TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

PSYCHOLOGY 2C03: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour
McMaster University
Fall 2020

PROFESSOR
Dr. Jennifer M. Ostovich
Email: ostovij@mcmaster.ca
Office hours: TBA on Avenue to Learn; also by appointment.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS
TBA

Scheduled Class Time: Tuesdays, 7-10pm (virtual classroom).

Class Meetings: We will be using a modified “flipped” classroom this term. Lectures will be pre-recorded and provided to you asynchronously – meaning at a time other than our scheduled class time. During some portion of our scheduled class time (likely from 7:30-9:30pm each Tuesday), I will be available on Zoom (or some similar platform TBA) for optional discussions, activities, and etc. To be best prepared for these meetings, students are urged to watch the pre-recorded lectures before our scheduled class time.

Website: http://avenue.mcmaster.ca

Course Description and Objectives: This course is designed to introduce you to research and theory in social psychology. By the end of the course, you will be able to: describe social psychology's key theories and findings; critically evaluate those theories and findings; and apply those theories and findings to novel situations, including current real-world events.

Required Textbook: Kassin, Fein, & Markus. Social Psychology, 11th Ed. This is an online textbook with integrated activities and quizzes using the MindTap platform. Your performance on MindTap will be used in the calculation of your final grade in PSYCH 2C03 and you are therefore required to purchase and use the online text. However, you can buy a loose-leaf copy of the textbook through its publisher, Cengage, if you prefer to have a physical copy of your textbook.

You can purchase your textbook through McMaster’s bookstore or by going to:

https://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/isbn/9780357122846

Additional information will be available on Avenue to Learn the week before classes start.

Evaluation: You will be evaluated based on (1) your performance on the quizzes available through your textbook’s app (MindTap), (2) your performance on regular online multiple choice and/or written-answer quizzes and assignments, and (3) your performance on a take-home final exam assignment. I will provide more information about the relative value of these tasks on our Avenue to Learn website before the start of Fall term.

1 Please note: This syllabus, including scheduling, topic order, topics themselves, assessments dates and times, and assessment strategy is subject to change if circumstances warrant (i.e., administrative complications that prevent us from following the current syllabus).
SCHEDULE: TOPICS, READINGS, AND MINDTAP DUE-DATES

Readings due dates: You will not get credit for MindTap quizzes unless they are completed on time. Due-dates will be listed in an updated version of this syllabus before term starts (check the Avenue to Learn webpage) and will also be available within the MindTap app.

Readings vs. lectures: If you suspect that you’ve uncovered a mismatch between lecture and text materials, please post a brief explanation (include page numbers) to the appropriate Avenue to Learn discussion forum, and we will (happily) look into it for you; you can also bring this up during virtual office hours if you prefer. Often, what seems like a mismatch is the result of the textbook and professor focusing on different levels of analysis, rather than an error by one source or the other; but sometimes, there is indeed an error! If you point out something useful to my teaching of the course, then I will give you a bonus percentage point (up to a maximum of 2% in bonuses).

The following outline is tentative. I have selected a new textbook for Fall 2020 and may change the order of topics to conform to that book’s chapter order. For now, you will be able to get an appreciation for the sorts of topic this course will cover. This schedule will be updated before term starts.

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>REQUIRED READINGS</th>
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<td>Research Methods</td>
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<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>Conformity 1: Basic Concepts</td>
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<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>Conformity 2: Obedience to Authority</td>
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<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>Persuasion 1: Changing People’s Behavior</td>
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<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>Persuasion 2: Changing People’s Minds</td>
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<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>Prosocial Behaviour</td>
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<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
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<td>WEEK 12</td>
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ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Accessibility: Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

If you have SAS accommodations that will impact how you interact with this course, then please get in touch with me so that we can discuss how I can best meet your needs.
**Communication Policy:** E-mail communications must originate from your designated McMaster e-mail account. Should we need to communicate with you about individual matters, the e-mail will be sent to your McMaster account. You should monitor this account regularly. E-mail sent from third-party providers (yahoo, hotmail, cogeco, sympatico, etc.) will not be received.

**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 credit has already been assigned been granted in another course)
- Improper collaboration in group work
- Copying of using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations

**Authenticity/Plagiarism Detection:** This course will 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) 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 (AZL), 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.

**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.

**Course Modifications:** The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. In the event of such a modification, reasonable notice and communication with students will be given with explanation, a revised course outline will be posted on Avenue, and students will be given the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

**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). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

**Final Grade Calculations:** I am considering using something called “specifications grading” that calculates your final grade somewhat differently than what you are used to. This scheme involves asking students to choose what final grade they are interested in earning and telling students what they must do to earn that grade. Research suggests that this scheme has a positive impact on the depth of student learning and that most students in fact prefer this scheme to the current percentage-based scheme. However, implementing this scheme is very complex, and I cannot present you with all of the relevant information quite yet (June, 2020). If I choose to implement specifications grading for this course, all aspects of its implementation will be fully described and explained to you. In the meantime, this post, written for educators rather than students (I couldn’t find one written for students) may satisfy some of your curiosity about my plans: [https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2016/01/19/new-ways-grade-more-effectively-essay](https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2016/01/19/new-ways-grade-more-effectively-essay).

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2 The instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks up or down, depending on overall performance in the course.