

**PSY234: SOCIAL & PERSONALITY  
PSYCHOLOGY**



**MACQUARIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF  
HUMAN SCIENCES

**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**UNIT OUTLINE  
Semester 1, 2011**

**Year and Semester:** 2011, Semester 1

**Unit convenor:** Dr Trevor Case

**Prerequisites:** PSY104, PSY105, PSY122 or STAT170

Read this unit outline carefully at the start of semester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit. To see the latest official update of this outline, login via the Online Teaching system: <https://learn.mq.edu.au>

*It is University policy that the University issued email account will be used for official University communication. All students are required to access their University account frequently.*

## ABOUT THIS UNIT

### **Unit description and credit points**

This unit provides an introduction and overview to the two related disciplines of social and personality psychology. PSY234 is worth 3 credit points.

### **Unit rationale**

This unit is an introduction to theory and research in social and personality psychology. Social and personality psychology are two very closely related areas that are concerned with explaining how we think, feel and relate to one another. In general, personality researchers focus on understanding individual differences in behaviour. For example, a personality researcher might investigate how narcissists differ from others (who are low in narcissism) on a range of social behaviours and self perceptions; or whether there are qualitatively different forms of narcissism. In short, personality researchers focus on those behaviours, traits, and tendencies that remain consistent about the person across different situations. On the other hand, social psychologists tend to focus on how people react on average in various social situations. This typically involves the manipulation of situational variables and examining the effects of such manipulations on behaviour. For example, social psychologists have manipulated the number of bystanders witnessing an emergency and then observed the influence this has on helping behaviour. Although social and personality psychology approaches may appear quite distinct, much of the research in these fields incorporates both approaches. That is, it is common for a study to include both experimental manipulations of situational variables in addition to investigating the contribution of personality.

Topics covered in personality and social psychology are appealing because they are relevant to our everyday experiences: When you make predictions about what a friend might do based on knowledge of their personality, or when you attempt to influence someone, you draw on commonsense views of personality and social psychology. Personality and social psychology researchers are also keen observers of people, but they make testable predictions and formulate theories based on scientific evidence. As such, the scientific approach to personality and social psychology is a critical overarching theme throughout the unit. Building on the personality and social psychology material introduced in first year, the personality section of the course 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.



## REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS

### Prescribed text

Myers, D. G. (2008). *Social Psychology* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

### Recommended text

Sollod, R. N, Wilson J. P. & Monte, C. F. (2009). *Beneath the mask: An introduction to theories of personality* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.  
**(The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of *Beneath the Mask* is also acceptable)**

Most of the readings for the course will be drawn from these two text books. Specific chapters and any additional readings will be identified during the lectures. These text books are available from the Coop Bookshop. Copies have been placed in the library reserve collection.

## UNIT WEB PAGE

### Webpage of unit

Login via the Online Teaching system: <https://learn.mq.edu.au>

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Learning outcomes

The learning outcomes for this unit involve acquiring a sound basic understanding of the principal theories, empirical research, and basic issues in the fields of personality and social psychology. Students are also expected to gain an understanding of research methods used by contemporary personality and social psychologists to investigate a wide range of problems. The lectures will cover the core content of the course and the tutorial classes will comprise structured exercises and class discussions, elaborating on several topics raised in the lectures. Overall, the following specific knowledge and skills are expected to be acquired from this course.

- An understanding of how the scientific approach to personality and social psychology differs from commonsense or lay understanding
- An awareness of research methods used in personality and social psychology research
- An ability to construct an empirical report on a current scientific topic within personality or social psychology
- An understanding of the principal personality theories, research, and the controversies that arise in this field
- An understanding of key theories and research in the domains of social cognition, social influence, and social relations
- An ability to intelligently discuss the concepts attained in the lectures and readings in a small class forum.

## GRADUATE CAPABILITIES

In addition to the discipline-specific knowledge and skills, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' capabilities in a range of areas. One of the aims of this unit is that students develop their skills in the following:

- **Effective communication:** developed through taking part in class discussions and completing the written assignment.
- **Critical analytical and integrative thinking:** developed through evaluating literature for the written assignment, evaluating the controversies that have emerged in personality and social psychology presented in the lectures.
- **Problem-solving and research capability:** developed through the problems posed in the tutorial class exercises and in evaluating the material for the written assignment.
- **Creative and innovative:** developed in class discussions focussing on applying course concepts to everyday experience.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

**How unit is taught?** The unit is taught through lectures and prescribed readings covering the core material and tutorials. The tutorials comprise practical activities and class discussions which complement the material covered in lectures. Tutorials are designed to enhance student involvement and provide focus on certain topics.

