Course Syllabus

SPRING SEMESTER 2007
16 Week Class

Instructor: Dr. María Guadalupe Cisneros-Solis
Course Title: Introduction to Psychology
Course Abbreviation Number: PSYC 2319 OR SOCI 2326
Syn. /Section Numbers: 48143/ OPC 002 or 48318/ OPC 004

Instructor’s Office: RGC Attaché Building, Room 213
Instructor’s Telephone Number and email: 223-3388; drmariacs@hotmail.com
Instructor’s Office Hours: Tuesday: 1:30-3:00 and by appointment

BLACKBOARD LOG IN SITE: http://acconline.austincc.edu/

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- THIS SYLLABUS WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY
- LOG ON TO BLACKBOARD on January 16, 2007 to complete the REQUIRED ORIENTATION (you have from 1/16 to 1/19 to complete the requirements on Blackboard).
- EMAIL INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE BE SURE TO LIST PSYC 2319 or SOCI 2326 (depending which course you are registered for) on all the emails you sent to me…..next to PSYC 2319 or SOCI 2326, write Orientation, Urgent, Contact, or Question under subject, so that I know how soon to reply and the nature of your communication (remember that I will have over 200 students, and I teach 5 different classes, so please help me out so that we can communicate as effectively as possible)
COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is a survey of theories, research, and methods of social psychology including the topics of the self, conflict, aggression, power, group dynamics, and decision making.

COURSE GOAL & TOPICS:
Social psychology is the scientific study of how individuals think, influence, and relate to one another. The goal of this course is to introduce students to a survey of the basic theories and research methods in social psychology, an interaction between the fields of sociology and psychology. The topics addressed in this course include prejudice, conformity, self-concept formation, persuasion, interpersonal attraction, sex-roles, and obedience to authority, altruism, conflict, aggression, and group dynamics.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Introduction to Psychology (PSYC. 2301) OR Introduction to Sociology (SOCI. 1301)

COMMON COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT OUTCOMES:
The common course objectives or goals include the following: The student will be able to demonstrate knowledge concerning representative social psychological theories, research findings and/or principles concerning the following topics:
- Research Methods in Social Psychology
- Social Identity (such as the study of the self, gender, locus of control, etc)
- Prejudice and Discrimination
- Conformity
- Aggression and Pro-social Behaviors
- Attraction & Interpersonal relationships
- Group Dynamics (such as group think and decision making, leadership, persuasion, conflict, cooperation, etc)
- Social Cognition & Attitudes

The specific learning objectives for this course are structured to help students master the content of the text that will appear on their tests. If a student is able to answer the essay question format of the objectives, then she or he should do well on the tests. Since the objectives are somewhat detailed, they will appear on the social psychology web page or within Blackboard under course documents....and be titled: LEARNING OBJECTIVES: STUDY GUIDE

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:
As a student you are responsible for:
1. Log on to Blackboard Use the following link: http://itdl.austincc.edu/blackboard/stlogin.htm
2. Fill out your personal information in Blackboard under “Tools”
3. Complete your on-line Orientation in Blackboard
4. Reading the entire text
5. taking three (3) objective-type, multiple-choice exams during the semester by the assigned deadlines dates (Pease keep your test receipts from the testing center)
6. contact your professor at least twice during the semester –contacts may be made by email, on-line, telephone, or in person(during office hours);
7. Optional Extra Credit Projects: Discussion Board, Community Service or Research Paper on Health Psychology, Meditation, Culture and Social Psychology: Latinos, Asian American, Native American, African American, evaluation of the publishers/textbook website…..
http://www.mhhe.com/myerse4 or www.mhhe.com/myersesp4

REQUIRED EXAMS:
You are required to take THREE objective-type (multiple choice) exams. The three exams will each have 50 questions and are each worth 100 points, or more, since I may surprise you and add bonus questions. Therefore, to get your final score, you can multiply the number correct(raw score) times (X) two and that will equal your score.

