Instructor: Prof. Zhansheng CHEN  
Office: The Jockey Club Tower 665  
Office Hour: Thursday 12:00-1:00pm  
Email: chenz@hku.hk  

Tutor: Mr. Terry TSE  
Office: The Jockey Club Tower 619  
Office Hour: Tue 10:30-11:30am  
Email: yltsec@hku.hk  

Lectures: Thursday 1:30-3:20pm (CPD-G.02)  
Tutorial Sessions: Thursday 10:30-11:20am & 11:30-12:20pm (CPD-LG36)  

Course Objectives  
This course will examine a number of major research topics in social psychology. Students are expected to gain substantial knowledge of the field, including major concepts, theories, empirical findings, and controversies. Students will also have the opportunity to communicate critically and creatively about these theories and findings.  

Learning Outcomes  
1. More knowledgeable about current research in social psychology;  
2. More critical and sensible in interpreting and communicating research reports;  
3. Better at developing research questions and testable hypotheses;  
4. Better at coming up research plans to address research questions;  
5. Able to write coherent research proposals.  

Course Requirements  
Discussion questions: Participation is essential for this class. Students will be randomly assigned into four discussion groups (A, B, C, and D) at the beginning of the semester. You should read all the main readings, and be particularly familiar with one of them. Each group should make sure that they have at least two experts on every single article. You should come up with ONE discussion question based on the readings and submit your question to Terry via Moodle by 5pm on Monday of the lecture week. The purpose of this assignment is to prepare students for the group discussions during the lecture.  

Class participation:  
During each lecture, two empirical articles will be presented by students. Students will also engage in group discussions. In addition, one group will be selected to share their thoughts with the rest of the class at the beginning of the next lecture. Following their sharing, this chosen group need to submit their comments/thoughts (single-
spaced, no more than 3 pages) by 5pm on Sunday, which will be distributed to the whole class.

**Research proposal outline:** You are expected to come up with a testable hypothesis addressing issues related to the topics covered in the class. You are required to submit a 2 page, single-spaced proposal outline by 5pm, Oct 21. It should state clearly the research question, hypothesis, and research method. Before turning in the final proposal, you will have a chance to present his/her proposal to the class.

The final research proposal should be submitted two weeks after your presentation. This proposal should be double-spaced and not exceed 12 pages, excluding title page, abstract, and references. Please use the style described in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th edition).

**Grading System**
Weekly questions 12%
Class participation
  - Individual presentation 10%
  - Discussions 5%
  - Group presentation 10%
Group writing assignment 10%
Research proposal
  - Outline 5%
  - Proposal presentation 10%
  - Final paper 30%
Tutorial sessions 6%
Departmental research seminar 2%

**Important notes**
**Late assignments** will be penalized by 30% of maximum point for each day of delay (including Saturday and Sunday).

**Plagiarism:** A hardcopy and a softcopy are required for all written assignments. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given for an assignment that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied. These penalties include a zero mark for participation in course tutorials and a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to the Department/Faculty Office/University Disciplinary Committee for consideration of possible disciplinary action.

**Academic honesty:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, interfering with grading, falsification and fabrication of data in any
academic exercise, etc.) will receive a grade of F on the component(s) of assessment concerned or in this course and will be reported to the Department/Faculty Office/University Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action. There will be no exceptions. If you are not sure what constitutes the academic offense of plagiarism, checkout the webpage at http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism. Department of Psychology has formulated departmental polices/guidelines on student misconduct. Visit the website at to https://psychology.hku.hk/useful-information-to-current-students/
## Tentative Schedule

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 2</td>
<td>Organizational meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 9</td>
<td>We or I? The social self</td>
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<td>Sep 16</td>
<td>Mental representation of social world</td>
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<td>Sep 23</td>
<td>Need to belong</td>
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<td>Sep 30</td>
<td>Objectification</td>
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<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>Morality</td>
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<td><strong>Oct 14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reading/Field Trip Week</strong></td>
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<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
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<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Ego-depletion and willpower</td>
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<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>Open science practices (OSF)</td>
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<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>OSF, Presentation</td>
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<td>Nov 18</td>
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<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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