PSYCHOLOGY 270
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Dr. Chris Jazwinski

SELF-PACED STUDY
COURSE SYLLABUS
Revised 5/25/06

CENTER FOR CONTINUING STUDIES
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY
ST. CLOUD, MN  56301-4498

Please read the entire syllabus carefully. You are responsible for reading and comprehending all of the information contained within.
Welcome to Introductory Psychology Online! If you need to get in touch with me, you need to know that I am most easily reached via e-mail. Please e-mail me at my Huskynet address chjazwinski@stcloudstate.edu. Write “psy 270cs” in the subject field so I can easily locate it. I will try to respond as soon as I can. If you don’t hear from me shortly, I would appreciate that you e-mail me again. I will generally not return calls left on my answering machine unless there is an emergency that requires my response.

SCSU e-mail policy:
It is now official SCSU policy that e-mail communications between HuskyNet e-mail accounts constitutes the official record of communication between students and professors. The primary reason for this is that the HuskyNet provides a highly reliable back-up record and because all students have an account and may access it from anywhere. In addition, by registering in this class, you have been automatically been enrolled in its Desire to Learn (D2L) section, which is linked to your HuskyNet account. I will use it to initiate all course-related e-mail communications. Therefore, it is imperative that you check your HuskyNet e-mail appropriately often. I will initiate e-mail contact ONLY to your HuskyNet account and prefer that you do the same for me. If you write from any other account, I will reply to that account, but am not responsible for any lost or bounced communications that may result on your end. In general, it is extremely advisable that you use your HuskyNet account for all university-related communication and to reserve other accounts for personal use.

INTRODUCTION
This course provides a systematic introduction to the field of social psychology. Students will learn about current theories, methods and key findings in social psychology. Social psychology is often defined as the psychological study of social influence. You will be exposed to a relatively large body of information on topics such as attitudes, interpersonal attraction, prosocial behavior, etc. Students will also gain an understanding of the research process in social psychology and they will be encouraged to apply a social psychological analysis to their own lives.

This course is probably unlike most other courses that you have taken. You may be taken aback at the approach used (lots of tests and retests). However, if you are patient you will find that you will be able to use the approach in this course entirely to your advantage (attaining a higher grade via retesting).

This course is self-paced. What this means is that you must decide when you are sufficiently prepared to take a test. You will be studying and taking tests over relatively small units of material (chapters). You will be expected to achieve at least a minimum level of mastery over each required chapter (passing individual chapter tests at a 60% correct level or better) prior to moving on to subsequent chapters. Please consult Table 1 below for specific grade requirements.

Many students enjoy the flexibility that a self-paced course allows them. Some students are done with the class well before the end of the term. Many students mention that they like being in charge of their own learning process. They can schedule their testing when they feel that they are ready for it. Anxiety associated with testing is diminished when a student realizes that there are four chances to do well on a test.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
Because Psy 270 is self-paced, it requires more self-discipline and responsibility from students than many other courses. Students must proceed on their own without prompts and reminders from the course instructor. The first order of business is to learn the course procedures. It is the responsibility of students to thoroughly familiarize themselves with all of the course requirements and procedures as stated in this course syllabus. Failure to follow course procedures unfortunately can lead to a failing grade. Lack of knowledge of course
procedures and requirements is not a legitimate excuse for not meeting the requirements. Therefore, you should familiarize yourself with this syllabus. If you are reading this sentence then you already are doing a fine job of beginning to familiarize yourself with the course procedures!

Because this course is self-paced, it is also the responsibility of each student to monitor his or her progress in the course and to schedule sufficient test taking attempts in a timely manner.

Note: If your name changes during the course of the term, please e-mail me to let me know about it. Your d2l record will not be updated with a name change even though the class list will. As a result I may be unable to match things up correctly as I am not automatically notified of name changes.

WEB SITES

Prentice Hall On-line Student Learning Center:
http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_aronson_socpsych_5
The Prentice Hall site is a companion to the Aronson textbook. This site contains a variety of resources including learning objectives, chapter summaries, Powerpoint presentations and self-assessments of one’s learning.

