

**Three Rivers Community College  
PSY K240 - Social Psychology  
SYLLABUS FALL 2017**

**Instructor: Dylan Gaffney, MSCP  
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**TEXT: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY by David G. Myers & Jean Twenge 12th  
McGraw Hill (Older editions acceptable)**

**Meeting Time: T/Th Room D109 from 2pm-3:15.**

**Office hours by appointment.**

**Prerequisite: PSY K111 or PSY K112.**

**This course presents an in-depth and extensive psychological study of social behavior. The major thrust of this course will focus upon attitude formation, language and communication, group interaction, leadership roles, and cultural forces. These factors will be examined as they affect individuals in contemporary society. Framed in critical thinking, the scientific method, and statistics students will come to understand, these concepts in the context of Social Thinking, Social Influence and Social Relations as phenomenon are examined.**

**Student will demonstrate an understanding of: The use of scientific methodology and research for investigating important questions relative to Social behavior. Knowledge of the major theories, concepts, and research findings that represent the scientific perspective for the basis of Social Behavior. Knowledge of the major theories, concepts, and research findings that represent the scientific perspective in the investigation of cognitive processes involved in Social Behavior. The ability to recognize how we construe our social worlds, how social institutions guide and sometimes deceive us, how social behaviors is shaped by other people, by our attitudes and personality, and by our biology. How social psychology's principles apply to our everyday lives and to various other fields of psychology.**

## Class room decorum

### Integrity & Civility

We are here to learn from one another. A tone of civility and good will is expected. As adult college students, you are expected to behave as professionals – arrive prepared to work, display maturity and show respect to all.



### Integrity & Civility

*You will be treated with respect and as honorable individuals.*

We are here to learn from one another. A tone of civility and good will is expected. As adult college students, you are expected to behave as professionals – arrive prepared to work, display maturity and show respect to all. Cell phone conversations and text messaging are grounds for dismissal from class. *Disrespect of your classmates and disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated.*

### Learning Rules in the Classroom

- Turn off your cell phones. No texting. No tweeting. Turn off your phones before you enter my classroom....
- If you bring a computer to class to take notes, it can only be used to take class notes. No other computer use is acceptable
- No behavior that is viewed as inconsiderate and disrespectful to your classmates, who are here to learn, will be tolerated
- No behavior that is inconsiderate and disrespectful to the instructor, who is here to teach, will be tolerated.
- Only activities related to what we are doing in this class will be tolerate
- Only one person speaking at a time, don't call out, wait to be recognized.
- No wandering in and out of the classroom-use the facilities before class.

### Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom:

*(FCW approved 12/2/09):*

**It is the right of every college student to be educated in an environment that is free from distraction from the educational activities being conducted in the classroom. To support students' right to a distraction-free educational environment, the policy follows:**

- All electronic devices, including cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, and tablets must be turned off during class time.**
- In the case of medical emergency, or family need, when contact with the student is required, a cell phone may be left on during class time, with permission from the instructor. The cell phone must be set to vibrate to minimize the level of distraction for other students.**
- Laptops are to be used only in the following circumstances:**
  - As an approved reasonable accommodation for a student with a disability certified by the Office of Disability Support Services/Learning Resource Center. Laptops used for the purpose of disability accommodation are restricted to this purpose only and may not be used for other purposes.**
  - There has been prior permission granted by the instructor to an individual student.**
  - There is a classroom requirement for laptop use initiated by the instructor.**
- A student's use of electronic devices in the classroom without prior permission, including cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, and tablets may result in the student being requested to leave the classroom, and an absence may be recorded for the student for that class.**

**Plagiarism:** Note that academic dishonesty erodes the integrity of the College and devalues *every* degree granted. While the instructor encourages students to work together frequently, honesty in all academic work is expected of every student. This means papers shall be the original creation of each student and answers on examinations will be determined without help from auxiliary sources. If the instructor has any reason to question your conduct, the College's academic dishonesty policy will be followed.

