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SOCI 382.01: Social Psychology and Social Structure

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SOCI 382: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY and SOCIAL STRUCTURE AUTUMN 2018

Course Information

- a) Number: SOCI 382
- b) Title: Social Psychology
- c) Credits: 3

Personal Information

- a) Instructor: John Domitrovich
- b) Telephone: (251-2337 home)
- c) Office hours: Monday(12-1 pm) (4-5 pm), Wednesday (12-1 pm), Friday (12-1 pm and 2-3 pm) in room 317 in Sociology department
- d) email: john.domitrovich@mso.umt.edu

Required Materials

Required text is *Social Psychology* by David G. Myers; 2013; McGraw Hill; New York, N.Y. (11th edition). Reading material may be given out to students, and additional readings will be placed on Moodle. A number of videos will be required to be viewed by students throughout the quarter, and students will be held responsible for all video content.

Course Description

Social psychology is a discipline that uses scientific methods in an attempt to understand and explain how the thoughts, feelings, and behavior of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others.

Course Objectives

1. Knowledge Objectives:
 - The student will demonstrate various concepts related to the use of the scientific method (variable, hypothesis, theory, correlation techniques, experimental research method, how to operationalize variables, placebo, nocebo, etc.).
 - The student will demonstrate the process involved in stereotyping; and will explain the process of how we create/represent enemies through the creation of imagery/ stereotyping in line with cognitive dissonance theory.
 - Student to become familiar with and demonstrate the knowledge of the meaning and importance of a host of social psychological constructs (narcissism personality inventory, self-monitoring, locus of control, tolerance of ambiguity, need for uniqueness, TST, Sandra Bem's Gender Role Inventory, etc.) that will be related to a number of issues discussed in class. Students will assess themselves on these assessment instruments.

- Student to demonstrate an understanding of, and the application of cognitive dissonance theory to a number of social contexts.
- Student to demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts related to the persuasion process (central and peripheral processing, hard and soft sell, message variables, false flags, etc.)
- Student to demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts relating to research results on the association between political affiliation and authoritarianism.

2. Value Objectives:

- The student will assess their own adult attachment style and their locus of control orientation in order to understand how they interact with the social world around them.
- Student will assess their own gender role schemas (Sandra Bem's gender role inventory), and sexist attitudes, if they exist (ambivalent sexism inventory), and they will be able to apply the information gained to the demonstration of the cultural change that is occurring with respect to gender roles in American society.

3. Cultural Objectives:

- Student to demonstrate an understanding of the roles and importance of the third gender (Two Spirit) in Native American society.

4. Grading Objectives:

- There will be approximately 6 exams on text chapter content/Moodle readings/lecture content. Each quiz will be worth 30 points and the quizzes will consist of multiple choice items and, at times, short essays (total 150 points). The lowest quiz score will be dropped in the final grading process. All quizzes must be taken by the student.
- There will be approximately 10 weekly assignments, with each assignment worth 20 points each (200 points). All assignments are to be typed; between 1-2 pages in length; a minimum of one page for maximum credit; any external sources utilized must be specified on last page; If there are any additional assignments, they also will be worth a maximum of 20 points.
- Assessment Summary: student will be required to summarize their scores on the various assessments done in the class and relate their scores to one, or possibly two major concepts discussed in class. All students must complete this assignment within the specified time, and according to all the guidelines given in class. This assignment is worth a maximum of 50 points.

- A minimum of 80% of assignments (8) must be completed in order to receive a final grade
- All assignments are due in class the week following the initial assignment.
- If an assignment is not completed within a one week period (by the next class) from when it was due, the student will receive a maximum grade of "C" if turned in during the following week. If an assignment is not turned in within two weeks from the point given, there will be no points received for that assignment.
- There may be several extra credit possibilities given during the semester. These will follow the same guidelines on assignments specified above.
- Students are asked to keep all copies of their completed/graded assignments, extra credit essays, until the end of the semester in order to protect their record of work. This is for your own security.
- Attendance will be taken daily, and the student is responsible for getting the attendance sheet signed. Attendance for the semester will be worth 100 points; students may miss 5 classes and not lose points, but for each additional class missed, the student will lose 10 points.
- Grades will be based on the following points:
 - 450-500 =A (.90)
 - 400-449 = B (.80)
 - 350-399 = C (.70)
 - 300-349 =D (.60)
 - Less than 300=F

Class Policies

Students will be expected to keep up on all reading, including the instructor modules.

