

**SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PYCH 3690**  
*Spring 2012*

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**WHAT YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF CLASS**

Students will gain a thorough knowledge of social psychology and how it relates to Biblical truth.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD READ**

Brooks, A. C. (2006). *Who really cares: America's charity divide*. New York: Basic Books.  
Myers, D. G. (2010). *Social psychology* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN 9780073370668  
Student study guide for Myers is recommended.  
Myers, D. & Jeeves, M. (2003). *Psychology: Through the eyes of faith*. San Francisco, CA:  
HarperSanFrancisco. ISBN 0060655577  
Online Learning Center [www.mhhe.com/myers9](http://www.mhhe.com/myers9)

**HOW THE CLASS WORKS**

Class time is important. Class time is what distinguishes this course from an online course. In class we explain, debate, challenge, present, discuss, view films, interact with guest speakers, and learn to think beyond our stereotypes. Class should be stimulating. You are expected to attend, contribute, and have fun. Students who miss will lose 2 points for each absence over three.

**INTEGRATION ASSIGNMENT**

Each week you will write a one-page single spaced summary/analysis of one chapter from *Psychology: Through the Eyes of Faith*. Submit two of these a week until you have completed 20 chapters. Do the same thing with five C. S. Lewis essays: "Two Ways with the Self," "Is Theology Poetry?," "The Inner Ring," "Membership" and "The Weight of Glory." You may turn these in early if you wish. You earn 1 point for each acceptable on-time submission. You must submit 13 of these by March 2. The other 12 must be submitted by April 20. Late papers will not be accepted.

**HOW YOU ARE ASSESSED**

You need to know the textbook thoroughly. We cover one chapter a week. Every third week we have a test on 3 chapters. The tests consist of 10 multiple choice questions on each chapter. The questions come straight from the textbook, so study the textbook.

Unannounced quizzes and homework may be given at any time. Quizzes may cover anything that happens in class, the textbook, or homework. Quizzes are given to motivate you to stay current in the course and to make sure you are thinking about what is presented in class.

Five tests and a makeup test are given. If for any reason you must miss one of the five tests, you may compensate by taking the makeup test on April 30. The makeup test covers chapters 2, 12, and 14. Quizzes may not be made up but you may drop three without consequence.

## **RESEARCH PAPER**

Students will research altruism as they write a paper on giving. Who is the most generous—Christians or non-Christians, religious or nonreligious, liberals or conservatives, Democrats or Republicans, rich or poor, American or European, first world or third world, men or women, single or married, straight or gay, individuals or groups? To whom do they give—churches, religious causes, charities, education, art museums, symphonies, schools, and universities? As you determine who is the most altruistic, explain why they are most altruistic and explain the social psychological forces that produce the altruism. Identify as many characteristics as you can. Do not focus on just one characteristic such as race or gender. You might search under descriptors such as charity, charitable giving, philanthropy, altruism, etc. Some of the sources you should read include:

Who Really Cares by Arthur Brooks

Philanthrocapitalism by Matthew Bishop and Michael Green

Generosity Index in the Catalogue for Philanthropy

Google studies

Institute for Research on Unlimited Love

Why Good Things Happen to Good People by Stephen Post, Jill Neimark, and Otis Moss Jr.

Any book by Stephen Post

Banker To The Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty by Muhammad Yunus

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/social.htm#philanthropy>

Your Myers textbook, especially chapter 12

The paper must be in APA format, a minimum 7 pages (it can be longer), and cite at least 15 scholarly sources. Students may work in pairs. Please start this project in the beginning of the semester so that you can read the books and gather the sources you will need. You must take your paper to the Writing Center for review before you submit it to me on March 23 so make your appointment at the Writing Center now at <http://www.cedarville.edu/departments/writingcenter/editanappointment.cfm>.

## **EXTRA CREDIT**

Students may earn up to 12 points extra credit by choosing one of the following projects. Students may work together on the same project which must be submitted exclusively to this class. You must submit a proposal for approval.

Make an edited videotape demonstrating a social psychology principle that I could use in class. It must not be a lecture or role play about the principle but an actual demonstration of the principle in action in real life. The edited film should be about 10 minutes in length. Content, video, and sound quality are important.

Do a research project on a social psychological principle in the standard journal article format of literature review, method, results, and discussion which you could present at an undergraduate research conference. Look at *Experiments With People* by Abelson, Frey, and Gregg for examples.

Write a paper titled “The Social Psychology of Christian Conversion” in which you explain many of the social psychological principles which lead a person to convert. It must be at least 6 pages in length, well referenced and in APA format.

Read *The Confessions of St. Augustine* in its entirety. Research Augustine’s life. Explain why he was the first Christian psychologist. This paper should be at least 8 pages in length, well referenced, and in APA format.

### **HOW YOU ARE GRADED**

Each test counts 30 points, the research paper counts 30 points, each chapter summary counts 1 point, and quizzes usually range from 3-5 points. Grades are determined by the percentage of total possible points you earn.

**90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C, 60% = D**

### **WHEN**

<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Exam Date</u>	
1-3	Feb 01	
4, 5, 14	Feb 22	
6-8	Mar 21	
9, 10, 15	Apr 11	
11-13	May 04	10:30 am
2, 12, 14 (Make up)	Apr 30	
Paper (Altruism)	Mar 23	
EC Proposal	Apr 02	
EC Paper	Apr 16	

### **N.B.**

If you believe you may need support in managing the impact of a disability, please contact [Amy Frey](#) (Disability Services). Faculty rely on Disability Services to verify the need for academic accommodations and to identify reasonable and appropriate accommodation strategies. Examples of disabilities are hearing, vision, AD/HD, learning disabilities, psychological, orthopedic, and a health impairment. Disability Services is part of the [Academic Enrichment Center - The Cove](#) located in the Center for Biblical and Theological Studies Room 218. For more information, call (937)766-7437.