PSYCHOLOGY 360
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Winter 2015

Professor: Christine Smith, Ph. D.
ASH 2321
331-2424
Office Hours: T/TH 11:15-12:00, 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 essay questions. 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.

Grading:
Your final grade will be based on three exams (100 points each), and the Thoughtful Response papers (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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93.99-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86.99-84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83.99-80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76.99-74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73.99-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66.99-60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and lower</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 6-8  
Introduction to the study of social psychology
Read  Chapter 1 in Kassin, Fein, & Markus (KFM)

Week 2:
January 13-15  
The Social Self
View Film “Prisoners of Silence”
Read  Chapter 3 in KFM
What’s the trouble? How doctors think (posted to BB).

Week 3:
January 20-22  
The Social Self Continued
Read  Self Knowledge: Its limits, value, and potential for improvement (posted to BB)
Affective forecasting (posted to BB).

Week 4:
January 27-29  
Social Cognition and Attribution
Read  Chapter 4 in KFM
Why Confessions Trump Innocence (posted to BB)
The Psychology of Confession Evidence (posted to BB)

Week 5:
February 3-5  
Perceiving Groups
Read  Chapter 5 in KFM
Race and Media Coverage of Hurricane Katrina: Analysis, Implications, and Future Research Questions (posted to BB)
Weapon Bias: Split second decisions and unintended stereotyping (posted to BB)
Week 6:
February 10-12
Tuesday: Perceiving Groups Continued
February 12
Thursday: EXAM 1

Week 7:
February 17-19
Attitudes and Persuasion
Read Chapter 6 in KFM
What every skeptic should know about subliminal persuasion
(posted to BB)

Week 8:
Conformity and Obedience
February 24-26
Read Chapter 7 in KFM
Torture at Abu Ghraib (posted to BB)
Rethinking the Psychology of Tyranny
On Rethinking the psychology of tyranny (posted to BB)

- I recommend that you read the additional readings in the order they are presented above.

Week 9
SPRING BREAK

Week 10
Conformity and Obedience Continued
March 10-12

Week 11
Group Processes
March 17-19
Read Chapter 8 in KFM
Enhancing the Effectiveness of Work Groups and Teams (posted to BB)

Week 12
March 24-26
Group Processes Continued
Thursday: EXAM 2

Week 13
Helping Others
March 31-April 2
Read Chapter 10 in KFM
Be aware to care: Public self-awareness leads to a reversal of bystander effect (posted to BB)
If I look at the mass I will never act (posted to BB)
Week 14  Helping Others and Aggression
April 7-9
Read Chapter 11 in KFM
Comfortably numb: Desensitizing effects of violent media on helping others (posted to BB)

Week 15  Aggression
April 14-16
Read The influence of media violence on youth (posted to BB)
Does the gun pull the trigger? (posted to BB)
You don’t talk about Fight Club if you do not notice Fight Club (posted to BB)

Week 16  Final Exam Monday April 20th @ 10:00 AM