**What is expected of students?** Students are expected to (a) listen to lectures and attend tutorials, (b) complete all forms of assessment, (c) read the prescribed materials, and (d) contribute to tutorial discussions. Note that attending tutorials is compulsory.

### Week-by-week list of tutorial topics

Week	Tutorial	Topic
2-3	1	The DISC game; Who am I?
4-5	2	Interpreting a case study
6-7	3	Data collection for Assignment
8-9	4	The social self
10-11	5	The Stanford Prison Experiment
12-13	6	Decision making ; Research Ethics

## Week-by-week list of lecture topics

Week	Date	Topic	Lecturer
1	(23/2)	1. Introduction to PSY234	Case
		2. Introduction to personality research	Boag
2	(2/3)	1. Psychoanalytic theory	Boag
		2. Behaviourist approaches to personality	Boag
3	(9/3)	1. Bandura's social-cognitive theory	Boag
		2. Humanistic approaches to personality	Boag
4	(16/3)	1. Trait & type approaches to personality	Boag
		2. Personal construct theory	Boag
5	(23/3)	1. Evolutionary theory & personality	Boag
		2. Application and evaluation	Boag
6	(30/3)	1. How different personality styles arise: Theory and research perspectives on narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy.	McIlwain
		2. Continued...	McIlwain
7	(6/4)	<b>MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM ON PERSONALITY LECTURES, READINGS, &amp; TUTORIALS (A-K 1<sup>st</sup> hour; L-Z 2<sup>nd</sup> hour)</b>	
		<b>BREAK</b>	
8	(27/4)	1. Introduction to social psychology research	Case
		2. The social self	Case
9	(4/5)	1. Cognitive errors & biases in social judgment	Case
		2. Attributions	Case
10	(11/5)	1. Social Influence	Case
		2. Social influence continued...	Case
11	(18/5)	1. Emotion	Case
		2. (To be announced)	Adams
12	(25/5)	1. Attraction and Intimacy	Yasin
		2. Social Psychology in Clinical Practice	Cohen
13	(1/6)	1. Social Psychology in the Real World	Govan
		2. Exam prep.	Case
<b>FINAL EXAM DURING HALF-YEAR EXAMINATION PERIOD MULTIPLE CHOICE ON READINGS, LECTURES, &amp; TUTES FROM WK8 ONWARDS</b>			

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Three assessments will be used to assess students' understanding of the principal theories, empirical research, and basic issues in the fields of personality and social psychology. Knowledge of lecture material and tutorial content will be assessed by a mid-semester exam (for the personality section of the course), and the final exam (for the social psychology section of the course). Ability to critically evaluate the current scientific knowledge on a topic within personality or social psychology will be assessed by completing the written assignment.

### List of Assessment Tasks

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	%
1. Tutorial Participation	Attendance at tutorials is compulsory	Pass/Fail
2. Mid-semester multiple-choice exam on personality lectures, tuts & readings	In the lecture in Week 7 (6/4)	25%
3. Report	Maximum 1500 words; due Monday 2/5 (Week 9) 10am	35%
4. Multiple-choice exam on lectures, tuts & readings from Wk 8 onwards	Held during University examination period	40%

### ***1. Tutorial participation (compulsory)***

Tutorials are an important part of this course. They incorporate practical exercises and class discussions that complement the material covered in lectures and which are designed to enhance student involvement and critical thinking.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR FINAL EXAMINATION:** You are expected to attend all tutorials and submit all required assessment tasks in order to be eligible to attend the final examination. Please note that attendance at tutorials will be recorded and may also be taken into account when making final decisions regarding your overall grade for this unit.

**ALTERNATE CLASSES:** On the rare occasion that you cannot attend your allotted tutorial time, you may only attend a different class if the class is not full and the tutor gives you permission. It is **your responsibility** to obtain a signed record of attendance at the alternate class and give it to your usual tutor. Failure to do so will result in a non-attendance record for that week.

**NON-ATTENDANCE:** Students who are absent because of medical or other extenuating circumstances must submit to their tutor, documentation (e.g., Professional Authority if reason is medical) clearly stating the reasons for the absence in order to avoid a non-attendance record.

EXTENDED ABSENCE: Extended absence from classes requires submission of a "Special Consideration" form <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APScons.pdf>. This should be submitted to the Student Enquiry Service with a copy to Psychology Office in C3A334 within 5 days after your last tutorial class for the semester. To read more about the procedure, please visit:

[http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special\\_consideration/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/procedure.html)

## **2. Report (35%)**

Scientific reports are the way that psychologists communicate information to one another. Using a specific format (i.e., abstract, introduction, method, results, and discussion), psychology reports present (a) the theoretical rationale for the study and specific predictions, (b) the methods used to test these predictions, and (c) a description and interpretation of the results of the tests. For this component of your assessment you will participate in an in-class study (data collection) and write-up the results in a psychology report format. As such, you will further develop the report writing skills you acquired in first year psychology: understanding theories and their predictions, developing hypotheses, describing methods to test these hypotheses, evaluating data, and cogently presenting your findings. Specific details about the report will be available on the PSY234 web site at the end of Week 7.

