

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
PSYC 240: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
SPRING 2006

Instructor: Marcia Kaufman, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Fridays by appointment

Hurd Academic Complex, Room 224

Phone: (610) 435-4050

Email Address: Kaufmama@aol.com

Class meets Fridays, 10:15 A.M.- 12:30 P.M.

Course Description: This course is designed to present psychology as a social science, emphasizing a survey of human social behavior. Topics to be discussed include attitudes, conformity, group processes, persuasion, prejudice, aggression, and social cognition. Research from these areas will be discussed to provide examples of psychological explanation and thought. The class format will include lecture, discussion, small group work, and demonstration.

Course Objectives:

1. Acquire information and learn to think critically about social psychology.
2. Examine the unique research and clinical methods utilized in social psychology in order to understand how we think about, influence, and relate to one another. These are goals specified by David Myers, text author.
3. Become more aware of ourselves and the world around us as a result of the new information acquired.

Required Texts:

Aronson, E. (Ed.). (2004). **Readings about the social animal (9th Ed.)** New York: Worth Publishers.

Myers, D. (2004). **Exploring Social Psychology (3rd Ed.)** New York: McGraw-Hill.

Method: Confucius is credited with saying: "Tell me and I will forget; Show me and I will remember; Involve me and I will understand". In keeping with this tenet, students will be expected to be involved in our learning process. While lectures will be given, emphasis will be placed on the Socratic method of teaching, class discussion, and small group exercises. Your expertise is valued!

Course Requirements:

1. Midterm Exam: Worth 100 points. This exam will be held during class time, and will be comprised of multiple choice, short answer, and comprehensive essay questions. This test will be designed to assess your ability to understand and apply course material.
2. Final Exam: Worth 100 points. This exam will be held during the finals period. Most of this exam will be non-cumulative, but an understanding and integration

- of the entire semester will be required for some questions. This exam will be similar in format to the midterm exam.
3. Weekly reflections: Worth 100 points. You will have an opportunity to write (approximately 1 page, typed) your reflections of what you have learned in a given week. These reflections should be turned in on Fridays. Ten reflections, worth 10 points each, should be turned in during the semester. You will receive points for the number of reflections completed.
 4. Research Paper: Worth 100 points. You will be asked to observe in a public place of your choosing for one half hour. Based on that observation, you are to choose an interesting topic in social psychology to research for your paper. A brief summary of this initial observation should be included in the beginning of your paper, leading to an explanation for your choice of topic. This paper should be approximately 8 pages long and include at least 6 references. It should be written in APA format. All topics must be approved by the instructor. You will have an opportunity to have the instructor review an outline approximately one month prior to its due date. Criteria for grading will be specified in advance.
 5. Homework and Class Participation: Worth 50 points. Because it is felt that active involvement promotes the learning process, homework will be assigned and participation will be noted. Homework is not intended to be “busy work” and it is hoped that you will find the assignments interesting and challenging.
 6. Attendance: You are encouraged to attend all classes. Attendance will be noted at each class meeting. Since class participation will contribute to your overall grade, if you miss class or come unprepared this has the potential of negatively affecting your grade. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining missed notes, discussion material, and any announcements.
 7. Grading Criteria:

450-419 points=	A
418-405 points=	A-
404-392 points=	B+
391-374 points=	B
373-360 points=	B-
359-347 points=	C+
346-329 points=	C
328-315 points=	C-
314-302 points=	D+
301-284 points=	D
283-270 points=	D-
Below 270 points=	F
 8. Due Dates and Exam Dates: Exams must be taken on the scheduled dates unless extreme circumstances exist (i.e. a serious illness, death in immediate family). A valid excuse will be given only when accompanied by an official note from a physician or campus official indicating the necessity of the absence. Otherwise, no tests will be rescheduled. If a student does need to postpone an exam after receiving approval from the instructor, an essay exam may be given, at the discretion of the instructor. Late assignments and papers will drop one grade per day late beginning in the class when it is due. (i.e. from A to B). Assignments and papers that are 4 days late will automatically receive a grade of F. It is the

- student's responsibility to get the paper to the instructor if it is not during a class period (i.e., if it is late and you want credit for the days in between classes).
9. Policy on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the intentional use of another person's work, misrepresenting that work as your own. All outside sources (i.e., any idea that is not your own) must be properly cited. Having someone write a paper for you, relying on the course files from a fraternity or sorority, or purchasing papers from a professional writing service are not acceptable methods for satisfying course requirements. The Psychology Department requires that students keep notes, note cards, rough drafts, etc. for papers until a course grade is given. A course instructor may request the above material at any time. Plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the new college policy on academic honesty.
 10. This syllabus is subject to change.
 11. Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Topics	Readings	Dates
Introducing Social Psych	Myers, 1&2; Aronson, 1&2	1/20/06
Self Concept & Self-Serving Bias Positive Thinking/Attribution Error	Myers, 3&4 Myers, 5&6; Aronson, 14	1/27/06
Intuition Reasons for Unreason	Myers, 7 Myers, 8; Aronson, 13&15	2/3/06
Behavior and Belief Clinical Intuition and Therapy *Paper topics due*	Myers, 9; Aronson, 16&17 Myers, 10 & 11	2/10/06
Nature, Diversity, Gender, Genes, and Culture	Myers, 12 & 13; Aronson, 6	
Getting Corrupted	Myers, 14; Aronson 3&4	2/17/06
Persuasion, Indoctrination...	Myers, 15&16; Aronson 7&9	2/24/06
Midterm Exam		3/3/06
Spring Break, No class		3/10/06
Presence of Others and Diminished Responsibility Power of Groups Paper Outlines Due	Myers, 17&18 Myers, 19& 20; Aronson, 25	3/17/06

Topics	Readings	Dates
Power to the Person Prejudice	Myers, 21 Myers, 22&23, Aronson 28	3/24,31/06
Aggression, Media's Influence Research Papers Due	Myers, 24&25; Aronson, 10,22,&23	4/7/06
Easter, No Class		4/14/06
Attraction and Love	Myers, 26 & 27; Aronson, 32,33,35	4/21/06
Causes of Conflict/Making Peace When do People Help? Sustainability	Myers, 28&29; Aronson, 29&30 Myers, 30&31; Aronson, 5	4/28/06
Final Exam		TBA