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**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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**COURSE:** PSY2105: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

**LECTURER :** DR. MARGARET M. MUNYAE

**CREDIT:** 3

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to PSY. 2105 - Introduction to Social Psychology. This is an exciting, multidisciplinary study area that delves into the social aspects of human behavior. Stated otherwise, social psychology is the scientific study of the way people think about, feel, and behave in social situations. As social psychologists, we strive to understand the manner in which people influence, and are influenced by others in various situations.

This course seeks not only to introduce you to the perspectives, research methods and empirical findings in social psychology, but also to enable you develop vital analytical skills necessary for decoding and understanding day to day social settings.

**LINK TO UNIVERSITY MISSION OUTCOMES**

**THE MISSION**

Promote the discovery and application of knowledge, the acquisition of skills and the development of intellect and character in a manner which prepares students to contribute effectively and ethically as citizens of a changing and increasingly technological world. The mission is achieved through selected high quality undergraduate and graduate academic programs which result in the following outcomes:

**THE MISSION OUTCOMES**

1. High Order Thinking.-critical, analytical and creative thinking
2. Literacy-oral, written, quantitative and technological skills
3. Global understanding and multicultural perspective-awareness, knowledge and appreciation of diversity and commonality of cultures
4. Preparedness for career-mastery of a field of knowledge and its multicultural and multinational application
5. Leadership and ethics- formulation and articulation of ethical standards
6. Community service and development-a sense of being part of a community and a desire to be of service to it

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

PLO 1 - Articulate the major concepts, theories, empirical findings, ethical standards and historical trends in psychology

PLO 2 - Conduct research in a variety of settings

PLO 3- Demonstrate creative and critical thinking approach to psychological issues in diverse settings

PLO 4 – Communicate in multicultural settings

PLO 5- Use psychological knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to aid in interventions

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the time we come to the end of this course, you should be able to confidently do the following:

- Distinguish between social psychology and other related disciplines;
- Explain the processes involved in Social cognition and Social perception
- Discuss the formation of the self and how we relate to others;
- Explain attribution processes
- Describe the emergence of attitudes, changes in attitude, and the effect of attitudes upon behavior as well as the emergence of prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination;
- Explain helping behavior through the influences of conformity, compliance, obedience and be able to apply social psychological theories of aggression.

### **COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

Aronson E, T. D. Wilson and R. D. Akert. (2014). *Social Psychology* (8<sup>th</sup> Edition). Pearson Education, Inc. Upper Saddle River, NJ. [ISBN 13: 9781292021164]

The instructor reserves the right to, and **will assign additional readings**, introduce guest speakers and videos where possible as the course progresses, to enhance the learning experience.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT**<sup>1</sup> Attendance will be taken and, as per the University regulations, more than **seven(7+)** absences **will** earn you an **automatic F** grade. It is in your best interest to attend all classes; there **exists** a correlation between class attendance and marks earned by students. To do well in this course, you must strive to master the material covered in both the readings and the lectures. You are thus expected to keep up with the reading assignments and also encouraged to consult the

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<sup>1</sup> I reserve the right to modify any portion of this syllabus, including course assignments, grading system and due dates, as circumstances may warrant.

many other sources of information available in the University Library that are relevant to the subject matter of this course. All students are encouraged to participate in lectures as well as discussion sessions; these are critical for learning. Do note that the lectures in this course are prepared to supplement the readings. You should, therefore, expect lectures to present ideas that are not necessarily covered in your readings.

To pass this course, you must complete two written assignments, at least one test/quiz, a mid-term examination and a final examination. **The instructor reserves the right to administer impromptu quizzes, as she may deem necessary. These will go towards your grade point.** Students bear sole responsibility for any announcements made during class. No lap tops are permitted in class and all cell phones must be turned off during class. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests/quizzes and exams.

### **Written Assignments**

Every student will complete one **individual** and one **group** written assignments and **at least** two tests/quizzes for the purpose of continuous assessment. The main aim of written assignments will be to teach learners to express their ideas clearly and concisely. Completed assignments must be submitted to the course instructor on or before the stipulated deadline. Further information on these will be provided in class as the course progresses. **Overdue assignments will be assessed a five (5) point penalty per day for the first seven (7) days while any assignment overdue for a period exceeding one (1) week will earn an automatic zero (0)score.** If a student cannot meet the set dateline for an assignment because of circumstances beyond his/her control, he/she must inform the instructor before the set dateline and **not** thereafter.

### **Exams**

There will be one in class midterm and a final exam. The final exam will be a comprehensive one spanning all topics covered by the course. Therefore, it will carry more weight than the midterm. **Absolutely** no make-up testing will be allowed. Consistent with University regulations, students experiencing any difficulties must consult the office of the Dean of the school of Arts and Sciences.