If I include extra bonus questions (more than 50 questions), thus making your possible score greater than 100 points….you would still multiply your raw score or number correct X 2 will still = your final score on that test).

Remember to keep your test receipts from the testing center until you get your final grade at the end of the semester. Also calculate your score from the test receipt and give me 2 weeks to post your grade on Blackboard…sometimes it takes that long for me to receive your test. If your calculations are not equal to mine, contact me immediately via email and phone….

TEST DEADLINES ARE IMPORTANT:
If you cannot meet the stated deadlines, you must contact the instructor prior to the deadline to discuss alternate dates for testing. However check your Announcements in Blackboard first because your professor will occasionally grant general extensions for all students…also listen to message on your instructor’s voicemail.

ALL EXTENSIONS ON TESTS WILL REQUIRE THAT STUDENTS TAKE THE TEST AT THE RGC TESTING CENTER.

Unusual circumstances will be taken into consideration if discussed with the instructor before these deadlines. The instructor reserves the right to refuse any late tests, unless the instructor had previously agreed to extend the deadline. If you did not take all three required exams, your final average will be lowered by one full letter grade or lower, depending on the number of tests missed. In addition, numerical scores for exams not taken will be zero.

There are no retests in this course.

Exam Questions – Most of the exam questions cover the assigned readings in the textbook and are based on the objectives/study guide (under course documents on Blackboard). If you know the answers to all the essay questions on your Specific Course Objectives, you should do well on your exams. Try the Publishers web site to enhance your learning.

Exam Feedback – After you have completed a test, the Testing Center staff will give you a Student Feedback Form or Receipt with the result of your test. It is essential that you keep this form; it is your only evidence that you took that particular test. Errors in the system are rare, but they do occur. After you have received your final grade in the course, it is safe to
dispose of your Student Feedback Forms. Any duplicate exams received by the instructor will result in a score of zero for that particular item.
You may come by during my office hours or call for an appointment to go over items missed on the exam. Please allow time for your test to be returned to us by intercampus mail (may take up to 2 weeks).

TESTING CENTERS:
All exams will be taken at the Testing Centers located on the Northridge, Pinnacle, Riverside, Rio Grande, Round Rock, Eastview, Cyprus Creek, Fredericksburg and San Marcos campuses. The deadline for each exam is listed in the Course Schedule- Calendar----Deadlines section of this syllabus. Test permits are not required.

Click here for Testing Center Hours. No exams will be given one hour before closing hours unless otherwise noted. Testing center hours are subject to change without notice. Please call the testing center where you wish to take your test before going in. This could save you some time and frustration. Also, particularly around deadlines and at the end of the semester, there can be a wait of an hour or more to get into the testing centers.

After you have completed a test, the Testing Center staff will give you a Student Feedback Form with the result of your test. It is essential that you keep this form; it is your only evidence that you took that particular test. Errors in the system are rare, but they do occur. After you have received your final grade in the course, it is safe to dispose of your Student Feedback Forms. Any duplicate exams received by the instructor will result in a score of zero for that particular item.

MANDATORY CONFERENCES WITH THE INSTRUCTOR:
The Texas State Coordinating Board of Education has required that for a self-paced or ITV course to be certified, instructors and students need to have at least two contacts with each other (in person, by email, or over the phone) during the semester, in addition to the required orientation session. THEREFORE, FOR A STUDENT TO GET CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE, HE/SHE MUST MAKE CONTACT, EITHER BY EMAIL, IN PERSON, OR BY PHONE, WITH THE INSTRUCTOR OR HER TEACHING ASSISTANT ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS DURING THE SEMESTER. DEADLINES FOR CONTACTS ARE FLEXIBLE. You are; of course, welcome to have as many additional contacts with the instructor or her assistant as you wish.

