There will be no re-weighting of grades. If you miss a deadline, reach out to the professor as soon as possible to see if an arrangement can be made. If this is not done in a timely manner, a grade of zero for the assessment will be given.

Late Assignments

The due dates for assignments are fixed and non-negotiable. There will be a deduction of 2% per day for all late assignments, unless you submit a McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf>). The MSAF is a self-reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences for medical or other reasons that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work worth less than 25% of your overall. In these cases, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence. If you are absent for more than 3 days, or exceed one request per term, you **MUST** visit your Associate Dean’s Office. You may be required to submit supporting documentation.

Any assignments submitted two weeks past the due date will receive an automatic grade of zero

Avenue to Learn

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.

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.

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. Avenue to Learn, 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.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn, 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](mailto:StudentAccessibilityServices@mcmaster.ca) (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.3

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, Avenue to Learn 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.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of 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+
85-89	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