**Word length:** 1500 words

*It is department policy that assignments are set in terms of a specified format:*

- *Double-spacing*
- *12-point font*
- *Margin of 2.54 centimetres*
- *The word length does not include the abstract, results section, or reference list (but it does include in-text citations).*
- There is a **penalty** of 5% per 100 words over the specified word limit. As an example, if an assignment is 1650 words, then  $5\% \times 35 = 1.75$ . So 1.75 marks are subtracted from whatever the student received for the assignment.

**Due date:** Monday 2/5 (Week 9) before 10am (same due date and time for both the paper copy submitted to Psychology Box and the electronic copy which is submitted to Turnitin).

**Dates of return of marked assignments:** Assignments will be available in tutorials in Wk 13. Students in the alternate stream may pick up their assignment from the psychology office.

**Where students are to submit their assignments:**

You are required to submit **both** a paper copy of your assignment and an electronic copy (via Turnitin).

### **PAPER COPY**

- Assignments can **ONLY** be submitted via the LABELLED locked boxes in the foyer of building C3A or in the single Psychology Assignment Box located outside the entrance of C3A after hours.

- The assignment boxes are cleared at 10 am on Mondays to Fridays and again at 4 pm ONLY ON FRIDAYS (Assignments received at 4pm on Fridays are counted as 1 additional day late).
- All assignments submitted must be accompanied by a completed and signed Psychology Department coversheet which is available from outside Room C3A 301 or downloadable from <http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/pdf/coversheet.pdf>
- Assignments may not be accepted unless a correct coversheet is completed and signed.
- A copy of the assignment must be kept as proof that the assignment was completed and submitted.
- Electronic copies of assignments are not accepted in place of the hard copy.
- Assignments submitted by post will not be accepted.

**TURNITIN ELECTRONIC COPY:** You will also be required to submit your assignment to Turnitin plagiarism detection software via the Internet. Your assignment will be automatically compared to work of other students in this unit, previous students in this unit and at other universities, and material available on the Internet in subscription-based journal format or otherwise freely accessible information. The results of the analysis will be sent only to the unit chair and tutoring staff on PSY234, who will analyse the results in reference to the University's standard policy on plagiarism <http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>

#### **Assignment submission procedure**

#### **REMOVE THE RESULTS SECTION and REFERENCE LIST BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR ASSIGNMENT TO TURNITIN**

1. Visit Turnitin <http://www.turnitin.com/>
2. Create an account by clicking on the **create account** hyperlink (if you already have a Turnitin account from another course login and go to step 10).
3. Click on: **Would you like to create your user profile?**
4. Under **Create a New Account** click on **student**
5. Enter Turnitin **CLASS ID** for PSY234: **3842482**
6. Enter Turnitin **class enrolment PASSWORD**: **psy234** (lower case)
7. Enter your name and your University email address, which is in the form of your firstname.lastname@students.mq.edu.au.

**If you have any difficulties with your email account, contact Student IT Help via <http://www.sith.mq.edu.au/email.html>**

8. Enter your own password (you make this up) and click the **I agree--Create profile** button
9. Click "Log in to Turnitin"
10. Click the "PSY234 Social & Personality" hyperlink.
11. Click on the **submit** button.
12. Only use the "File Upload" and NOT the "cut and paste" option. Click the "Browse" button to find your assignment file. Make sure your results section and reference list is removed from your assignment.
13. Use your Student ID number as the "Submission title" – DO NOT use "Psy234"
14. Submit your assignment.
15. A digital receipt will be generated write the submission ID down so you can put it on the cover sheet of your assignment.
16. Last of all, submit the paper version of your assignment with an attached cover sheet to the PSY234 box in Level 3, C3A, outside the Psychology office.

**AFTER AN ASSIGNMENT IS SUBMITTED:** It is the responsibility of the student to check the Psychology Webpage (<http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/assrec/>) after submitting the assignment to ensure that his/her assignment has been received. If an assignment is not noted as being received, it is the student's responsibility to immediately contact the staff in the Psychology Office in writing to inform them. The student will then be required to submit a fresh copy of the assignment and the date of receipt will be the date the Psychology Office was informed of the non-receipt in writing. A lateness penalty will be applied until the date the Psychology Office is informed of the non receipt of assignment.

