

**Dear Student:** Attached is the syllabi for the individualized package course for Psy 220 Social Behavior. While most of the information needed for the course is enclosed, feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail if you have any questions. **Dr. Gary Nickell**

**Psy 220 SOCIAL BEHAVIOR 2007/2008**

**Continuing Studies – Individualized Package Course**

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**Class web page:** <http://www.mnstate.edu/nickell/classes/psy220cs/psy220.htm>

**Required Text:** Myers, D.G.(2008). *Social Psychology (9th Ed.)*. NY: Mcgraw-Hill.

The text should also come with “Socialsense” a CD-rom that includes videos, student as researcher, learning styles assessment, web resources, media library, and chapter quizzes. There are not specific assignments using this CD.

**Course description:** Psy 220 social behavior [5M/C] (3 credits) the influence of other people on the behavior and attitudes of individuals. Topics include attitude change, the effect of being a part of a group, attraction, aggression, sex roles and discrimination. Theory and application.

**Dragon core:** This course is part of the MSUM Dragon Core. Listed below are the goals and student competencies.

**Goal:** to increase students’ knowledge of the content of history and the social sciences, and to increase their knowledge of how historians and social scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events and ideas. Such knowledge will better equip students to understand themselves and the roles they play in addressing the issues facing humanity.

**Student competencies:** MSUM students will be able to:

- Describe social, scientific and/or historical approaches to understanding human behaviors.
- Understand appropriate methods to gather, analyze and interpret data.
- Critically analyze objective information and subjective interpretations.

- Explain the complexity of human interactions and significant social problems from a variety of perspectives.
- Examine social behavior across a range of historical periods and cultures.

The course extends the following Dragon Core foundation core competencies: written communication, critical and multicultural thinking.

**Student learning outcomes:** As a result of taking this course, you will be able to:

1. Discuss major theories and important principles in social psychology.
2. Discuss how individuals think about the social world, and influence and relate to one another.
3. Apply social psychological principles to the areas of health, law, and the environment.
4. Identify and apply social psychological principles in your own life.

**Grading:** Your final grade for this class will be based on four (100 point) exams, and three short writing assignments (50 points). The exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. An extra credit online research project (see end of the syllabus) is worth up to 10 points. The writing assignments should be turned in or mailed with your exams.

The final letter grade system is listed below. Total Points = 450

A = 90% Or 405 Points

B = 80% Or 360 Points

C = 66% Or 297 Points

D = 56% Or 252 Points

F = Less Than 56%

Students have three academic terms to complete continuing studies package courses although we encourage you to complete it within the semester of registration. If you have not completed the course by the end of the semester, a grade of “IP” in-progress is recorded. If the course is not finished after three academic terms, the grade becomes a “F” and the student would have to register over again if he or she chooses to finish it.

**Note:** My availability to send and grade exams and papers during the summer may be restricted.

**Testing procedures:** With regard to the four exams, you may (1) designate some person (an educator in your local school, librarian, or your employer) in your community to serve as your proctor (not a relative), or (2) take the exams in the Psychology Department at MSUM between 8 am and 3:30 pm. If you take the exams in our office, please contact me or any of the secretarial help when you arrive. Since the office closes at 4:30 pm, you must start by 3:30 pm. Be sure to indicate that you are taking the exams for the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Myers text (Fall 2007 and After).

If you elect to use a proctor, send me their name, work address, phone number, and job title. When you are ready to take the first exam let me know through the phone, mail or email. I will mail the exams to your proctor who will administer the exams to you at your convenience. You will have one hour to take the exams. Each completed exam and your writing assignment should be mailed to me by the proctor in the Continuing Studies return envelope. I will mail your graded paper and exam score information back to you as soon as possible. If you have any questions about these procedures, please call me. Note: you will not get back the actual exam. You may look at your actual graded exam in my office.