**Attendance:**

**This course is based on teaching, learning and communication. Each of us has a responsibility to contribute to the learning of others through critical dialogue, and integrative and collaborative learning (Forando, 2009). Former students agree unequivocally that coming to class is essential for success in this course. Class attendance and participation is part of the grading rubric.**

If you miss a class, *you* are responsible for obtaining from a *classmate* information germane to that meeting (notes, changes in exam dates, etc.) Please let me know if you have any problems which cause an extended absence.

Punctuality is *imperative*. Important information often is disseminated at the beginning of class and it shows respect for fellow learners. If you repeatedly come to class late, you will be marked absent. Absences affect your grade.

Assessment

In order to measure the quality of the learning experience students will demonstrate their knowledge through discussion of the reading material, participation in class exercises, homework assignments, Media Portfolio, a field journal, a mid-term and a final exam.

Course Requirements and Grading:

**READ CAREFULLY!**

- 1) Each class you will come prepared to discuss and participate in class activities and reflective writing. This means you will have to do the assigned reading. In this highly interactive class attendance, participation IS graded.
- 2) You will be assigned four essays during the term. You will turn it in on time as late work will not be accepted. Format: Font 12, double spaced, with citing. I expect well-written thoughtful essays relatable to the concepts you are studying. Spelling and Grammar do count. These essays will be outlined further in class.
- 3) Journal: You will practice social psychology by examining the world around you. This will be explained further in class.
- 4) Media Portfolio Assignment- You will construct a media portfolio illustrating examples of Social Psychology and present it to the class.
- 5) Mid-term and Final Exam-100 points each

## **HOW DO I MAKE THE GRADE? IN A NUTSHELL:**

- 1) Engaged Class participation through our discussions and in class activities: 100 points (25 lectures-4 points a class=100 points.)**
- 2) Four Essays: 25 points=100 points**
- 3) Media Portfolio: 50 points**
- 3) Journal (homework): 50 points**
- 3) Midterm and Final Exam: 100 points each=200 points**

**Total Points 500**

**Important note: I will NOT be spending our lecture time repackaging the reading material, but rather expanding upon it. This means you have to read the text.**

### **DETAILS and REQUIREMENTS for your MEDIA PORTFOLIO:**

**For this assignment, you will collect popular press/media information that is relevant to social psychology. This project is an opportunity for you to apply the social psychological principles from class to real-world events and information. Be creative! Social psychology is everywhere, once you start looking for it.**

**Your collection can be made up of newspaper articles, magazine articles, advertisements, comic strips, photographs, advice columns, or anything else pertaining to social psychology. You can use advertisements, or video. You may use song lyrics for no more than one entry. If you chose this, provide the text of the lyrics, the artist, the album title, and the release date. You may also submit a video entry for no more than one item per portfolio (You Tube, or other media link); if you do this, provide the URL.**

**Keep your eyes open for materials starting at the beginning of the course Your portfolio must include at least 6 items. You may not include more than one item on the same topic.**

**Each item should include:**

\* The original source material (e.g., the cartoon, article, etc.), with complete information about the source (e.g., the name of the publication, the date of publication, page numbers).

\* Embedded in the presentation is to be an explanation of the concept and the way in which the item relates to the concept. I'm looking for evidence that you understand the concept and that you can explain the links between your material and that concept. THAT IS THE ASSESSMENT TOOL.

Format: POWER POINT

**Policy on late assignments: Please respect the deadlines. Late material will NOT be accepted. Again, NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Spelling and grammar count. Please be sure to proofread your work before turning it in. With word doc programs and spell check there is absolutely no excuse for sloppy work**

**ESSAYS; There will be four essays based on movies. You will watch these movies on your own time, and pull out as many social psychology points from the text as you can. Title page, font 12, double spaced.**

1. **Movie *Kumare* REQUIRED (on reserve in the college library-3 days) or live stream Netflix**
2. **12 Angry Men REQUIRED (on reserve in the college library) or live stream Netflix**