### **Grading**

The final course grade will be based on the students' performance in continuous assessment and in the final test/exam as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Score</b>
Individual (written) Assignment	15 %
Group (presentation) Assignment	10 %
Quiz/Test I	10 %

Quiz/Test II	10 %
Attendance and Participation	05 %
Mid-term Exam	20 %
Final Exam	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades will be awarded as follows:

90	-	100	A
87	-	89	A-
84	-	86	B+
80	-	83	B
77	-	79	B-
74	-	76	C+
70	-	73	C
67	-	69	C-
64	-	66	D+
62	-	63	D
60	-	61	D-
Below 59			F

### TEACHING METHODOLOGY

I greatly value class participation. As such, a lecture – discussion format will be used in this course. You are always welcome and encouraged to ask questions and make comments. This format will be most useful to those who have read the assigned content in advance because they will be able to ask and answer questions more effectively.

### COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. **Do Read your syllabus:** A syllabus is a contract between the instructor and learners. It is **your** duty to make sure you understand course requirements, policies, assignments and your responsibilities as a student. **Requirements are not up for re-negotiation at the end of the semester.** Ask questions if you are confused about anything on the syllabus.
2. **Do seek Help:** If you have questions or need help, come and see me or e-mail me promptly! Do not wait until the last week of the semester if you are having trouble. At that point in time, it is usually too late to do anything meaningful.
3. **Beware of Cheating: Plagiarism** and any other form of cheating will not be tolerated. This is consistent with the USIU 2008 - 2009 catalog (pp. 47-48) governing acts of misconduct. If you are unsure about what constitutes cheating, I'll be glad to clarify it for you. **Anyone found to be engaging in plagiarism and other forms of cheating with respect to assignments, tests and examinations will receive a failing grade for the course.**

4. **Class Etiquette:** Please respect other students and the instructor by arriving on time and staying until the class is over. If circumstances require you to arrive late or leave early, please inform me beforehand and enter or exit as unobtrusively as possible. Please turn off and store away all cell phones. Also, do not have conversations with other students during class. All these are considered disruptive behavior.
5. **E-mail Communication:** You are free to communicate with me over e-mail. Do note however, that I am not on-call 24/7. I may not check my work e-mail over the weekend or on holidays. I also do not check my incoming e-mail throughout the day. I will strive to respond to e-mail within 24 hours of receiving it during the week and, Weekend e-mails will receive a reply by Tuesday at the latest.

### TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Days	Topic	Readings
Week 1	Introduction	Chapters 1
Week 2	Methodology	Chapter 2
Week 3	Social cognition	Chapter 3
Week 4	Social perception	Chapter 4
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>TEST I</b>	
Week 5	Self Knowledge	Chapter 5
Week 6	The need to justify our actions	Chapters 6
<b>Week 7</b>	The need to justify our action contd. <b>MID TERM EXAM WEEK</b>	Chapter 6
Week 8	Attitude & attitude change/ Conformity	Chapters 7,8
Week 9	Conformity/ Group Processes	Chapters 8,9
Week 10	Group Processes contd./Aggression	Chapters 9,12
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>TEST II</b> Aggression contd./Prejudice	Chapters 12,13
Week 12	Prejudice contd.	Chapter 13
Week 13	Pro-social Behavior	Chapter 11
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>FINALS WEEK</b>	

### DISCLAIMER

**This document is not etched in stone. It is but a guide, a road map to our journey together into the realm of Social Psychology. As stated earlier, the instructor**

**reserves the right to make changes where deemed necessary. Such changes will be discussed in class.**

**ENJOY!!**

## Student Contract

### **PSY2105: Social Psychology**

Read the following statements carefully then fill in your name, your student identification number and append your signature on the space provided if you agree to abide by these statements.

If you do not feel you are able to abide by this contract, you should consider dropping the course before the time for add and drop elapses.

1. I have read and understood the guidelines, requirements and course policies as stipulated in the course outline.
2. I understand what my duties and responsibilities are and will discharge them accordingly.
3. I have read and understood USIU's Academic Code of Conduct and Ethics, including the policy on plagiarism.
4. I am conversant with USIU's class attendance policy and will abide by it.
5. I understand that attendance does not equal technical appearances. That is, lateness beyond 10 minutes after the commencement of learning will be treated as non-attendance.
6. I understand that I am to maintain contact with my instructor through observing the provided office hours, by appointments or via the email system.
7. I understand that in addition to the typical 3 hours of contact time per week, to perform well in the course requires at least 5 additional hours of study time per week. This means I should expect to spend a minimum of 8 hours per week on this course.
8. I understand that active reading and participation are required for this course.
9. I will be civil at all times with my classmates and my instructor and expect civility from others.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID No: \_\_\_\_\_