

**UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX  
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**Individuals and Groups  
C8510  
Autumn Term, 2017**

**Module convenor: Megan Hurst**

## Hello!

Welcome to Individuals and Groups, our introductory social and personality psychology module.

We open the module with an intensive look at Milgram's obedience experiments – very familiar for A-level Psychology students, but we'll be 'levelling up' your knowledge, and your skills in critiquing studies. If you're a Psychology BSc student, you'll cover this content on the Psychology First Year Retreat; if you're a Visiting and Exchange or an elective student, you'll work your way through a series of guided tasks on StudyDirect, our online study portal.

From week 2, **Tom Farsides** takes you on a tour of **important perspectives in personality**, starting from our old friend Freud, before moving on to more contemporary approaches. In weeks 6 and 7, we move from personality to **interpersonal influence**, with **Paul Sparks** covering social influence – both overt and subtle. From week 8, we move towards the 'groups' end of our module title, where I'll be covering **group influence, group productivity, and prejudice**.

We have study skills support along the way, with **essay writing support** built into the weekly seminars, and study skills guru **Dave Smalley** giving a guest lecture on **time management and revision** in Week 10 – supporting you on revising for multiple choice exams. You'll also have chances to assess your own learning along the way, through **online quizzes** and **self-marking workshops** for your essays.

In lectures, we'll cover the highlights and key questions of the topic area, with videos and images of classic (and newer) studies. In seminars, you'll have the chance to discuss the readings and the lecture, and to engage in collaborative, active learning with your peers. You'll get out what you put in from the seminars, so **be brave**: speak up and share your ideas, and listen and learn from your peers! The readings are a core part of seminar discussions and activities, so make sure you **make friends with the online reading list** on StudyDirect and that you **read the material before the seminar**.

This module handbook contains lots more useful information, so make sure you read through, and come back to it later in the term if you've forgotten things! Remember, you can always **ask questions on the StudyDirect forum** – and if you know the answer to someone else's question, you should let them know!

### Megan Hurst, Individuals & Groups Module Convenor



<b>MODULE INFORMATION &amp; REQUIREMENTS</b>
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### Module Structure, Aims and Objectives

*Individuals and Groups* (C8510) introduces students to the central ideas and findings of social psychology. All psychology undergraduates at Sussex take this module. Students will learn about theories, methods, empirical findings and applications of social psychology.

#### Lecture Overview

<b>'Lecture' 1</b>	
<b>Week 1, MH</b>	Beyond Milgram: Part 1 & Part 2  <i>For psychology students, this content is delivered over the two days of the 'first year retreat'.</i>  <i>For elective students, this content is delivered via StudyDirect.</i>
<b>Lecture 2</b>	
<b>Week 2, TF</b>	Freud
<b>Lecture 3</b>	
<b>Week 3, TF</b>	The Authoritarian Personality
<b>Lecture 4</b>	
<b>Week 4, TF</b>	Traits
<b>Lecture 5</b>	
<b>Week 5, TF</b>	Socio-cognitive (learning) theories
<b>Lecture 6</b>	
<b>Week 6, PS</b>	Interpersonal influence (ch. 8)
<b>Lecture 7</b>	
<b>Week 7, PS</b>	The unacknowledged influence of others (ch. 8)
<b>Lecture 8</b>	
<b>Week 8, MH</b>	Social Influence (ch. 8)
<b>Lecture 9</b>	
<b>Week 9, MH</b>	Group productivity (ch. 13)
<b>Lecture 10</b>	
<b>Week 10, DS</b>	Study Skills: Time Management & Revision
<b>Lecture 11</b>	
<b>Week 11, MH</b>	Intergroup conflict (ch. 14)
<b>Lecture 12</b>	
<b>Week 12, MH</b>	Social identity and intergroup behaviour (ch. 14)

**Note:** chapter numbers refer to relevant chapters from the module text, Hewstone, M., Stroebe, W. & Jonas, K. (2015) *Introduction to Social Psychology, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.  
**TF** = Tom Farsides; **PS** = Paul Sparks; **MH** = Megan Hurst; **DS** = Dave Smalley.

## Communication

The main channel of communication for this module is through the **StudyDirect forum** – this means that other students can benefit from your question and the answer to it. During term time, I will aim to answer any questions posted on the forum within 2 working days. Be warned: if you email me a question instead, I am very likely to post it on the forum and answer it there!

All lecturers on the module also have office hours – these are times when they are guaranteed to be in their office, ready for students to drop by. You can find links to these on the StudyDirect page. Remember that these are likely to get busy closer to assessment deadlines, so you should be pro-active in seeking help!

### *Student Feedback*

We welcome student feedback on the module. You will have an opportunity halfway through the module to provide feedback, and a further opportunity at the end of the term. Both of these will be via StudyDirect.

In addition, I regularly meet with the seminar tutors to discuss how the module is progressing and what adjustments and improvements we can make. We want the module be as good as it possibly can be so any feedback is gratefully received.