## **Course Outline and Assignments**

### **Section 1      Social Thinking**

**Chapter 1 – Introducing Social Psychology**

**Chapter 2 – The Self In A Social World**

**Chapter 3 – Social Beliefs And Judgments**

**Chapter 4 – Behavior And Attitudes**

**Exam 1 – 100 Points (Chapters 1,2,3,4)**

**Assignment #1 (15 Pts.) – The “Self” In The Movies (Due With Exam 1)**

### **Section 2      Social Influence**

**Chapter 5 – Genes, Culture, And Gender**

**Chapter 6 – Conformity And Obedience**

**Chapter 7 – Persuasion**

**Chapter 8 – Group Influence**

**Exam 2 – 100 Points (Chapters 5,6,7,8)**

**Assignment #2 (20 Pts.) - The Role of Social and Cultural Norms (Due with Exam 2)**

### **Section 3      Social Relations**

**Chapter 9 - Prejudice: Disliking Others**

**Chapter 10 – Aggression: Hurting Others**

**Chapter 11 – Attraction And Intimacy: Liking And Loving Others**

**Chapter 12 - Helping**

**Exam 3 – 100 Points (Chapters 9,10,11,12)**

**Assignment #3 (15 Pts.) - The Psychology Of Helping (Due With Exam 3)**

### **Section 4      Applying Social Psychology**

**Chapter 13 – Conflict And Peacemaking**

**Chapter 14 – Social Psychology In The Clinic**

**Chapter 15 – Social Psychology In Court**

**Chapter 16 - Social Psychology And The Sustainable Future**

**Exam 4 – 100 points (chapters 13,14,15,16)**

**Extra credit assignment - participating in research online (10 points maximum) is due before or with the last exam.**

**Note:** Students with disabilities who believe they may need an accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact Greg Toutges, coordinator of disability services at 477-5859 (voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY), CMU 114 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

**Writing Assignments:** All writing assignments should be typed and double spaced!! Use complete sentences and watch for grammar and spelling when constructing your answers.

**Assignment #1 (15 Pts.) – The “Self” In The Movies (Due With Exam 1)**

The objective of this project is to investigate how the self and related concepts or theories in Chapter 2 are reflected in films and movies.

- Pick out and watch a TV program, movie, video, or DVD that focuses on some aspect of the “self” discussed in chapter 2. For example, the film “Zelig” by Woody Allen is about a man who takes on different identities in every social situation would be relevant to identity stability or impression management. (Note: do not use the “Zelig” film)
- In a 2-3 page paper, first describe 3-4 concept(s) and/or theories (e.g., self-monitoring, self-esteem, self-serving bias, self-efficacy, etc.) from Chapter 2 in your own words. Next, describe how the film or video accurately reflects, and/or distorts these concepts in the characters or plot of the film. Try to use specific examples and dialogue from the film to support your description and analysis.

**Assignment #2 (20 Pts.) - The Role of Social and Cultural Norms (Due with Exam 2)**

The objective of this project is to apply the the concept of social norms to social behaviors.

Social “norms are standards for accepted and expected behavior. Norms prescribe “proper” behavior (p. 159).” The concept of social or cultural norms is discussed in several chapters of this text but particularly in Chapter 5 (start on page 158) and Chapter 6 (norm formation - p. 189) and (normative influence - p. 212).

- 1) List 10 social norms, and if they are specific to a certain group, culture or context, describe it.
- 2) For norms listed in Question 1, how many of them do you think are positive, negative, or neutral?  
Positive \_\_\_\_\_ Negative \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What determines whether a particular norm is good or bad? Explain
- 4) Can you think of five social or cultural norms that you are glad they exist? Describe them.
- 5) What would social life be like if there were no social norms?

**Assignment #3 (15 Pts.) - The Psychology Of Helping (Due With Exam 3)**

**Recall the case of Kitty Genovese, as discussed in the book on page 445. Answer the following questions and, turn in this sheet for points.**

- 1. Generate a list of 4-5 possible reasons why the neighbors failed to help Kitty Genovese.**
- 2. Describe the bystander effect (p. 448) in your own words. Describe 2 reasons why the bystander effect occurs? Have you ever witness the bystander effect? If so, describe the situation.**
- 3. We know that there are 2 reasons why the bystander effect occurs (see #2 above). Which one of these reasons is likely responsible for the bystander effect in the Kitty Genovese case? Explain your answer.**
- 4. Suppose I said, “those cold-hearted New Yorkers. They’re uncaring, callous people – that’s why they didn’t help Kitty!!” What error in thinking would I be committing? (hint: this was covered earlier in the text in chapter 3)**

**Extra credit assignment - participating in research online (10 points maximum) (due before or with the last exam)**

**The objective of this project is to investigate the growing area of online research in psychology.**

- Go online and complete one of the numerous internet studies. If possible, pick a study related to social psychology. The class web page has a link to several sites for online research.**
- Complete the study and print either the informed consent and/or the debriefing page. Attach this to your paper.**
- After you have completed the study, write a 1-2 page paper describing your online research experience compared to other research studies. What type of research was it (correlational, or experimental)? What are the advantages and disadvantages of online studies? Are there any different ethical concerns with online research compared to others?**