EXTRA CREDIT: OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EXTRA CREDIT POINTS: 30 POINTS

VOLUNTEER WORK OR RESEARCH PAPER OR EVALUATION OF PUBLISHERS WEB SITE OR DISCUSSION BOARD ON BLACKBOARD
EVALUATION OF PUBLISHERS WEB SITE: 20 POINTS
VISIT THE PUBLISHERS WEB SITE FOR THE TEXTBOOK:
http://www.mhhe.com/myerse4

Each MODULE will have activities for you to explore such as tests under the quizzes and
interactive exercises, as well as videos…and links. If you can not access the links because you
have an old edition of the textbook do not worry…it’s not required. On the first MODULE you
will need to evaluate all of the activities on the subsequent MODULES you can pick 3 of your
favorite to evaluate. You will need to evaluate all the modules for each unit of study, and receive
from 5 to 10 points for each unit of study, depending on the quality of your work. Check to see if
there are errors on the tests and let me know where they are….do not email me your test results,
just let me know what your scores were (and how many times you took the test or quiz)….There
are three units of study, so you can pick 2 of the 3 or evaluate…..or all three, however only 20
points of extra credit can be given for this project.

In order to access the information needed to complete the evaluation, see the outline format on
page 13 …last page of this syllabus….you can email me the evaluation when finished, by the
deadline.

DISCUSSION FORUM = 15 POINTS

Contributions to a discussion focus on topics covered in the textbook before the relevant exams.
Each unit of study will have a topic or several topics you may wish to discuss. The purpose of
this assignment is to share reactions and insights to the readings with other students. The page
number from your text reflecting the idea or topic needs to be noted, and then the observation is
shared. Including additional web sites exploring the topic is recommended. Contributions are
encouraged which discover something in the text which is useful, memorable, intriguing,
counterintuitive, controversial, noteworthy, novel, applicable to one's own or others' lives, etc....

In any course situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are bound to be many
differing viewpoints, especially on sensitive, controversial topics. We must respect the views of
others and create an atmosphere where both the students and the instructor are encouraged to
think, learn, and share information. Viewpoints that are carefully thought and expressed in an
organized, orderly manner can be used to enhance learning. These viewpoints as well as any
feedback or general comments must be provided in a non-offensive, respectful manner. Your
course grade will not be adversely affected by the viewpoints that you may express on
assignments. Instead, the grade will be based on your knowledge and understanding of concepts
and principles within the specific subject area as well as their theoretical and research-based
foundations and applications.

Your contribution to each topic within each unit will be worth from 1 to 5 points depending
on the content of your discussion….5 points total for each unit will be given and entries
must be made by the deadline (same as test for that unit of study-see course calendar or
schedule in the syllabus). If the test deadline is extended, the discussion topic will not be
extended…..these deadlines are strict, entries after the deadline will not be given credit.
In order to access the discussion unit forum, you must log-on to Blackboard, at http://ACConline.austincc.edu. This is not possible until the semester for which you are registered has actually begun. Information on user name and password is available at the log-in site. Go to "Discussion board" within Blackboard, to participate in the Discussion Forum. If you want to start a new topic for discussion, use the "Add Forum" button. 

NOTE: The discussions are not in real time. You may contribute at any hour of the day or night prior to the deadline.

**VOLUNTEER WORK = 20 POINTS**

For additional points, students may complete 20 hours of volunteer work in the community. This experience has to be related to social psychology and must be approved by the instructor (see attached information sheet on volunteer work). Students may also create their own extra credit project to replace community service. This project will need to be related to Social Psychology and must be approved by the professor of this course. The Volunteer Log and instructions are given at the end of your syllabus….I will also include them in Blackboard under course documents,

**RESEARCH PAPER= 20 POINTS**

Students have the option of writing a research paper instead of conducting community service. The paper needs to be typed and the body of the paper needs to be at least 5 pages double spaced. Two books and five articles need to be included. The topics for the research paper can include: Health Psychology, Meditation, Culture and Social Psychology: Latinos, Asian American, Native American, African American. The topic on culture will need to address the psychological aspects of that particular culture in terms of social psychology. For example: “Exploration of Gender Differences in the Latino Culture” or “Attribution theory applied to the African American”. Please consult with the professor before starting your paper.