## Teaching and Learning

It is **CRUCIAL** for you to understand that formal examination on this module will be based on material covered in the lectures, seminars **and** your “essential reading” for each week. It is also important for you to understand that lectures will **NOT** attempt to ‘cover’ all such material (and nor will seminars). That is, lectures and seminars are not intended to provide an alternative to you learning the material in your essential reading. Any attempt to rely solely on learning material presented in lectures and seminars will severely restrict your ability to do well during formal assessment of this module. Lectures (and seminars) are intended to fulfil functions other than repeating or précisising material covered in the essential readings.

**Lectures.** There will be one 50 minute lecture per week (with the exception of Week 1). These should be attended by all students. To avoid disruption, please try to arrive at least 5 minutes before the start time of the lecture. ***Lectures start in the second week of term. The week 1 material on Milgram will be available online on StudyDirect.***

You may wish to prepare for lectures by printing the lecture slides in advance – lecture slides will usually be online on StudyDirect 24 hours in advance of the lecture.

**Seminars.** Seminars for this module will last for 50 minutes and will occur weekly, from Week 2. Please see Sussex Direct for details of when and where *your* seminars will be held.

To prepare for each seminar, you should make sure you read that week's paper, and (from week 6 onwards) the section of the textbook indicated for that week in the reading list. It is really important to do this reading, as the seminar activities will depend on your understanding of it.

***You will find the seminar topics and reading on the Study Direct site.***

Seminars are designed to facilitate active and collaborative learning – working with your peers, sharing ideas and perspectives allows a deeper understanding of the content that will be hard, if not impossible, to get with only the lectures or private study. Each seminar will have a series of activities within it – these might be the discussion of a key paper or current topical issue associated with the week's topic, or a small group task intended to get you to apply the content in a new way.

**Online quizzes.** In the weeks of lectures 6 and 11 there will be short online quizzes available on the module StudyDirect page for you to do. These are un-assessed assignments that are designed to allow you to check on your learning during the progress of the module and to provide you with some feedback on how you're doing.

**Independent study.** The difference between studying at university and study you may have done previously is that at university the emphasis is on you finding out things for yourself. Just as fitness clubs attempt to foster and facilitate (but cannot impose) fitness, universities attempt to foster and facilitate (but cannot impose) academic excellence. Results will (and can only) come as a direct result of *you* making appropriate use of the facilities at your disposal. Lectures, seminars and the like are there to support and guide your independent learning – but not everything you will need or want to know will be covered in the lectures, seminars or essential readings. You need to become familiar with the material you are guided towards, but you also need to learn to 'manipulate' that material: apply it to new domains, compare and contrast across topics, synthesise it, evaluate it, consider its relevance to issues of interest to you, supplement it, etc.

## **Books and Reading**

- Much of the module will draw on the following text and you will see on the online reading list that it is marked as 'recommended for student purchase'. There is a discount if you buy it as part of the 'Psychology bundle' of text books at the campus bookstore.

This textbook is also used in the second year Social Psychology module, to cover different content, so we know you'll get good use out of it.

Hewstone, M., Stroebe, W. & Jonas, K. (2015) *Introduction to Social Psychology, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell

You will, however, need to go beyond this text in preparing for seminars and for your essay. Use it as a starting point to orient yourself to particular fields of interest, and then pursue other material which appears to you to be relevant.

There are also extensive web-based materials associated with this text. These can be found at: <http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=1118823532&bcsId=9000>

## Assessment

Information about the assessments for this module can be found on the StudyDirect site. You will also find Frequently Asked Questions about the assessments here, which you should read before posting on the forum.

Deadlines and exam times appear in Sussex Direct (exam times are not announced until later in the term).

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

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

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

A variety of assessment modes are used to develop and test different types of knowledge, skills and aptitudes. The assessment modes have been approved to test the course and module learning outcomes. Written submissions usually form an integral part of assessment at all levels. Written submissions include essays, reports, logs etc as appropriate to the module and the skills that you are being expected to develop. Examinations usually focus more on your ability to use your knowledge of the subject, rather than simply testing your memory for facts. Feedback is provided to support you in future assessments.

Unseen examinations are typically used to assess your level of knowledge and/or understanding of the discipline without the support of textbooks, notes or internet resources, unless these have been specifically permitted by the examination rubric. For students registered with the Student Support Unit an alternative mode may be approved as a Reasonable adjustment with the Student Support Unit. However, when, in accordance with the academic judgement of the School, where an unseen exam has been approved for a module to assess competence standards, learning outcomes and any accreditation requirements, an alternative mode may not be approved as a Reasonable Adjustment for a student registered with the Student Support Unit. If you have any concerns, please discuss these with the Student Support Unit, who will liaise with the school.

## Contact Information

### MODULE STAFF

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### MODULE ADMINISTRATION

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