

**PSYCHOLOGY 360**  
**SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Spring 2019**

**Professor:** Christine Smith, Ph. D.  
ASH 2321  
331-2424  
Office Hours: T/TH 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 week (with the exception of the first) you will be required to answer a set of questions related to the course readings. Your responses to these questions need to be submitted to BB **before the class session in which they are due**. 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 two short (5 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.**

**Exam:**

We will have one exam during the semester (on the last day of our class). It will be multiple choice and will emphasize application of major ideas explored during the semester. A study guide will be provided.

**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 five question sets (10 points each @ 50 points total), two papers (50 points each @ 100 points) and one exam (100 points). Thus, the maximum number of points you can earn is 280. 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:**

A	100-94%	A-	93.99-90%	B+	89.99-87%
B	86.99-84%	B-	83.99-80%	C+	79.99-77%
C	76.99-74%	C-	73.99-70%	D+	69.99-67%
D	66.99-60%				
F	59% and lower				

**Course Topics Outline and Assignment Deadlines**

**Week 1:** Introduction to Social Psychology and the Social Self

**Week 2:** The Social Self: Memory and explaining the behavior of others

Watch the film "Divided Memories" Paper 1 thesis should be inspired by this material.

**Week 3:** Intergroup Relations and the Psychology of Prejudice. **Paper 1 due by 5:00 pm Thursday.**

**Week 4: Attitudes and Persuasion**

Watch the film “The Confessions” Paper 2 thesis should be inspired by this material.

**Week 5: Social Influence and Conformity. Paper 2 due by 5:00 pm Thursday.**

**Week 6: Bystander Intervention/Altruism/Aggression**

**June 18<sup>th</sup>: Final Exam**