**Late submission:**

- A penalty of 5% per day will apply to late assignments. As an example, if an assignment is 2 days late, then  $10\% \times 35 = 3.5$ . So 3.5 marks are subtracted from whatever the student received for the assignment.
- Assignments will not be accepted after the return of marked assignments
- Assignments submitted after the 4 pm clearing on Fridays will be cleared on Monday at 10 am and will incur a weekend (counted as two days) penalty.

**Request for Extension for Assignment:** Ordinarily, no extensions of time for submission of written work will be granted since ample time for its preparation will have been given. If an extension is required for medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may request this in writing by completing a Request for Extension on Written Work form, available outside the Psychology Office, with supporting documentary evidence (such as medical certificate, counsellor note, or similar). The form and the supporting documentary evidence must be submitted to the Psychology Office (C3A 334). The staff in the Psychology Office will make all decisions regarding extensions. Neither individual tutors nor the course convenor will grant extensions.

All requests for extensions must be made prior to the due date for the assignment. If an extension is granted the authorisation section of the form must be collected and attached to the assignment. Failure to do so will result in a late penalty being applied as the marker will not know that an extension has been granted.

***3. Mid-semester multiple-choice exam (50mins duration, 25%)***

The multiple-choice exam is designed to assess knowledge and understanding of the material covered in the lectures, readings and tutorials on personality. It will comprise 50 multiple-choice items and will be held during the lecture time in Week 7. Students whose surname falls with the range A to K will complete an exam in the first hour; those whose surname falls within the range L to Z will complete an exam in the second hour.

***All students must attend the mid-semester exam at the same time. There is no separate arrangement available for evening students to sit this exam.***

***MID-SEMESTER EXAMS.***

Students who are unable to sit the mid-semester exam at the specified time must advise the Psychology Office via email and must also submit an Application for Special Consideration form (and Professional Authority if reason is medical, clearly stating the reasons for the absence from the exam). The form is available outside the Psychology office or can be downloaded from <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APScons.pdf>. This should be submitted to the Student Enquiry Services **within five days from the day of**

**the examination.** The unit chair(s) will determine eligibility for a late mid-semester exam and eligible students will be notified about the time and location of the exam. There will be only one alternative time.

#### ***4. Multiple-choice exam (1.5 hrs duration, 40%)***

The multiple-choice exam is designed to assess knowledge and understanding of the material covered in the lectures, readings, and tutorials from Week 7 onwards and including the hypnosis tutorial. It will comprise 70 multiple-choice items and will be held during the University examination period.

#### ***THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION PERIOD:***

The University Examination period in *First Half Year 2011 is from June 6<sup>th</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011.*

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations.

<http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam>

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. Information about unavoidable disruption and the special consideration process is available at

<http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCon.pdf>

***If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process, the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period.***

***Supplementary Examination in the Department of Psychology will be held on the: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of July, for Semester One 2011.***

***Supplementary Exams are only offered to students who have satisfactorily completed all other assessments for the unit and were unable to sit the final exam.***

***Instructions on applying for sitting of a supplementary exam are available from the website, [www.psy.mq.edu.au/speccond](http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/speccond). It is the student's responsibility to follow the steps outlined in this website. When a supplementary exam has been granted an email will be sent to the student. It is the student's responsibility to check the Department of Psychology Special Consideration website for information relating to the date and location of the supplementary exam. Students who are granted to sit for a supplementary exam must make themselves available to sit for the supplementary exam on the specified dates. There will be only one alternative time. It is the student's responsibility to email the Psychology Office, [psy\\_off@mq.edu.au](mailto:psy_off@mq.edu.au) to confirm attendance to the supplementary exams.***

You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are

available until the end of the teaching semester, which is the final day of the official examination period.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: "Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one's own." Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University's practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found in the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* or on the web at: <http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>

The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING**

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines for the achievement of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG).

On occasion your raw mark for a unit (i.e., the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive.

For more information please refer to the Macquarie University Handbook.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>.

On matters pertaining to the regulations, the Registrar's Office should be consulted or, within the Department of Psychology, Dr Julia Irwin, Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students with disabilities who have problems within the Department should consult Ms Radha Pathy, the Disability Liaison Officer. If your difficulties cannot be resolved by these members of staff you should consult the Head of Department.

If you have a major difficulty associated with writing skills, you could enrol in a short course on writing skills. For details go to:

[http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/writing\\_skills/index.htm](http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/writing_skills/index.htm)

## **APPEALS AGAINST GRADES**

Please refer to the Macquarie University Handbook.