PSYCHOLOGY 360
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Spring 2016

Professor: Christine Smith, Ph. D.
ASH 2321
331-2424
Office Hours: W/F Immediately before and after class or by appointment
(on Allendale Campus)
Email: SmithC@GVSU.edu

Required Readings:
All readings for the course are available as digital files posted to BB.
PowerPoint Slides that I use during lecture will be posted to BB AFTER
lecture each class period.

Course Objectives:
This course is designed to introduce you to the scientific study of human social
behavior. From the readings and class discussions you will find that one of the most
exciting aspects of social psychology is how relevant it is to your everyday life.
Throughout this course you can expect to develop knowledge of the rich variety of social
psychological concepts, and to develop a better understanding of the scientific method as
it applies to social psychological phenomena. The material presented in this course
should prepare you for future study within the field of psychology and will also be useful
in your work and in other parts of your life.

As a student, you are responsible, at a minimum, for reading the material and
completing the assignments on time, retaining material presented in the lecture, and
participating actively in our classroom discussions. In some content-focused courses
absorbing the material and repeating it back on exams is all that is required for a good
grade. Such is not the case with this class, for I am more interested in your ability
to conceptualize theoretical issues, apply material in new contexts, and energetically
examine your social world.

Class Format:
This course is reading, writing, and discussion intensive. Each day (with the
exception of our first class meeting), you will be required to answer a set of questions
related to the readings for the day. Your responses to these questions need to be
submitted to BB before each class session. Late submissions will earn half credit only
(no exceptions). Success in this course is strongly dependent upon reading and thinking
deeply about the assigned readings. As long as your responses are thoughtful, submitted
on time, and demonstrate that you have done the assigned reading; you will perform well
on them.
Assignments:
Over the course of the semester you will be required to complete three short (5-7 pages) papers that will require you to apply social psychological theory to real world events and to synthesize the material presented in lecture and in your readings. The assignments and their due dates are listed in the course outline below and are to be submitted BB. **Assignments submitted late will earn half credit only.**

Academic Integrity:
Each student is expected to pursue the academic goals and objectives in this course with the highest level of honesty and integrity. Representing someone’s words or ideas as your own, whether done unintentionally or deliberately is plagiarism. Any student found plagiarizing will receive a grade of “F” in the course.

Grading:
Your final grade will be based on nine question sets (20 points each @ 180 points total), and three papers (100 points each @ 300 points). Thus, the maximum number of points you can earn is 480. You are guaranteed the following grade based on your percent of total possible points.

**I do not assign extra credit work in this class.**

Grade Distribution:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>66.99-60%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59% and lower</td>
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Course Outline

**May 11**
**Introduction to Social Psychology**

Readings:


**May 13**
**The Social Self: General Issues**

Readings:


May 18 The Social Self: Memory
Readings:


Watch the Frontline Documentary: Divided Memories. The topic for paper 1 should be inspired by by this material.

May 20 Explaining the Behavior of Others
Readings:


May 25      Intergroup Relations and the Social Psychology of Prejudice


May 27      Attitudes and Persuasion

Readings:


View Frontline Documentary: The Confessions. The topic for Paper 2 should be inspired by this documentary

June 1      Social Influence and Conformity

Readings:


### June 3

**Altruism and Bystander Intervention**

**Readings:**


### June 8

**Social Psychology from a Cultural Perspective with Guest Lecturer John Adamopoulos**

**Readings:**


### June 10:

**No Lecture/Class Discussion**

Watch the Frontline Documentary: The Interrupters. The topic for Paper 3 should be inspired by this documentary.

### June 15

**Culture and Behavior: Aggression with Guest Lecturer John Adamopoulos.**

**Readings:**


### June 17

**No Lecture/Class Discussion**

**Reading and Paper Work Day**