## **PSY 304 Social Psychology**

**Course Purpose:** The purpose of this course is to help students develop an understanding of important concepts and major themes in social psychology such as social thinking, social influence, and social relations.

**Recommended Textbook:** The primary learning resource for this course is the textbook, *Social Psychology,* 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. The author is David Meyers, Hope College. Softcover, 768 pages. ©2012 McGraw-Hill, ISBN-13: 9780078035296.

**Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this study, students should be able to:

- 1. Describe and assess the basic psychological theories, principles, and concepts explaining social cognition, attitude formation, decision making, group processes, pro-social behavior, aggression, conformity/obedience and stereotyping/prejudice.
- 2. Relate concepts in social psychology to situations in everyday life such as interpersonal and group relations.
- 3. Explain how human behavior is influenced by such social factors as groups, authority figures, in-group bias, gender roles, cognitive dissonance, etc.
- 4. Discuss the outcomes of various social situations through application of social psychology principles.
- 5. Relate major concepts and methods of the field to understand interpersonal and group relationships.

**Structure**: Learning resources have been divided into three sections, each with several Areas of Study. The Areas of Study correspond to a chapter of the recommended textbook.

## **PSY 304.1 Social Thinking**

First Area of Study: Introducing Social Psychology Second Area of Study: The Self in a Social World Third Area of Study: Social Beliefs and Judgments Fourth Area of Study: Behaviors and Attitudes

## **PSY 304.2 Social Influence**

First Area of Study: Genes, Culture, and Gender Second Area of Study: Conformity and Obedience

Third Area of Study: Persuasion

Fourth Area of Study: Group Influence

## **PSY 304.3 Social Relations**

First Area of Study: Prejudice: Disliking Others Second Area of Study: Aggression: Hurting Others

Third Area of Study: Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others

Fourth Area of Study: Helping

Fifth Area of Study: Conflict and Peacemaking Sixth Area of Study: Social Psychology in the Clinic Seventh Area of Study: Social Psychology in Court

Eighth Area of Study: Social Psychology and the Sustainable Future

**Academic Credit:** Academic credit is earned for this course by passing the Social Psychology Examination. The exam has four parts which correspond to the sections listed above.

