

**PSY K240 Social Psychology** Fall 20  
Meeting Time: Wednesday 6:30 -8:45 pm

Instructor: Dylan Gaffney, MSCP

Office Hours: Before and After Class or by appointment  
E-Mail: [mypsychclass@earthlink.net](mailto:mypsychclass@earthlink.net)

### Course Description

This upper division course explores the basic concepts in the field of Social Psychology, framed in critical thinking and the scientific method. Understood in the context of Social Thinking, Social Influence and Social Relations, phenomenon are examined and applied through group interaction, video and experiential exercises, as well as the lecture format.

### Learning Objectives

Student will demonstrate an understanding of: The use of scientific methodology and research for investigating important questions relative to Social behavior and 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.

The course will entail a combination of: web-based video, field research activities, writing assignments and group work. Please keep abreast of global, national and local news as such events are often discussed in light of Social Psychology. Learning is not a spectator sport! The goal is active knowledge construction. You are encouraged to ask questions about what you are learning, relate it to past experiences and apply it to your daily lives. (The Johnson Foundation, 1987)

### Required Reading:

Social Psychology: Kassin, Dein, Markus. 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning  
Support Site: [www.cengagebrain.com](http://www.cengagebrain.com)

Various Handouts throughout the course supplied by your instructor

### **The Reading Assignments**

Please be aware each chapter contains a plethora of theoretical material and research data. Plan and manage your time accordingly. **You are expected to come to each class having read the assignment and having thought critically about it.**

**Evaluation Procedures** to measure each student's degree of learning

- 10% Exam #1
- 10% Exam #2
- 10% Exam #3
- 10% Movie Review: Schlinder's List
- 15% Media Journal
- 15% Field Project Journal
- 30% Preparedness, homework, participation, cooperation and in class writing

**100 point scale**

**Attendance and Participation**

**Your attendance is expected.** This class will be shaped by your presence and participation. Sharing one's own ideas and responding to others' reactions improves thinking and deepens understanding. (The Johnson Foundation, 1987) **Absences adversely affect your grade. If you miss more than 6 hours of class, regardless of the reason, you risk failure or withdrawal from the course.** If you miss a class, you are responsible for contacting a fellow student to obtain the information discussed in that class (notes, changes in exam dates, etc.) During the first class you will be introducing yourself to two classmates and note their e-mail or telephone number. 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. Arriving on time and staying to the end of class shows respect for your fellow learners. If you repeatedly come to class late, you will be marked absent which will affect your grade.

Take advantage of the free tutoring service available on campus if you feel the need.

**Special Needs**

If you have difficulty with the course material, please see me after class or call for an appointment outside of office hours. I am happy to clarify any questions you may have. If you have special needs (such as a learning disability, physical condition, etc.) and require accommodations to enhance your participation in the class, please contact the Learning Specialist or Student Development Office. In order to provide you with accommodations, I must receive documentation pertaining to your needs. Effort will be made to support everyone's learning.

**Integrity, Civility and Communication**

You will be treated as honorable individuals and with respect. In turn, you are expected to show respect and courtesy to the instructor and fellow students. Dr. M. Scott Peck (1993) defines community as "a way of being together with both individual authenticity and interpersonal harmony so that people become able to function with a collective energy...**The primary dynamic of ... immaturity is that we forget how to use our capacity to keep our minds on the group as a whole.**" It is expected that you **truly listen (and not talk) while someone else is speaking. Please rebut another's viewpoint in a civil, non-personalized manner. No one enjoys a class where one or**

**two individuals attempt to take over; self monitor your participation. Disrespect of your classmates and disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated.**

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

### **Learning Rules in the Classroom**

- No cell phones in any way, shape or form. No texting. No tweeting. Turn off your phones **before you enter my classroom.....No iPods, etc. in 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



### **Evaluation**

In order to measure the quality of the learning experience students will demonstrate their knowledge through discussion of the reading material in class participation, through keeping a Media Portfolio, papers, journals and taking exams.

Detailed information concerning the research requirements will be given. Examinations will encompass material from the assigned readings (whether discussed in class or not) and concepts we have explored in class through video, the Internet or group work. If a student misses an exam for an unacceptable reason, a 0 will be averaged into the student's grade for the missed exam. Make-up exams will be given only to students:

who have contacted the instructor in advance of the exam, and has an acceptable reason. It is your responsibility to contact the Instructor to petition for a make-up exam.

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## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **Movie Review:**

(Due November 28<sup>th</sup>)

Watch the movie Schindler's List and find as many Social Psychology phenomena that you can. Explain them in detail. There many (about 20) Social Psy concepts reflected in this film. See how many you can find....

### **Media Journal:**

For this assignment, you will collect popular 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. (Items included in your text cannot be used for your portfolio!) You may use song lyrics for no more than one entry, if you provide the text of the lyrics, the artist, 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 name, airdate, and brief description of the program or scene.

Keep your eyes open for materials starting at the beginning of the course **Your portfolio must include at least 10 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).

\* A typed, double-spaced explanation of the concept being illustrated and the way in which the item relates to the concept. You should be able to do this in a paragraph or two. 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 MY ASSESSMENT TOOL.

**Spelling and grammar count. Please be sure to proofread your work before turning it in. You will be sharing them with the class.**

## **RESEARCH FIELD PROJECT**

Each week I want you to take what you have learned from lecture and the reading and OBSERVE the world around you. Don't interfere or play "experimenter" just observe, stay humble and stay open and record. Social Psychology is all around you!!! Sit in a café and watch interactions...

Notice group behaviors at work and home.....  
Include YOURSELF in this observation .....  
Ask questions of yourself and others.

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**Topic Schedule and Assigned Readings**

Week 1	August 29	<b>Introduction to the course: What is Social Psychology?</b> Chapters 1
Week 2	September 5	<b>Doing Social Psychology</b> Chapter 2-Research Methodology
Week 3	September 12	<b>Social Perception</b> Chapter 3 The Social Self
Week 4	September 19	<b>Social Perception</b> Chapter 4 Perceiving Persons
Week 5	September 26	<b>EXAM #1</b> <b>Social Perception</b> Chapter 5 Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination
Week 6	October	<b>Social Influence</b> Chapter 6 Attitudes
Week 7	October 10	<b>Social Influence</b> Chapter 7 Conformity
Week 8	October 17	<b>Social Influence</b> Chapter 8 Group Processes
Week 9	October 24	<b>Social Relations</b> Chapter 9 Attraction and Close Relationships
Week 10	October 31	<b>EXAM #2</b> <b>Social Relations</b> Chapter 10 Helping Others
Week 11	November 7	<b>Social Relations</b> Chapter 11 Aggression
Week 12	November 14	<b>Applying Social Psychology</b> Chapter 12 Law

***Thanksgiving Week-NO CLASS November 21***

Week 13	November 28	<b>Applying Social Psychology</b> Chapter 13 Business
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Week 14 December 5 **Applying Social Psychology- Media and Field Journals Due**  
Chapter 14 Health

Week 15 December 12 **Final Exam**