

## **Sociology 240/Psychology 240 –Social Psychology FALL 2008**

Instructor: Shawna Miller  
Email: [shmiller@bcc.ctc.edu](mailto:shmiller@bcc.ctc.edu)

Class Meets: Online Daily  
Office Hours: Virtual and by appointment  
Office Location: Virtual

### **Course Outline:**

**Our Social Psychology course has a clear structure each week:**

- (1) Each Monday you will post a thread report in response to the assigned question (thread prompt) for your group. You will post your thread report in the folder for that particular unit.**

**I will assign you to groups during the second week of the quarter. Each week everyone in the group will respond individually to the thread prompt for that group. Group assignments don't actually mean that you will be working together. They just tell you which prompt to respond to. For example, for Unit 2, if you are assigned to Group 1 you will write an individual response to the thread prompt for Group 1 on the Unit 2 assignment link and post your thread report in the Unit 2 discussion folder. Weekly thread reports are worth 10 points each.**

- (2) You will post at least three responses to your classmates postings by 9am on Friday of each week. See the link, Guidelines for Thread Postings, for developing meaningful and constructive interaction online. Each SET of three responses is worth 5 points each week. I will focus on the quality of your responses when grading them, not the quantity. Do not save all of your responses for the last minute. This does not promote discussion and it will result in a slight point deduction.**
- (3) In addition to your weekly thread reports and responses, you will submit two essays during the quarter. Check the calendar for essay due dates. Detailed descriptions of the essay assignments can be found on the Essay Assignments link.**

**NOTE: All assignments are due at the time specified on the calendar. Late Essays are docked 10% per 24-hour period that they are late, starting at 9:10 am on the due date. Late Thread Reports are docked 10% per 24-hour period that they are late, starting at 9:10 am on the due date. Late responses to thread reports will not be graded.**

**NOTE: You are responsible for all information posted on the bulletin board. I will often give important information via my posts, so please make sure that you read all of them!**

**Each weekly page gives you the reading assignment for the week, tips about the readings, and spells out the thread prompts**

## Course Goals:

Sociological Psychology is the academic ground shared by sociology and psychology, the two sister sciences which are actually quite distinct, yet quite complementary, in their vantage points. In this course we will analyze the social sources of the self; how people create relationships, organizations, and systems; the relationships between people's social and subjective experiences; and how social factors and influences structure the lives of individuals.

Social Psychology is about your life and mine! It explores the topics addressed above, the normal, everyday relationship between the social and the self.

We will *apply* social psychology. *Active learning* challenges you to get involved in the learning process, to enjoy learning for its own sake, to abandon the traditional passive student role, and to help teach each other. We will learn together in an *interactive* format. What you learn from the reading and the threaded discussions will *complement* each other, and will add to your essays.

As an online course, you must take a greater degree of responsibility for your own work. Of course, we are all here to learn from each other, and to help each other as much as possible. But time management and organization on your part is essential. If you are experiencing difficulties in the course, please let me know ASAP.

## Reading:

You have an excellent book of readings for this course:

***Inside Social Life: Readings in Sociological Psychology and Microsociology (5th Ed.)*  
by Spencer Cahill**

Your weekly reading assignments are on the assignment pages for each week. You will need to do the reading *in advance* of each week's Thread Report, or you will be lost and you will detract from the learning of the group.

As you read, take notes *according to the thread report assignment*.

## Tips:

You should soon discover that the first reading for each section is a theoretical reading and the readings that follow it are an application of that theoretical perspective. Some of you will find the theoretical readings to be quite challenging. However, the theoretical reading will set the foundation for the readings that follow it, so it is essential that you grasp the concepts in that reading. This may involve reading it more than once.

You are expected to read ALL of the readings for each section, not just the ones that pertain to your group's discussion prompt. You are very welcome (and even encouraged) to respond to postings from other "discussion groups"

If you are struggling with a concept from the readings, there are a number of things that you can do for help. First, you can post a question to the entire class in the appropriate discussion folder. Posting requests for help in the public discussion forum allows both me and your classmates the opportunity to help provide clarification. Second, try using the internet! First, there is a great website, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology>, which contains a lot of general information about sociology (and psychology). You can read up on particular topics there. You can also try searching the entire internet on the topic that is giving you some difficulty. For example, if you are having trouble understanding Goffman's concept of "face work" just type "goffman face work" into your search engine and you will see lots of different websites that may offer some clarification. If you use any material from these websites in your thread prompts though, BE SURE TO CITE THEM!

## **GRADING:**

- 10 Thread Postings (1 per week) @ 10 points each
- 10 Response Segments to Thread Postings (3 responses per week) @ 5 points each
- 2 essays @ 100 points each
- Self-Assessment Assignment @ 25 points

Weekly Discussion: 150 points possible

Essays: 200 points possible

Self-Assessment: 25 points possible

Total: 375 points possible

## **GRADING SCALE:**

Total: 375 points

375 □ 349	=A
348 □ 337	=A-
336 □ 329	=B+
328 □ 313	=B
312 □ 300	=B-
299 □ 291	=C+
290 □ 273	=C
272 □ 262	=C-
261 □ 255	=D+
254 □ 236	=D
235 □ 225	=D-
below 225	=F

*No extra credit, so please just keep up with your work !*