If a quiz is not taken by a student and the student does not have an acceptable excuse (medical, jury, legal, death in family, etc.), the student must complete the exam the same week, and the highest possible grade that the student will receive is a grade of "C" (70%).

Academic Honor Code

All coursework shall follow the guidelines of the academic honor code as set forth by the UM student handbook. Do your own work; allow other students to do their own work. Plagiarism involves the taking of someone else's words, ideas, or writings and presenting them as your own. Avoid plagiarism, and always acknowledge the ideas of others and cite your sources of information. Violation of the academic code of honor may result in failure of the assignment, the course, or possibly expulsion from school.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations are provided to students with diagnosed disabilities through the disability services ((406) 243-2243 or dss@umontana.edu) office on campus. It is imperative that a student with a disability inform the instructor of this disability at the beginning of the quarter, in order for the instructor to make a reasonable accommodation, so that the student will be able to maximize their potential within the academic setting.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week One, (8/27):

Syllabus review; What is social psychology? ; Correlation and experimental research design

- Read chapter 1 ("Introducing Social Psychology") in text
- Read module ("Correlation") in Moodle
- Videos ("The Power of the Situation" and "Construction of Social Reality")

Week Two, (9/3):

No class on Monday (Labor Day); Continue discussion of correlation and experimental research design/placebos and nocebos; collectivism and individualism

- Read chapter 2 ("The Self in a Social World") in text

Week Three, (9/10):

IMPORTANT Exam #1 Focus on the self; In-class assessments of various constructs (locus of control, self-monitoring, e-test, self-esteem, narcissism inventory, need for cognition, need for uniqueness, TST, etc.)

- PowerPoint ("The Self")
- Read chapter 3 ("Social Beliefs and Judgments") in text

Week Four, (9/17):

Continue with a focus on the self; In-class assessments of various constructs (locus of control, self-monitoring, e-test, self-esteem, narcissism inventory, need for cognition, need for uniqueness, TST, etc.)

- Video on expressive behavior (Great Courses Plus)
- PP ("The Culture of Narcissism")
- PP ("Self-presentation")
- Read chapter 4 ("Behavior and Attitudes") in text

Week Five, (9/24):

IMPORTANT Exam #2; priming; dual processing;

- PP ("Priming")
- PP ("The Unconscious"); expectations; heuristics
- Read module ("Cognitive Dissonance Theory") in Moodle

Week Six, (10/1):

Implicit Association Tests; Role distance; Cognitive Dissonance theory; Failed prophecy and cognitive dissonance

- PP ("Cognitive Dissonance")
- Read Chapter 5 ("Genes, Cultures and Gender") in text

Week Seven, (10/8):**IMPORTANT Exam #3**

- Focus on gender, Sandra Bem; Ambivalent Sexism Inventory
- Read article in Moodle ("Two Spirit")
- Video ("Miss Representation")
- Read module 7 ("Social Influence") in Moodle
- Read Chapter 6 ("Conformity and Obedience") in text

Week Eight, (10/15):

Discussion of Social Influence

- PP "Social Influence"
- Read chapter 7 ("Persuasion") in text
- Read modules on 'Deindividuation' and 'Commitment Mechanisms'

Week Nine, (10/22):

IMPORTANT Exam #4 Discussion of persuasion techniques;

- Read chapter 8 (Group Influence)

Week Ten, (10/29):

Discussion of Deindividuation, Commitment, Rites of Passage ; social loafing; group think

- Video ("False Flags")
- Read chapter 9 ("Prejudice: Disliking Others") in text

Week Eleven, (11/5):

IMPORTANT Exam #5 Continue discussion from last week; Authoritarian Personality; Terror Management Theory; Stereotypes and Discrimination

- PP "Authoritarian Personality"
- Read chapter 11 ("Attraction and Intimacy") in text
- Read module ('Adult attachment styles') in Moodle

Week Twelve, (11/12):

- No class (Veteran's day)
- Discuss Attachment and Intimacy
- Read PP ("Attraction and Mating")
- Read chapter 12 ("Helping") in text

Week Thirteen, (11/19):

(Thanksgiving Week)

- Read chapter 15 (Sociology in Court")

Week Fourteen, (11/26):

IMPORTANT Exam #6; Discussion on helping and the social psychology of court

Week Fifteen, (12/3):

Continue discussion on helping and the social psychology of court

Week Seventeen, (12/10):

No Final Exam