**GRADE DETERMINATION:**

Your grade in this course is determined by a point system. You may accrue points toward your final grade by a combination of the Required Exams, and Extra Credit Options including the Optional Volunteer Work/Paper, Survey: Evaluation of the Publishers Web Site, Discussion Forum, and Bonus Test.

- **Four Required Exams:** 300 points
- **Extra Credit:** 30 Points

**MAXIMUM TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 330 points**

**FINAL LETTER GRADES:**
Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINT SYSTEM</th>
<th>FINAL GRADE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>270 – 330 or more</td>
<td>= A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>240 – 269</td>
<td>= B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210 – 239</td>
<td>= C</td>
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<tr>
<td>180 – 209</td>
<td>= D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 179</td>
<td>= F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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NOTE: REMEMBER that after you have completed a test, the Testing Center staff will give you a Student Feedback Form or test receipt with the result of your test performance. It is essential that you keep this form; it is your only evidence that you took that particular test. Errors in the system are rare, but they do occur. After you have received your final grade in the course, it will be “safe” to dispose of your Feedback Forms.

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR
TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE/CALENDER:

REQUIRED TEST SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED TESTS</th>
<th>DATE DUE</th>
<th>CHAPTERS COVERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEST 1:</td>
<td>02/21/07</td>
<td>Unit 1: Part 1 and 2 (Modules 1 to 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEST 2:</td>
<td>04/10/07</td>
<td>Unit 2: Part 3 (Modules 12 to 21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEST 3:</td>
<td>05/01/07</td>
<td>Unit 3: Part 4 (Modules 22 to 30)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of Course Deadlines
It is recommended that you complete the course work before the deadlines, however tests must be taken on or before the following deadlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Optional</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>Discussion Forum Unit 1</td>
<td>02/21/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Survey: Evaluation of Web: Unit 1</td>
<td>02/21/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>Discussion Forum Unit 2</td>
<td>04/10/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Survey: Evaluation of Web: Unit 2</td>
<td>04/10/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3</td>
<td>Discussion Forum Unit 3</td>
<td>05/01/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Survey: Evaluation of Web: Unit 3</td>
<td>05/01/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>05/08/07</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer Work Paper</td>
<td>05/08/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Withdrawal deadline</td>
<td>04/23/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conference or Contact #1</td>
<td>02/27/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conference or Contact #2</td>
<td>05/01/07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All extensions on tests must be taken at RGC Testing Center.
COURSE POLICIES

RETESTING POLICY:
There are no re-tests offered in this course, although students may bring up their grade through extra-credit projects.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

“Acts prohibited by the college for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research, or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, classroom presentations, and homework.” (Student Handbook 2002-2003,p.32) The instructor will be responsible for specifying the penalty that will be assessed for violation of this policy.

Students who are guilty of scholastic dishonesty will automatically fail this course. They will also be reported to Student Services so that appropriate disciplinary action can be followed.

INCOMPLETE GRADE: In general, incompletes will not be given. Exceptions to this would include verifiable cases involving hospitalization or excessive travel required by one’s employer. The instructor has the option to evaluate the severity of the students’ situation and decide if an incomplete is merited. The student must provide a written explanation concerning the extenuating circumstance before an incomplete is considered by the instructor. You will need to write a letter requesting an incomplete for either personal, health, or work related reasons, include the course information, name, telephone numbers where you can be reached, mailing address, signature and when you believe you can complete the course requirements (date). You can email or send to my office at RGC or mail to ACC, Dr. Maria Cisneros-Solis, 1212 Rio Grande Street, Austin Texas 78701

WITHDRAWAL POLICY: Failure to take scheduled tests or poor performance on the course requirements may lead to withdrawal. While the instructor reserves the right to withdraw a student based on lack of progress, it is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from this course. The withdrawal deadline is April 23, 2007. Instructor welcomes and recommends student conferences to discuss progress in the class.

