Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: PSYC 360

Course Title: Social Psychology

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Theories, methods and research on the nature and causes of individual behavior in social situations. Cross-listed as SOCI 360. Prerequisites: 6 hours of PSYC and SOCI courses. Offered Spring.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): 6 hours of PSYC and SOCI courses.

Text(s): Most current editions of the following:


Baron, R., Byrne, D., & Sears, D.O. Social Psychology. Pearson.


Course Objectives:

• To become acquainted with the discipline of social psychology.
• To note how the discipline sees all behaviors as a function of the person and the environment across research area.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

• Describe how social psychology differentiates itself from other psychological disciplines.
• Understand research and theory describing how individuals come to understand themselves, their beliefs and attitudes, and their own behaviors, as well as the behavior of others.
• Identify the different ways individuals influence or attempt to influence on another (i.e.; constructions of gender and culture, conformity pressure, persuasive tactics, group dynamics), and be able to identify the specific factors that increase and/or decrease the likelihood of successful influence.
• Understand how research and theory explains the origin and dynamics of both positive (i.e.; attraction, helping behavior) and negative (i.e.; prejudice, aggression) social relations.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

• Theory and Method in Social Psychology
• Theory of Self
• Attribution Theory and Social Cognition
• Attitude Theory
• Conformity, Compliance, and Obedience
• Persuasion
• Group Dynamics
• Prejudice
• Aggression
• Interpersonal Attraction
• Helping Behavior and Altruism

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 35

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Christopher Mazurek

Name: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________

Date: March 23, 2006

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

Office of Academic Affairs
12/04