

FINAL/UPDATED SYLLABUS

Three Rivers Community College, Fall, 2008

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY. Psy K241, M01

Professor: Dov Kugelmass, M.A.

dkugelmass@trcc.commnet.edu

(860) 892-5791

Office: #26, Faculty Suite, Shop Wing

Office Hours: Monday 2-3 and 6:3-7:30 pm and Fridays
11-12pm and by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Janet Rubin

abnormaljanet@live.com

Individual tutoring available online and onground by
appointment.

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.” (Three Rivers On-Line Course Description, 2005)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: You will learn a basic grasp of the scientific methodology and various content areas of social psychology. You will learn to apply social psychological principles to both academic issues, as well as, a variety of everyday circumstances. You will increase critical thinking skills by practicing them in class discussions and written assignments.

REQUIRED TEXT:

-Kassin, Fein, and Markus (2008). Social Psychology (Seventh Edition)

-Articles and book chapters as assigned in class:

-Festinger,

-Milgram,

-Dr. Seuss

-Schacter

LEARNING RESOURCES:

-Blackboard: <https://my.commnet.edu/cp/home/displaylogin>

You will need your banner ID and password

-Book Web Site: See text

-Tutoring: TASC hours generally coincide with the LRC hours, but may vary each semester. You can contact the TASC by telephone at: Mohegan campus 892-5745, Thames Valley campus 885-2311 or by email at: mpeloquin@trcc.commnet.edu.

-Writing Center: TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu 892-5773 or 892-5769

-Library Services: 383-5289. Hours during classes; M-Th 8am-8pm. Fr 8-4.

Sat 9-1(Thames Valley Campus)

<http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/library/Index.htm>

Rob Walsh - Reference Librarian

(860) 383-5276 / (860) 885-2601

rwalsh@trcc.commnet.edu

ASSIGNMENTS:

-Reading assignments (see attached schedule) should be completed prior to class so that we can have active discussions about the material both as a whole class and in small groups. There is a lot of reading and it is important to keep up. *If you're having trouble keeping up, or understanding the material, please speak to me right away.*

-Quizzes: There will be three quizzes. They will consist mostly of short answer and/or essay questions. Only your two best quizzes will count towards your final grade. Makeups will be given only with immediate notification of an emergency, will differ in format, and may be MORE DIFFICULT. **!!!!CHANGE IN SYLLABUS: THERE WILL BE ONLY TWO QUIZZES ,BOTH WILL COUNT TOWARD FINAL GRADE.**

-Class participation: Attendance *and* participation are required. This means coming on time to all classes, having done the assigned reading, and joining in class discussions. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to obtain notes, make up assignments, and/or note changes to the syllabus that are presented in class.

-Group Projects: We will form groups of 4-6 and work as a group on various projects. We will do this seven (or more) times. At each class meeting active participation will be required. Additionally, working on and coordinating group projects will require out of class collaboration in Blackboard and/or in person. More on this in class.

-Written assignments and Final Exam: You will choose between writing a research proposal (option A) and taking a Final Exam (option B)

-You will complete a short assignment (Topic sheet) related to the proposal or the final exam and indicating which option you are choosing.

-OPTION A: You will write a three to five page research proposal on one of the topics from our readings or class.

-OPTION B: Final Exam: Will be cumulative and will consist of mostly of short answer and essays.

GRADING: Final Exam or Paper: 30%
 Topic sheet: 5%
 Class Participation: 10%
 Group Projects:30
 Quizzes: 25%
 Total: 100%

STUDENT CONDUCT: All students are expected to behave as responsible and mature adults. This means participating in class discussions in a respectful, prepared, and thoughtful manner. Students will be encouraged to express opinions and beliefs in class. It is important that critical discussions and feedback are conducted in a considerate and scholarly manner. The work of others that is not properly credited is plagiarism. This is unethical and illegal and will result in referral to proper school authorities and/or a

flunking grade for the assignment and/or course. The college recommends we include the following passage taken from the TRCC handbook (2006) “Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person’s ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor.” We will discuss these issues in more detail at the start of the semester. If you have questions about what it means to be considerate and scholarly please be sure to ask questions and clear this up.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have any special needs related to the class (e.g. physical or learning challenges), please contact me at the start of the semester. Also, if any difficulties arise that may interfere with your full participation (such as not understanding course material, missed class, etc.), please contact me as soon as possible.

Week 1 starts 9/2:

INTRODUCTION: overview, ground rules, definitions, methodology, history of social psychology. Introduction to group processes
-Reading; see below

Week 2 starts 9/8:

Introduction (continued) Group Processes, and Intro to Research
-Reading: (assigned by email) 5-19, 23-30, 257-266
-Group Project: Group process and participation strategies.

Week 3 starts 9/15:

Persuasion
Reading:30-42, 266-285
-Group Project: Research strategy to study group process.

Week 4 starts 9/22:

Dissonance and Self Persuasion
Reading: 180-206
-Group Project:commercial analysis
Individual meetings

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Readings below this line will change/be updated. List is now updated as of 9/22/08

Week 5 starts 9/29:

OPTIONAL, EARLY MEETINGS. NO CLASS Meeting.
CATCH UP AND READ!!!!
206-216, 40-48,
Festinger article on cognitive dissonance
Group Project: Analyzing 2 persuasion messages
**Topic Sheet due 10/13

Week 6 starts 10/6

SOCIAL INFLUENCE; Attitudes, cognitive dissonance, research model

Reading; 206-216, Festinger, review chapter 2 (especially experiment)

-Group Project: analyze Festinger article.

Week 7 starts 10/13:

Individual Meeting day, no class.

CONFORMITY: and ethics and research

Group Project: Ethics of the Milgram Experiment

Topic sheet due 10/13

Quiz #1 posted 10/13, due 10/20

Week 8 starts 10/20:

PERCEIVING PERSONS;

Reading; 92-129

-Group Project: To Be Announced

Week 9 starts 10/27:

STEREOTYPES, PREJUDICE, DISCRIMINATION;

Reading; Helping Others, Chapter 10

-Group Project: To Be Announced, IAT?

Week 10 starts 11/3:

SOCIAL SELF:

Reading; 53-91

-Group Project: To Be Announced

Week 11 starts 11/10:

ATTRACTION and CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Reading; 301-343

-Group Project: Matchmaker

Week 12 starts 11/17:

HELPING OTHERS

Reading; 344-388

-Group Project: Finding our way on the new campus

*Quiz #2 given out 11/17 due by 11/24

Week 13 starts 11/24

AGGRESSION

Reading; pages 389-432

-Group Project: None, Happy Thanksgiving

Week 14 starts 12/1

REDUCING GROUP CONFLICTS;

Reading; pages 285-298, Dr Seuss.

-Group Project: Help the Sneetches get along

****Research proposals DUE 12/1****

Week 15 starts 12/8

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY; Student choice

Reading; variable

-Group Project: Applied Social psych by interest group

Week 16 starts 12/15

Reading: Review

-Group Project: none

Final Exam 12/15

Week 17 starts 12/22

Black board Vista:

SYLLABUS/SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.