A student may withdraw at any time during the semester until the withdrawal deadline without academic penalty. To withdraw from a course, simply complete the withdrawal form available at any ACC Admissions and Records office. It takes about five minutes, does not affect your GPA, and looks much better on your transcript than an “F”. The instructor reserves the right to withdraw a student for lack of progress in the course.

BE AWARE!: The instructor has the option of dropping you from the course if the above deadlines are not met. Yet it is the students’ responsibility to withdraw before the deadline if satisfactory test scores are not achieved.
The responsibility of officially withdrawing rests entirely with the student. If you stop meeting the requirements of the course and are not officially withdrawn, 

You Will Then Receive a Grade of “F”.

REINSTATEMENT POLICY: Students may be reinstated in the class if there are extenuating circumstances (i.e., hospitalization, etc.) connected with their failure to meet requirements and if they are able to catch up on all units and take exams within a two-week period.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY: Each student is strongly encouraged to participate, discuss topics, and present their own views in this class.

DISABILITY STATEMENT POLICY: “Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where written explanation concerning the extenuating circumstance before an incomplete is considered by the instructor.

ACC TESTING CENTER POLICY: In order to take any exam at any ACC Testing Center, you must have both your student ID validated with a sticker for the current semester (or your fee receipt if you have not yet received an I.D.) along with a photo ID such as a driver’s license, DPS ID, or passport. No student will be permitted to test in ACC Testing Centers without two forms of identification, one of which must have a photo. To take any test, you need to present two forms of identification to the Testing Center staff. Do not even ask testing center personnel to allow you to test without these items. If you lose your ID, you must obtain duplicates before you will be allowed to take any test(s) at any ACC Testing Center. Any exams taken without proper identification will be recorded as a zero. Any attempts at cheating earns the student a grade of F in the course.
DETAILED OUTLINE ON VOLUNTEER WORK

VOLUNTEER WORK: A minimum of 20 hours is required. This extra credit work is optional. It will be worth 5 to 20 points (depending on the summary paper). No work less than 20 hours will be accepted. A log and a three page summary are required. The summary must be typewritten and include the advantages and disadvantages of the experience, as well as how it applies to Social Psychology. The following outline for the time log can be used:

VOLUNTEER LOG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours ______

Name of Supervisor ________________________________________________

Name of Agency ___________________________ Telephone ________________

________________________ Signature of Supervisor
SURVEY

EVALUATION OF THE PUBLISHERS WEBSITE FOR YOUR TEXTBOOK

List each of the activities (includes tests, interactive activities, and videos) in each of the chapters on the unit of study and then answer the following questions and rate each activity on a 5 point scale (with 1 as the lowest and 5 as the highest rating).

Remember that for the first Module you will need to list all of the activities, and for subsequent chapters only your favorite 3. You will need to evaluate all the modules for each unit of study, and receive from 5 to 10 points for each unit of study, depending on the quality of your work. There are three units of study, so you can pick 2 of the 3 or evaluate all three however only 20 points of extra credit can be given for this activity.

Questions to answer for each activity:

Chapter # ____ Name of the Activity________

1. Describe the activity.
2. Overall Rating____ Why?
3. Was it easy to access this activity?
4. Did you complete the activity? How long did you work on it?
5. What did you learn from doing this activity?
6. Rate how well it helped you on your test____

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units of Study</th>
<th>DATE DUE</th>
<th>CHAPTERS COVERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1:</td>
<td>02/21/07</td>
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For example:

Module 1 Activity #1: Multiple Choice test

1. Describe the activity: This multiple choice test contained 10 multiple choice questions addressing…….
2. Overall Rating____ Why? Because ……., I scored 100% on this pre-test after taking it 2 times.
3. Was it easy to access this activity? Yes
4. Did you complete the activity? How long did you work on it? Yes…it took me 45 minutes each time
5. What did you learn from doing this activity? I learned the definition of psychology, …….(list at least 3 concepts you learned)
6. Rate how well it helped you on your test:4____