Other Useful Social Psychology Websites
Myers website:
http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/007291694x/student_view0/
Brehm website:
http://college.hmco.com/psychology/brehm/social_psychology/5e/students/index.html

LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Readings and testing;

TEXTBOOK

Optional Student Study Guide:

COURSE PROCEDURES
Students must complete all 13 book chapters and achieve a minimum of 18 (out of 30) correct on each chapter test (the best score is recorded when more than one test over a chapter has been taken). A passing score (18 out of 30 or more) must be achieved prior to proceeding to the following chapters. The thirteen required chapters should be taken in sequence.

The optional three modules should not be attempted until a student has passed all 13 required chapters. The optional modules can be taken in any order. Optional modules are, by definition, not required and can be attempted for the purpose of improving one’s grade. A score of 18 or better must be achieved on a module in order for it to count towards a student’s grade. Points from optional modules can improve a student’s grade by no more than one level (e.g., a C can become a B; a C cannot become an A).

Required Chapters (learn them in sequence):
1. Introducing Social Psychology
2. Methodology
3. Social Cognition
4. Social Perception
5. Self Knowledge
6. The Need to Justify our Actions
7. Attitudes and Attitude Change
8. Conformity
9. Group Processes
10. Interpersonal Attraction
11. Prosocial Behavior
12. Aggression
13. Prejudice

Optional Modules (learn one or more in any order after completing the required chapters)
Module 1. Social Psychology and Health
Module 2. Social Psychology and the Environment
Module 3. Social Psychology and the Law

TESTING PROCEDURES
• To arrange for test taking, you must contact the Office of Continuing Studies (308-3081). As a courtesy to the CS personnel, please call 24 hours ahead to ensure that there is a space available for you.
• Note: Continuing Studies does not normally offer testing during finals. Please plan to be done with all of your test taking by the end of the term prior to finals.
• All test taking is proctored by individuals approved through the Office of Continuing Studies. What this means is that you may not take tests at home!
• Each chapter test is worth 30 points. You may take one or two chapter tests (from different chapters) on the same day. Two tests over the same chapter on the same day should not be attempted.
• To summarize:
  o One test per chapter per day rule: you may take only one test for each chapter per day (e.g., if you want to retake a test for Ch. 3 and you just took a Ch. 3 test that day, you have to wait till the next day). Failure to follow this procedure may lead to a failing grade. The instructor can look up the date and time of any test taking attempt.
  o Two tests (different chapters) per day rule: you may take only up to two chapter tests (from different chapters) on the same day. The instructor can look up the date and time of any test taking attempt.
• To pass a chapter, you must score at least 18 out of 30 correct (60% or a D level performance indicating a minimum mastery of the material).
• Once you obtain a score of 18 out of 30, you have two options:
  1) you may accept your score of 18 points; or
  2) you may retake the test and attempt to improve your score (tests from the same chapter cannot be retaken on the same day).
• Your decision whether or not to retake a chapter test (even after passing at 18 points) is an important one. The point total over all of the required chapters and optional modules determines your grade in the course. If you passed each required chapter with a score of 18, your overall grade for the course would only be a “D” (18 x 13 = 234; see Table 1 below; however, passing optional module tests does allow you to bump your grade by one level (in this case you could bump your grade up to a C). If you wish to receive a “B” in the course, then your chapter scores (required chapters) should be on average equal to at least 24 points (however, you could be working at a C average of 21 and then bump your grade up to a B with the optional module tests).
• Once you accept your score as final, you cannot go back and retake tests on a chapter. For example, imagine that you are working on chapters two and three and have taken tests over these two chapters. Let us assume that you have received a score of 18 on chapter two and a 20 on chapter three. You may not go on to chapter four until you indicate that you are finished with chapter two (and accept the score of 18). If you decide to take a test on chapter four, then that means that you have chosen to accept the score of 18 on chapter two.
• If you have obtained a score of 17 or less on a chapter (less than passing) then this means that you must continue to work on the chapter until you receive a passing score of 18 or more. I recommend that you
restudy the material prior to testing as it is unlikely that your score will improve on repeated tests without significant effort on your part (in fact your performance is likely to worsen due to forgetting).

