

Three Rivers Community College

Fall 2010

PSY 240: Social Psychology

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Office Phone #: 860-823-2819	Office Hours: M 5:00-6:00PM; TU8:30-9:30AM; W 5:30-6:30; TH 4:00-6:00; and by appointment
E-Mail: sweiss@trcc.commnet.edu	Class Room: D 104
Class Schedule: W 6:30-9:15 PM	Website: http://smw15.org/

Course Description: 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.

Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, students should have accomplished the following major objectives:

- By investigating the discipline of social psychology you should gain new insights from both the academic and practical perspective
- Gain an understanding of the major theories and concepts presented from a variety of theoretical perspectives
- Formulate a clear understanding of how situational aspects can influence behaviors
- Improve analytical thinking and research skills

Required Text: *Social Psychology* by Kassir, Fein, & Markus (8th edition)

<i>Grading Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
3 Tests (100 pts each)	300	60 %
Research Paper	100	20 %
Presentation/Study Group Participation	100	20 %
Extra Credit (Total extra credit points x .10)		
Total	500	100 %

Note: Above grading criteria is not subject to change.

Grading System:

Grade	%	Total Points
A	93+	465+
A-	90-92	450-464
B+	87-89	435-449
B	83-86	415-434
B-	80-82	400-414
C+	77-79	385-399
C	73-76	365-384
C-	70-72	350-364
D+	67-69	335-349
D	63-66	315-334
D-	60-62	300-314
F	-60	-300

Notes:

- (1) **Note:** While class attendance will not be calculated into the above grades, excessive absences (3-4) will result in a decrease of a full letter grade (for example from C to D). 5-6 absences will cause your grade to be reduced by two full letters (for example from B to D). 7 or more absences will result in failure of the course.
- (2) If you **DO NOT** complete this course, you must formally withdraw at the registrar's office by DEC. 9th. Failure to do so will likely result in you receiving an F on your transcript for this course.

Extra Credit:

- **Experiment Participants:** There will be several extra credit points given for involvement as research participants in my motor learning/sport psychology experiments. Your participation in these experiments is voluntary. If you choose to participate, extra credit points will be distributed as follows: In-class short survey research: 2-3 points; Out-of-class experiments: 5-10 points.
- **Class Attendance/Participation:** A maximum of 5 extra credit points will be given for good attendance/class participation.
- **There will be no individual extra credit opportunities.**
- **Total Extra Credit:** The total number of extra credit points earned multiplied by 10% will increase your overall grade. For example: If you earn 30 extra credit points this will give you three points added to your final average ($30 \times .10 = 3$).

Tests: All tests will be part multiple choice, true/false and short answer format. There will be **no make-ups** for these exams - since I am dropping the lowest, if one is missed it will count as your low grade (unless, there is an emergency and I am informed immediately).

Research Paper (see website for guidelines)

Group Presentations (see website for guidelines)

Study Group Participation: To assist me in determining this grade, study group members will be required to fill out a study group evaluation form. This grade will be based on your attendance and participation in the in-class sessions, communication outside of class, cooperation, and research. For each in-class study group session, students will be required to bring in one journal article that relates to the general topic under study.

Reading Assignments: The majority of the readings will come from the textbook. Additional readings will be assigned well in advance of the exams.

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism: If I believe that you have copied from another student or other source, you will receive a grade of zero on that assignment or exam. This zero cannot be counted as your lowest exam grade (it cannot be dropped). A second offense will result in failure of the course. Please see our catalog for additional information.

Schedule of Classes

<i>Date</i>	<i>Tentative Topics</i>	Ch
Sep 1	Syllabus; What is Psychology? Person vs. Situation debate; Research Issues and Techniques	Chap
Sep 8	The Social Self	Cha
	In-Class Study Group Session: First 15:00 of next class (Sep 15)	
Sep 15	Perceiving Persons	Cha
Sep 22	Stereotypes, Prejudice, & Discrimination	Cha
Sep 29	TEST 1: Chapters 1-5 Video: Stanford Prison Experiment	
	In-Class Study Group Session: First 15:00 of next class (Oct 6)	
Oct 6	Group Processes	Cha
Oct 13	Attitudes	Cha
Oct 20	Conformity	Cha
Oct 27	Attraction/Close Relationships	Cha
Nov 3	TEST 2: Chapters 6-9 Video: Silent Witnesses	
	In-Class Study Group Session: First 15:00 of next class (Nov 10)	
Nov 10	Helping Others	Cha
Nov 17	Aggression	Cha
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Break – No Class – Enjoy!	
	Papers Due next class (Dec. 1)	
Dec 1	Stress & Health	Cha
Dec 8	TEST 3: Chapters 10, 11, & 14 Extra Credit Options	
Dec 15	Presentations	