

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
PSYCH 240: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
SPRING 2005

Instructor: Marcia Kaufman, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday by appointment
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Class meets Mondays and Wednesday from 2:20-3:30 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: 25% of grade. 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: 25% of grade. 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. Homework, class participation, and weekly reflections: 25% of grade. 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. You will also have an opportunity to write (approximately 1 page, typed) your reflections of what you have learned that week. These reflections can be turned in on Mondays and while they are not mandatory, their completion will be reflected in this part of your grade.
 4. Research Paper: 25% of grade. 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. All topics must be approved by the instructor. You will have an opportunity to have the instructor review an outline one month prior to its due date. Criteria for grading will be specified in advance.
 5. 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.
 6. 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 will be given. 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).
 7. 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.
 8. This syllable is subject to change.

9. 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 |
|--|----------------------------|---------------|
| Introduction | | 1/10/05 |
| Introducing Social Psych | Myers, 1&2; Aronson, 1&2 | 1/12/05 |
| No Class/ MLK Day | | 1/17/05 |
| Self Concept & Self-Serving Bias | Myers, 3&4 | 1/19,24/05 |
| Positive Thinking/Attribution Error | Myers, 5&6; Aronson, 14 | 1/26/05 |
| Intuition | Myers, 7 | 1/31/05 |
| Reasons for Unreason | Myers, 8; Aronson,13&15 | 2/2/05 |
| Behavior and Belief | Myers, 9; Aronson, 16&17 | 2/7/05 |
| Clinical Intuition and Therapy *Paper topics due* | Myers, 10 & 11 | 2/9/05 |
| Nature, Diversity, Gender, Genes, And Culture | Myers, 12 & 13; Aronson, 6 | 2/14/05 |
| Getting Corrupted | Myers, 14; Aronson 3&4 | 2/16/05 |
| Persuasion, Indoctrination... | Myers, 15&16; Aronson 7&9 | 2/21,23,28/05 |
| Midterm Exam | | 3/2/05 |
| Spring Break- No Class | | 3/7,9/05 |
| Presence of Others and Diminished Responsibility; Review Exam | Myers, 17&18 | 3/14/16/05 |
| Power of Groups | Myers, 19& 20; Aronson, 25 | 3/21/05 |
| Power to the Person Paper Outline Due | Myers, 21 | 3/23/05 |

| Topics | Readings | Dates |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Easter Recess- No Class | | 3/28/05 |
| Prejudice | Myers, 22&23; Aronson, 28 | 3/30,4/4,6/05 |
| Aggression, Media's Influence | Myers, 24&25; Aronson, 10,22,&23 | 4/11,13/05 |
| Attraction and Love Research Papers Due 4/18/05 | Myers, 26&27; Aronson, 32,33,&35 | 4/18,20/05 |
| Causes of Conflict/Making Peace | Myers, 28&29; Aronson, 29&30 | 4/25/05 |
| When do People Help? Sustainability | Myers, 30&31; Aronson, 5 | 4/27/05 |
| Final Exam | | TBA |