- I do not recommend taking tests without having studied the material. Past experience shows that it is close to impossible to pass the tests “by chance”. Past experience also shows that students who try to do this usually perform very poorly in the course and become very frustrated with the testing procedures.

- A student can **take a test over any one chapter only up to four times**. If a student fails to pass a required chapter after four attempts, then the student will receive a failing grade in the course. Therefore, if your test score is less than 18 you **must wait until the next day to retake the test**. It is assumed that you will use this delay to restudy the chapter material. Retaking a chapter test without restudying the material will most likely lead to poor performance. If a student runs out of retest options then he or she will fail the course!

Your highest score from each chapter that you pass (18 points minimum) will be added into your **Total Accumulated test Point Score**.

**NOTE:** Please don’t procrastinate! If you don’t get your work done, you will get an “F”. If you do not receive a score of 18 or more on all 13 required chapters (up to four test taking attempts are available), you will also get an “F”.

**Table 1: GRADE CUTOFFS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Test Points Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| F     | • 233 or fewer points; or  
      | • one or more of the 13 required chapters has not received a passing score of at least 18 points |

**Table 2: GRADE COMPUTATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total points from required chapters</th>
<th>Grade based on cutoffs (see Table 1)</th>
<th>Total points from optional chapters</th>
<th>Grand Total (required + optional)</th>
<th>Final Grade based on cutoffs with the constraint that grade can be raised by only one level from the grade earned on the required chapters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter test points</td>
<td>(fill in the information)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Progress at mid-term**

You may wish to assess your grade level at midterm. If you are planning on a B in the course then you should have accumulated half of the points that are necessary for a B (312: 2 = 156) at midterm. **If you are behind then you should pick up your pace!**

You should also keep track of your average test score. If you wish to get an A then you should not allow your average performance level on chapter tests to drop below a B average. B-level performance on a 30-point test
is a score between 24 and 26 points. With a B average on the required chapters, you can bump up your grade to an A by completing one or more optional chapters. You cannot bump your grade up from a C to an A.

**PROCRASTINATION**

The most serious problem that students face in this course is their own procrastination. If it were not for procrastination, then most students would have the capability of obtaining a grade of “A” or “B” in this class. Tests can be repeated several times if necessary. Therefore, unlike many other courses, students have several chances at doing better. However, there are limits to retaking chapter tests. All testing should be completed during the semester that students are enrolled in. Retaking each chapter test multiple times may slow progress in the course to the point that the course cannot be completed.

**It is very important that you start taking tests the first or second week of the term! Plan to take about two tests per week. Retakes (especially at the beginning of the term) are very common so don’t worry.**

If you find that you are having problems with the tests despite frequent attempts at test taking, you may wish to consult one of the following websites:

- [http://www.clt.cornell.edu/campus/learn/SSWorkshops/SKResources.html](http://www.clt.cornell.edu/campus/learn/SSWorkshops/SKResources.html)
- [http://www.unbsj.ca/studentservices/study/multple_choice.html](http://www.unbsj.ca/studentservices/study/multple_choice.html)

You may also choose to contact the instructor, Dr. Jazwinski via e-mail.

**INCOMPLETES**

Incompletes are *not automatic* in this course, and are granted only under special circumstances. Incompletes will not be granted unless at least 9 of the chapters have been completed (scores of 18 or greater). Contact the course instructor via e-mail to discuss an incomplete. Do not assume that you will receive an incomplete unless you have contacted Dr. Jazwinski and received her approval. Not all requests for incompletes will be granted. Procrastination is not a valid reason for requesting an incomplete.

Last revision: Thursday, August 31, 2006