

**UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX
PSYCHOLOGY**

**MSc module
Applications of Social Psychology (921C8)
Autumn Term 2017**

Module Convenor: Dr Megan Hurst

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Objectives

The core objective of this advanced level module is to introduce students to contemporary theorising in social psychology that has the potential to address today's most pressing social issues. Throughout the module there will be a continual emphasis on the application of theoretical models to particular social contexts so as to deepen students' understanding of the utility and the limitations of these models in practice.

Level and Duration

The module lasts for one term and will be offered to Masters students in Psychology, and those on the Marketing & Consumer Psychology Masters programme. It will assume some basic knowledge of social psychology gained from undergraduate degree modules – introductory reading around these concepts for each topic will be highlighted for those without psychology undergraduate backgrounds.

Contributing faculty

Megan Hurst (**MH**)
Richard De Visser (**RdeV**)
John Drury (**JD**)
Donna Jessop (**DJ**)
Karen Long (**KL**)
Viv Vignoles (**VV**)

Teaching & Learning

Teaching on this module is through lectures and small group seminars. The group will meet weekly for a 2 hour lecture/seminar. Each week is run by an expert on that particular topic – each faculty member may structure the time in a slightly different way, as is appropriate for their area.

Each class will involve a number of students presenting on papers relevant to that week's topic, as part of module assessment, as well as other small group activities.

The seminar activities are designed around discussion of the module readings for that week, and deepening your understanding of the topic area through this. It is therefore vital that you prepare for each seminar by doing the appropriate readings, and that you come prepared to take part in the discussions!

Reading for the Seminars

You will find the seminar readings online, on the **StudyDirect** site for the module. You will also find the list of topics, and their corresponding weeks.

You will work in **small groups** to cover the reading material for each week – these groups will be arranged in the first seminar of the module.

- For each topic there is a piece of background reading – this is marked as **Essential** on the online reading list. **Everyone** should read this as a minimum requirement.
- Each week then has a number of further readings, usually empirical studies (marked as **Recommended**), which you should aim to cover in your group (e.g., by reading one different paper each, and being ready to report back to your group). These papers are also the ones that individual students will present on in the weekly seminars.
- There are often additional readings of interest (marked **Optional**) for the topic area. Your group does not necessarily have to have read these (although you may find them interesting for your discussions!) – they are there to support students covering that topic in their assignments.

Module Texts

There is no single text for this module, given the wide-ranging nature of the material covered and a shift at Masters level towards using primarily journal articles as source material. However, there are a few books that you may find useful, for various parts of the module. Where particular parts of these books are relevant, this is flagged in the section of the online reading list related to that topic.

Brown, R. (2010) *Prejudice: its social psychology*, 2nd Edition. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Kremer, J., Sheehy, N., Reilly, J., Trew, K. & Muldoon, O. (2003) *Applying Social Psychology*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.

Jetten et al. (2011) *Social Cure: Identity, Health and Well-being*. Hove: Psychology Press

Smith, P. B., Fischer, R., Vignoles, V. L., & Bond, M. H. (2013). *Understanding social psychology across cultures. Engaging with others in a changing world*. London: Sage.

Thaler, R. H. & Sunstein, C. R (2009) *Nudge: improving decisions about health, wealth and happiness*. London: Penguin

Journals that cover applied social psychology include:

Basic and Applied Social Psychology

Health Psychology

Journal of Applied Social Psychology

Journal of Social Issues

Psychology and Health

Social Issues and Policy Review

You may find it helpful to search these journals specifically when preparing for your assessments.

Assessment

The module assessment details can be found on the **StudyDirect** site. Submission deadlines are on your **SussexDirect timetable**.

The module is assessed by a **10 minute in-class presentation (20%)**, given in the week of its matching topic area, and by a **3000 word essay (80%)**, submitted in Assessment Period 1 (A1).

These assessments must cover **different topics** (e.g., you cannot present and write your essay on social media).

Further guidance for both can be found on the **StudyDirect** site for the module.

Information on the following can be found at the link below:

- Submitting your work
- Missing a deadline
- Late penalties
- Plagiarism and Collusion - Academic Misconduct
- Exceptional circumstances
- Exams
- Help with managing your studies and competing your work
- Assessment Criteria

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/internal/students/examinationsandassessment>

From 2016/17, Masters and MRes students taking PG year modules will usually be asked to submit assessments electronically where assessments are text-based, for example, an essay. Your Sussex Direct webpages and module handbook will give all assessment details, including whether the assessment is to be submitted via e-submission through Sussex Direct or in hard copy via the School Office. Feedback for all e-submission assessments will also be provided electronically.

Please refer to the frequently asked questions available on the following webpage for further information:

www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/examsandassessment/esubmission