**Choose one movie from the following:**

3. **“The Experimenter” (live streaming Netflix based on the experiments of Dr. Milgram starring Peter Sarsgaard, Winona Ryers, Jim Gaffigan) or on youtube for \$2.99**
4. **“The Stanford Prison Experiment” (live streaming Netflix starring Billy Crudup, Michael Angarano, Moises Arias) or find it on youtube.**

**Choose one from the following:**

5. **“The Wave’ (on reserve in the college library-3 days)**
6. **Schindler’s List (on reserve in the college library) or live stream Netflix**

**Course Schedule- Social Psychology**

**Date: August 29, 31 (Week One)**

**August 30 Topic: Course Introduction and Syllabus Review**

**Readings: pages 1-7**

**Sept 1 Topic: Introducing Social Psychology**

**Readings: pages 7-26**

## **SOCIAL THINKING**

**Date: Sept 5, 7 (Week Two)**

**Sept 5: No class held-outside assignment given:**

**Sept 7:Topic: The Self in a Social World**

**Readings: Chapter 2**

**SEPT 11 LAST DAY TO DROP FOR PARTIAL CREDIT**

**Date: Sept. 12, 14 (Week Three)**

**Sept 12 Topic: Social Beliefs and Judgements**

**Readings: Chapter 3**

**Sept 14 Topic: Behaviors and Attitudes**

**Readings: Chapter 4**

**Date: Sept. 19, 21 (Week Four)**

## **SOCIAL INFLUENCE**

**Topic: Genes, Culture and Gender**

**Readings: Chapter 5**

**Topic: Conformity and Obedience**

**Readings: Chapter 6**

**ESSAY 1: Reflection and Research, Movie Review: “The Experimenter” or “The Stanford Prison Experiment” due Sept 21**

**Date: Sept. 26, 28 (Week Five)**

**Topic: Persuasion**

**Readings: Chapter 7**

**Date: Oct 3, 5 (Week Six)**

**Topic: Group Influence**

**Readings: Chapter 8**

**Essay 2: Reflection/Research, Movie Review: “Kumare’ Due October 5**

**Date: Oct. 10, 12 (Week Seven)**

**Catch up and Review for Mid-term**

**Date: Oct. 17, 19 (Week Eight)**

**Tuesday October 17- Reading Day no class held.**

**Oct 19 MID-TERM EXAM**

## **SOCIAL RELATIONS**

**Date: Oct. 24, 26 (Week Nine)**

**Topic: Prejudice: Disliking Others**

**Readings: Chapter 9**

**Topic: Aggression**

**Readings: Chapter 10**

**Essay 3: Reflection/Research, Movie Review: “The Wave’ or “Schindler’s List” Due October 26**

**Date: Oct 31, Nov 2 (Week 10)**

**Topic: Attraction and Intimacy**

**Readings: Chapter 11**

**Date: Nov. 7, 9 (Week 11)**

**Nov 7 Topic: Helping**

**Reading:Chapter 12**

**Nov 9 Topic: Conflict and Peacekeeping**

**Readings: Chapter 13**

**-Class Activity**

**Homework: Day of Social Justice: Due Nov 16**

**Date: Nov. 14, 16 (Week 12)**

### **APPLYING SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**Topic: Social Psychology in the Court**

**Readings: Chapter 15**

**Thanksgiving Week-NO CLASSES held Nov 21/23**

**Date: Nov 28, 30 (Week 13)**

**Topic: Social Psychology and the Sustainable Future**

**Readings: Chapter 18**

**Dec 7: JOURNALS DUE (will be returned Dec 14th)**

**DEC 9 LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CLASS**

**Essay 4 : Reflection/Research, Movie Review: “Twelve Angry Men” Due Dec 9.**

**Date: Dec. 5, 7 (Week 14)**

**Class Media Portfolio presentations**

**Date: Dec. 12,14 (Week 15)**

**Dec 12: Final Exam Review**

**DEC. 14: FINAL EXAM**

**GRADES AVAILABLE DEC. 28 ON THE THREE RIVERS WEB SITE**

**IF you have questions about this syllabus or grading please ask early on in the term!**