**Social Psychology Syllabus**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exploration of the theory and phenomena of social psychology; the nature and type of social variables; the methods used to study them and the effect of social variables upon the behavior of individuals. Prerequisites: PSYC 1320

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course students will be

1. Familiar with the primary social psychological literature and results from a range of research studies in the field
2. Aware of how social psychology is manifested in everyday life
3. Able to apply and integrate social psychological concepts to social problems/events/themselves

TEXTBOOK

*Social Psychology Alive* - Breckler, Olson, Wiggins (current edition)

SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS

1. Journal Project 40%

2. In class Quizzes ` 20%

3. Moodle Quizzes 20%

5. Final Exam 20%

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

**1. Journal Project:** The goal of this project is to view your daily experiences within the framework of the concepts you are learning in this class. To meet this goal you will be keeping a journal of experiences you have along with an analysis of those experiences from a social psychological perspective. A thorough entry will be approximately 2-3 double-spaced pages. Detailed instruction about this assignment are available below.

**2. In class quizzes:** in class completion of graded SOCRATIVE quizzes.

**3. Moodle Quizzes:** These quizzes are to be completed in Moodle.

**4. Final Exam**: The final exam will test student’s overall learning of class content.

ATTENDANCE

Attending class is very important. We will follow the college policy regarding attendance.

TARDINESS

Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Arriving late for class twice over the course of the semester will be considered the maximum allowed. For every late arrival to class beyond this limit, you will be marked ABSENT for the class period.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

We adhere to the school technology policy in this class. If you are suspected of abusing technology in the classroom (using technology for any other than note taking or an instructor authorized event) then you will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted absence for that class.

GRADING

All grading is consistent with DCC grading policy.

***CLASS TOPICS***

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| --- |
| Introducing social psychology |
| Methods of social psychology |
| Social Psychology: Thinking about people |
| Social Perception: Perceiving the self and others |
| The person in the situation: self-concept, gender, dispositions |
| Attitudes and social behaviour |
| Attitude change |
| Conformity compliance and obedience |
| Stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice |
| Group dynamics and intergroup conflict |
| Aggression and violence |
| Helping: positive social behaviours |
| Liking loving and close relationships |
| Social psychology in your life |

***Journal Exercise***

Because we (usually) interact with people daily, we are constantly immersed in social processes. Even when we are not in direct contact with others, the experiences we have may still be “social” in nature (e.g., the persuasive arguments you are exposed to everyday as you read magazines or watch TV, the beliefs you have about yourself or others). However, rarely do we attempt to critically examine ourselves and our surroundings from a social psychological perspective. The goal of this assignment is to step “out of your skin” so to speak, and try to see your daily experiences within the framework of the concepts you are learning in this class.

You are to keep a journal of experiences you have along with an analysis of those experiences from a social psychological perspective. In other words, keep note of things that happen to you, behaviors you see occurring in other individuals or among social groups, events in the media, and even storylines from books that you’re reading or TV shows you are watching (including commercials). Basically, anything you notice in your daily life is fair game (assuming you can tie it to the course content). You should carefully explain the event or experience (so that I understand what is going on), and then give evidence to support why this illustrates a social psychological concept.

***Details:***

You should have entries in your journal 1 each week of the semester. Most likely a thorough entry will be 250 words .
You need to incorporate a wide range of concepts from the course. This means that you should draw from the many social psychological topics that are discussed throughout the semester. Connect the current topics being discussed in class to your journal entries. So for example, when we are discussing group identity in class, you could write about your experiences with group membership; if the topic is altruism, you could write about your observations of helping behavior.

***Journal Entry Format :***

(I) What was the situation ? :The beginning of your entry should describe the situation/event in detail.

(II) What was the Social Psychology Principle and how does it apply to the situation ? A thoughtful application of one (or more) social psychological principles to that situation/event, including an explanation of the principle.

(III) At the end of your entry you should brainstorm and describe other ideas that you’ve generated as a result of this entry.

***Grading Criteria:***

Grading is based on the following factors:

1) Correct application of the social psychological concept

2) Depth of thought

3) Questions raised/critical thinking

4) Clarity of writing

5) Originality—these experiences and observations should be yours, not just a re- hashing of the examples given in class or your readings.

6) Points may be deducted if you have not made sufficient effort or if the entries do not sample across the range of topics covered during that week’s class. Bonus points are awarded for completing good journal entries consistently every week.

**Some questions to get you started:**

You need not address all of these in each entry, but do attempt to answer some of them in order to demonstrate appropriate analysis.

* How can the psychological phenomenon you have chosen be seen in this interaction, experience, or situation?
* How was this interaction inconsistent with the theory or phenomenon you have chosen?
* Why do you think the outcome of this interaction seems to be inconsistent with the phenomenon you chose?
* How does your current awareness of this psychological phenomenon change the way you interpret what happened during this event?
* If you (or others) had been aware of social psychological research about this phenomenon during the event, how might the outcome of the interaction have been changed?
* What aspects of the situation, if changed, would have resulted in a less surprising outcome?
* How will your learning about this phenomenon influence your attitudes/behavior/ perceptions in the future?
* What questions do you now have after considering the event in light of psychological theory?
* What type of experiment(s) might help address these issues?