GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 04/20/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 05/18/2021

PSYCHOLOGY 138 – SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

PSY138 Social Psychology 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

An examination of individuals in social contexts to reveal how one’s thoughts, feelings and actions can be influenced by other people. Includes topics such as social perception and attribution processes, dissonance reduction, altruism, aggression, prejudice, conformity, and group processes.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Identify the basic principles of social psychology.

b. Analyze how social psychologists apply scientific methodology to the study of social behavior.

c. Synthesize the research findings and major theories of social psychology.

d. Apply the major theories of social psychology to the understanding of problems in contemporary psychology.

e. Discriminate between individual differences and sociocultural influences.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

a. Scientific methods and research design in social psychology.

b. Attribution: how we make decisions about the causes of our own and others’ behavior.

c. Social cognition: schemas, heuristics, and self-fulfilling prophecies.

d. Attitude formation and change.

e. Prejudice, discrimination, and stereotypes.

f. Cooperation and competition.

g. Hostility and aggression and conflict reduction.

h. Altruistic and prosocial behavior.

i. Social influence: conformity, compliance, and obedience.

j. Group decisions, group performance, and leadership.

k. Self-justification and dissonance theory.

i. Cultural similarities and cultural differences in social psychology

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture and group discussion

b. Cooperative learning structured exercises

c. Films, multimedia presentations and/or guest speakers

d. Demonstrations and role play

e. Discussion of library materials and textbook readings

f. Discussion of written assignments

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on student proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, including:

a. One or more exams which include both objective and essay questions.

b. A comprehensive written final exam.

c. Written assignments, term paper, and/or oral presentations on a primary literature review where students apply a social psychological concept to the understanding of a current event.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Weekly required readings before class meetings, including textbook chapter, primary literature, or a relevant article in popular media.
2. Written assignments such as a primary literature review or a weekly discussion posting on Canvas in which students are asked to reflect on an instance in their own life that applies to the weekly topic, to possibly include: have they fell victim to the fundamental attribution error or made themselves feel better through cognitive dissonance or shown conformity to a group.
3. Written assignment asking students to read about Philip Zimbardo's research on how the social situation can lead good people to do bad things. In a 500-word, double-spaced, typed essay, students must summarize how the author describes the power of the social situation in shaping human behavior.
4. In a double-spaced typed 3 pages essay, students identify the social factors that increase conformity, compliance, and obedience and describe examples of how these occur in the world around them.
5. Library research including peer reviewed journals.

11. Representative Texts

a. Representative Text(s):

Aronson, E., Wilson, T., Akert, R., and Sommers, S. *Social Psychology*, 10**th** Edition.  New York: Pearson. 2019.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Explain the basic principles of social psychology.
2. Analyze how social psychologists apply scientific methodology to the study of social behavior.
3. Synthesize the research findings and major theories in social psychology and apply them to the understanding of contemporary problems.