

## SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

**Voyage: Spring 2013**

**Discipline: Psychology**

**PSYC 2600- 501 & 502: Social Psychology**

**Division: Lower Division**

**Faculty Name: Bill von Hippel**

**Pre-requisites:** None

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This lower division course is intended to provide a broad introduction to social psychology. As such, it will review classic theories and findings in the field, including research on conformity and obedience, stereotyping and prejudice, attraction and close relationships, intergroup relations, self-esteem, happiness and motivation, self-regulation, attitudes and persuasion, altruism and aggression, etc. As we review the literature on these topics, we will consider how much of human behavior is under conscious control and how much of it is automatic or unconscious. We will also take a functional approach to these topics, asking questions about why people show characteristic patterns of thought and behavior. Because research in psychology is rapidly becoming intertwined with research on the brain, the course will cover emerging work in social neuroscience. Additionally, because social psychology has become somewhat more cross-cultural over the last twenty years, we will consider cultural differences in the phenomena that we study, particularly in those cultures that we encounter on the voyage.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to research in social psychology and help them develop an evaluative and critical attitude toward this work. Accordingly the objectives could be summarized as follows:

- 1) To introduce students to new areas of research and theory in social psychology.
- 2) To introduce students to current controversies and debates about social psychological methods and theory.
- 3) To help students develop an independent and critical attitude toward social psychological research and theory.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

**AUTHOR:** Kassin, Fein, & Markus

**TITLE:** Social Psychology

**PUBLISHER:** Cengage Learning

**ISBN #:** 9780495812401

**DATE/EDITION:** 2011 / 8<sup>th</sup>

## **TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE**

### **Class 1: Course Introduction and Goals**

This lecture will review the course goals, field assignments, field lab, and optional faculty led trip, and will provide a general overview of social psychology.

### **Class 2: History of Social Psychology**

This lecture will review the history of social psychology.

Reading: Kassin, Fein, Markus (KFM) Chapter 1

### **Class 3: Conducting Research in Social Psychology**

This lecture will provide an introduction to experimental methods and ethics in social psychology.

Reading: KFM Chapter 2

### **Class 4: The Self**

This lecture will provide an overview of the self-concept, self-esteem, the costs and benefits of high self-esteem, and how people strategically present themselves.

Reading: KFM Chapter 3

### **Class 5: Self-Regulation**

This lecture will present research on goal pursuit and self-control.

Reading: none

### **Class 6: Happiness & Health I**

This lecture will provide an overview of the social psychology of health and happiness.

Reading: KFM Chapter 14

### **Class 7: Happiness & Health II**

This lecture will continue our discussion of the social psychology of health and happiness, with emphasis on our field lab experience with Buddhism and meditation.

Reading: none

### **Class 8: Perceiving other Persons & Making Sense of Actions**

This lecture will present research on how people read faces and will provide an overview of research on attribution processes and biases.

Reading: KFM Chapter 4

### **Class 9: Stereotyping and Prejudice I**

This lecture will describe the sources of stereotyping and prejudice, particularly from the perspective of the perceiver.

Reading: KFM Chapter 5 (pp 145-186)

### **Class 10: Stereotyping and Prejudice II**

This lecture will consider stereotyping and prejudice from the perspective of the target.

Reading: KFM Chapter 5 (pp 186-202)

Class 11: Attitudes

This lecture will discuss research on attitudes.

Reading: KFM Chapter 6

Class 12: **Midterm Exam**

Class 13: Conformity

This lecture will present research on conformity.

Reading: KFM Chapter 7 (pp 251-292)

Class 14: Obedience

This lecture will present research on obedience and the powerful impact of roles.

Reading: KFM Chapter 7 (pp 268-292)

Class 15: Intra-Group Processes

This lecture will provide an overview of social psychological processes within groups.

Reading: KFM Chapter 8 (pp 293-310)

Class 16: Inter-Group Processes

This lecture will provide an overview of social psychological processes between groups.

Reading: KFM Chapter 8 (pp 310-338)

Class 17: Attraction

This lecture will provide an overview of research on attraction.

Reading: KFM Chapter 9 (pp 339-363)

Class 18: Close Relationships

This lecture will provide an overview of research on close relationships.

Reading: KFM Chapter 9 (pp 363-388)

Class 19: Altruism

This lecture will provide an overview of research on altruism.

Reading: KFM Chapter 10

Class 20: Aggression

This lecture will provide an overview of research on aggression.

Reading: KFM Chapter 11

Class 21: Law

This lecture will provide an overview of social psychology and law.

Reading: KFM Chapter 12

Class 22: Business

This lecture will provide an overview of social psychology and business.

Reading: KFM Chapter 13

Class 23: **Final Exam**

## **FIELD WORK**

### **FIELD LAB – Section 1**

Attendance in the field lab is mandatory and constitutes 20% of the contact hours for the course. Section 1 students will join the field lab in Kobe on Thursday, 31 January.

#### Description:

We will visit the Shunkoin Temple and Zen Center in Kyoto, where we will take a class on meditation from Reverend Takafumi Kawakami, a Buddhist priest at the temple. This lab will link to the lectures on happiness and the self. It will also relate to the ongoing theme of cross-cultural psychology. The write-up of this lab will be a 1,500-2,000 word paper that will be a blend of a scientific and personal approach, in which students are to compare Western theories of happiness and self-esteem with a Buddhist perspective and with their experiences at the temple. The paper is due at the beginning of class on February 24 (B11) and is worth 25% of the final grade.

### **FIELD LAB – Section 2**

Attendance in the field lab is mandatory and constitutes 20% of the contact hours for the course. Section 2 students will join the field lab in Kochin on Wednesday, 6 March.

#### Description:

Forthcoming

## **FIELD ASSIGNMENTS**

- After any five of the ports (excluding Hawaii, and not to include more than one port from a single country) students will write a one-page reflection on how a social psychological phenomenon that we studied in class differs in the country we visited, or appears to differ but in fact is the same. Each write-up will be worth 5% of the final grade and is due in the second class after the relevant port.

## **METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC**

Field Assignments and the Field Lab will be evaluated for quality of exposition and quality of ideas. These papers will not be written in APA style, but they are to be clear and concise. It is also important that these papers provide an overview of the social psychological phenomenon that is the topic of the paper. The midterm and final exam will both be short answer format, and will each be worth 25% of the final grade in the course.

## **RESERVE LIBRARY LIST**

N/A

## **ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS**

N/A

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

N/A

## **HONOR CODE**

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University's honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed "[signed]."