Professor: Christine Smith, Ph. D.
ASH 2321
331-2424
Office Hours: T/TH 12-1:00, or by appointment.
Email: SmithC@GVSU.edu

Required Textbook:
Additional readings listed in the syllabus made available via BlackBoard links.

I provide all of the PowerPoint Slides that I use during lecture to students via BlackBoard links.

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 studying the text, retaining material presented in the lecture, taking the required examinations, and participating actively by completing the activities and assignments. 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:
Although this is a lecture class, I encourage you to ask questions and participate in classroom discussions. You will also find that lectures are more understandable and enjoyable if you have read the material prior to class attendance. Frequent absences from class may reduce your final grade because exam questions may include topics covered in the lectures but not in the readings.
Exams:
The course will be divided into three parts with an exam following each part. Each exam will contain multiple choice and short essays. You will be responsible for both the information presented in the readings assigned for each section and the material presented in class. Approximate test dates appear on the course schedule and will be announced in class. The last exam will be taken on the day of the final exam. You are expected to take each of the exams on the days they are scheduled. Should you miss a class on exam day, and you have an exceptionally good excuse for doing so (sleeping late, in my opinion, is not an exceptionally good excuse), you will be allowed to take a make-up exam.

Thoughtful Response Papers:
Several times during the semester I will ask that students write a response to a prompt related to the day’s discussion/lecture. These prompts might ask that you apply course material to a film clip or to one our assigned readings. As long as your response is thoughtful and demonstrates that you have kept up with your reading, you will be given full credit for it. If you are absent on the day that a Thoughtful Response paper is assigned, you WILL NOT be given the opportunity to make it up. It is for this reason, amongst others, that regular class attendance is an important determinant of your final grade in this class. It should be noted, however, that I will drop your lowest thoughtful response grade.

Grading:
Your final grade will be based on three exams (100 points each), and the Thoughtful Response papers (You will write six and I will count 5 of them @ 10 points each=50 points). Thus, the maximum number of points you can earn is 350. 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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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-94%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>93.99-90%</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>59% and lower</td>
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In order to be caught up with your reading, you should aim to have read all assignments by the end of the week in which they were assigned.

**Course Outline**

**Week 1:**
January 12-14  
*Introduction to the study of social psychology*  
**Read** Chapter 1 in Kassin, Fein, & Markus (KFM)

**Week 2:**
January 19-21  
*The Social Self*  
View Film “Prisoners of Silence”  
**Read** Chapter 3 in KFM  
Week 2 additional readings posted to BB.

**Week 3:**
January 26-28  
*The Social Self Continued*  
**Read** Week 3 additional readings posted to BB.

**Week 4:**
February 2-4  
*Social Cognition and Attribution*  
**Read** Chapter 4 in KFM  
Week 4 additional readings posted to BB.

**Week 5:**
February 9-11  
*Perceiving Groups*  
**Read** Chapter 5 in KFM  
Week 5 additional readings posted to BB.

**Week 6:**
February 16-18  
Tuesday: *Perceiving Groups Continued*  
February 18  
Thursday: **EXAM 1**

**Week 7:**
February 23-25  
*Attitudes and Persuasion*  
**Read** Chapter 6 in KFM
Week 8: Conformity and Obedience
March 1-3
Read Chapter 7 in KFM
Week 8 additional readings posted to BB.

Week 9 SPRING BREAK

Week 10 Conformity and Obedience Continued
March 15-17

Week 11 Group Processes
March 22-24
Read Chapter 8 in KFM

Week 12 Group Processes Continued
March 29-31
Thursday: EXAM 2

Week 13 Helping Others
April 5-7
Read Chapter 10 in KFM
Week 13 additional readings posted to BB.

Week 14 Helping Others and Aggression
April 12-14
Read Chapter 11 in KFM
Week 14 additional readings posted to BB.

Week 15 Aggression
April 19-21
Read Week 15 additional readings posted to BB.

Week 16 Final Exam Monday April 25th @ 10:00