DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

SP619 THE SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF GROUPS - 2008-09

Module Convenor

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Time and Location

Spring Term. Tuesday, 9 – 11am, weeks 13-24, GLT1.

Summary Intended Learning Outcomes

- Describe how group membership affects self-perception, the perception of others, and the ways individuals behave.
- Understand the basic cognitive, affective and behavioural mechanisms that lead to these outcomes.
- Understand how intragroup and intergroup structure affects social perception and behaviour.
- Provide evidence from empirical tests of the theories and models discussed.
- Link theory and research in the social psychology of group processes to current issues in society.
- Reading and writing skills; critical reflection, evaluation, written analysis, and interpretation.
- Communication skills, including use of information technology, and working with others on oral reporting and problem solving.

Introduction

The Social Psychology of Groups is a core module for all the Department's degree programmes. With its companion module taught in the Autumn term, SP620 The Social Psychology of the Individual, it aims to introduce the four main areas of social psychology: attitude organisation and change; attribution processes and social interaction; intragroup processes; and intergroup processes. SP620 concentrates on the first two, SP619 on the last two. Each area is central to the discipline of social psychology, and our aim is to examine the issues in sufficient depth for you to
be able to meet the following objectives: (a) understand the conceptual issues through a knowledge of the historical aspects of each topic, (b) evaluate critically the theories and research we cover, (c) appreciate the three main themes that run through the modules: the emphasis on theory as the foundation of an empirical discipline and the importance of scientific methodology; the communalities and the differences between individual and group processes; and the interplay between theory and application in social psychology; (d) become more proficient in developing and responding to reasoned arguments through the oral work you will undertake in seminars. Teaching will be by weekly lectures and by seminars (of which there will be two). Attendance at lectures and seminars is compulsory.

Assessment

Your attention is drawn to the following information to be found on the departmental website:

- Regulations relating to coursework deadlines
  [www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/studying/learning-resources/assessment.htm#deadlines](http://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/studying/learning-resources/assessment.htm#deadlines)
- Guidelines on plagiarism and duplication of material
  [www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/studying/learning-resources/plagiarism.htm](http://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/studying/learning-resources/plagiarism.htm)
- Guideline Criteria for Assessment of Stage 2 and 3 Undergraduate Work
  [www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/studying/learning-resources/criteria2.htm](http://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/studying/learning-resources/criteria2.htm)

Assessment Information

Assessment will be by one two-hour examination at the end of the year and one coursework essay of 2000 words. The coursework will make up 20% of your final mark for the module and the examination will make up the other 80% (40% multiple choice and 40% essay). Advice on study skills and preparing material for assessment is to be found on the Department’s website. Information about marking and feedback is at:
[www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/department/literature.htm](http://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/department/literature.htm). Essays should be typed, and two copies must be submitted. One hard copy to the office and one electronic copy. For those of you who are honours students in the Department of Psychology, submission deadlines for the three core modules in Spring (SP529, SP605, and SP619) will be **12 noon on the Thursday** of Weeks 16 (12/02/2009), 20 (12/03/2009), and 24 (09/04/2009). You will be able to choose which deadline to use for which module. If you are only taking two out of the three core Stage 2 modules running in a given term, you may choose two out of the three deadlines for that term. Alternatively, you may submit both essays on the same deadline providing you choose questions that correspond to that deadline. If you are only taking one module, you may choose out of the three deadlines but you must still choose a question corresponding to that deadline.

*In the case of short-term exchange students unable to sit the exam, these piece(s) of assessment may be replaced by a single piece of coursework of increased length.*

Module Evaluation

You will be asked to provide feedback on this module by completing a module evaluation questionnaire. The questionnaires will be considered at a special meeting of the departmental
Learning and Teaching Committee and the minutes of the meeting will be published on the departmental website at [www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/department/minutes/ltc.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/department/minutes/ltc.html).

**Main Texts (All available in Library)**


**Some Important Journals**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Psychologist</th>
<th>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>British Journal of Social Psychology</td>
<td>Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Journal of Social Psychology</td>
<td>Personality and Social Psychology Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Applied Social Psychology</td>
<td>Psychological Bulletin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Experimental Social Psychology</td>
<td>Group Processes &amp; Intergroup Relations</td>
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**Teaching Programme**

You should note that attendance at lectures, seminars and supervisions, and the submission of written work, are obligatory. For further information see the Faculty of Social Sciences Handbook.

**Wk. Lecture Seminar**

**Block 1: Intragroup Processes**

13. Introduction; Group Structure and Process (GRM)

14. Social Influence 1 (AW)

15. Social Influence 2 (AW)

16. Motivation in Groups (AW)  
   *Majority and Minority Influence*

17. Reading Week

18. Individuals versus Groups (GRM)

**Block 2: Intergroup Processes**
19. Social Identity and Intergroup Behaviour (AR)
20. Categorization and Stereotypes (RS)
21. Communication and Prejudice (RS)  
   Stereotype Threat
22. Status and Power between Groups (TBC)
23. Leadership (GRM)
24. Summary and exam preparation (RS)

Dr G Randsley de Moura

September 2008