SOC 377: Self in Modern Society

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COURSE OVERVIEW
Getting started: Click on the “Start Here” button and review various course components so you can find out how the course is organized. You will learn what’s expected of you in terms of the hours you are expected to invest in this class as well as technical skills needed. You will also learn what to expect from me in terms of interacting with you, netiquette rules, grading policies and more. Also, please open the “Course Schedule” document and print out a summary of the required readings, assignments and due dates.

COURSE PURPOSE
This course provides an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of social psychology, with particular attention given to the sociological forms of social psychology. Using social psychology as a way of introducing sociological ideas and concepts, the main theme will be the power of social influences on the individual as examined through the lens of everyday life. Sociological perspectives and methods will be introduced. In general, we will be studying human behavior. More specifically, such topics as self and identity, attitudes, race and gender, friendships and close relationships, prejudice and discrimination, and socialization will be explored. In short, you will be challenged to think about social psychology as it relates to your daily lives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. Students will apply the concepts, theories, and methods of social psychology to their own lives.
2. Students will explain how social settings can shape one’s attitudes, behaviors, relationships, and feelings.
3. Synthesize and apply academic concepts to the diversity and complexity of American society, and one’s own place in it
4. Use critical reading, thinking, and writing skills and apply them to theories of symbolic interactionism

COURSE POLICIES
This is not an independent study class, where you go completely at your own pace. The course has 6 sections that will correspond with the 6 weeks of class. You are responsible for completing all units for each section by a certain day and time. Each section has assigned reading from either the textbook or another source, a corresponding assignment, a graded exam and other materials relevant to our course topics. Note too, that since this is a shortened term, we go at a faster pace than during the regular semester, because we cover the same amount of material as in a 15 week semester course.

All assignments and discussion board posts due dates are listed in the course schedule below. You are STRONGLY, STRONGLY, STRONGLY encouraged to not wait until the last minute. I DO NOT accept late work. I urge you to anticipate that your internet will fail, your computer will crash, a family member will die, your dog will throw up, your child will get sick AND you will have a debilitating headache every Monday morning during the course and thus plan accordingly to get your assignments in well before the deadline.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
I expect complete academic honesty. Please refer to UNCO’s “Student Code of Conduct: Academic Integrity” (http://www.unco.edu/dos/pdf/StudentCodeofConduct.pdf#nameddest=SC_integrity)
In short, the Code states that all work turned in for credit must be your own work in your own words, unless clear and explicit acknowledgement of the sources of the work is given. Cheating or plagiarizing will result in failing the assignment or the course.

_Citation and Plagiarism_

When you use the ideas of someone else, whether you quote someone directly or indirectly incorporate general points made by another person, you must cite the source. Proper citation practices not only help you to avoid the unethical act of plagiarism, but also are a mark of good scholarship. When you appropriately cite the work of others you demonstrate your ability to apply and synthesize information and to form your own ideas regarding those of someone else. Here are three examples of typical citation formats:

1) "Proper citation practices...are a mark of good scholarship" (Newman 2013, p. x).
   [this is a direct quote]
2) Newman (2013) has suggested that ethical citation formats indicate good scholarship.
   [this is an indirect reference]
3) According to some (e.g., Newman 2013), proper citation indicates good thinking.
   [indirect reference]

REQUIRED READINGS

The required texts for this course are:

- Additional readings available on Blackboard. (BB hereafter)

PREVIOUS TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

You should have some technical working knowledge to succeed in this online course. For example, you should be able to use email, add attachments, create a document and use word processing software, etc. See this link for the tech requirements of online courses:

http://extended.unco.edu/about/unc-online/tech-requirements.asp

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Additional information and specific requirements will be provided for each assignment.

1. **Discussion Boards (10 points each, 70 points total—35% of final grade)**

   Students will complete one original discussion post and two responses per unit. Each original discussion post is worth 6 points. Each response post is worth 2 points. Discussion posts for each unit will be due on Mondays at 11:59pm. Responses for each unit will be due on Wednesdays at 11:59pm. Rubrics for discussions and responses are available on Blackboard.

   The purpose of discussions in this course is for students to apply the course material, communicate ideas and thoughts with other students and the instructor, and critically analyze issues in the family. You are expected to ground your posts in the content of the course, using concepts and evidence to support your arguments. Please feel free to bring in appropriate outside resources into the discussions (images, research, or newspaper articles). To benefit the most from the discussions, it is important that you keep the following guidelines in mind:
   - Participate regularly in the class discussions
   - Take time to organize your thoughts before posting
   - Engage directly with the ideas of other participants
   - Discussion Posts must offer more than “I agree;” you must add something substantive to the
Please Note: In this course, we are practicing scholars, and I expect students to cite course material and outside sources appropriately, using ASA citation guidelines in all discussion posts (please see ASA formatting guidelines on Blackboard). Students do not have to provide a reference list if they use course materials, only the author and year. However, please provide a full reference for outside materials so that the instructor and other students can find the original source.

2. Exams (90 points—45% of final grade)
There will be two exams given during the semester, a midterm worth 40 points and a final exam worth 50 points. The exams will cover in-class lectures, discussions, videos, and the assigned readings. They will be a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer and essay questions. See the course outline for dates.

3. Response Memos (20 points each, 40 points total—20% of final grade)
These writing assignments are designed to help you explore readings and apply them to everyday life. You need to complete two response memos, each 3-4 typed pages. The questions to which you are responding, as well as the due dates, are listed below.

Format
- Memos should be 3-4 pages in length.
- Double-space and use a 12-point font and one-inch margins all around.
- Number your pages and staple instead of paper-clipping.
- Don't forget to proofread for grammar, spelling, and typos. Well-written and -presented papers will receive better grades than poorly-written, messy ones.
- You must upload the paper through "SafeAssign" on BB and only papers submitted through SafeAssign will be graded. This program automatically scans your paper for plagiarism and archives a copy of your paper for UNC. It is important to remember to hit the submit button when the assignment is finished. It is also strongly recommended that you keep a copy of your paper in case it is not transmitted properly. This will prevent you from having to rewrite the paper!

Generally, grades in the:
- A range are reserved for exceptionally thoughtful and well-reasoned papers, demonstrating not only strong understanding of the concepts and/or course materials used, but also going above and beyond the call of the assignment – by bringing ideas together in novel ways or showing an unusually deep understanding of the issues at stake. They will also be well-written.
- B range reflect a generally good paper, featuring a thoughtful, well-reasoned analysis. There may be some minor weaknesses (e.g., underdeveloped analysis). If you follow the directions like a recipe, you will get a grade in the B range.
- C range indicate weaknesses in your arguments, misunderstandings of the readings, and/or that some major aspect of the assignment is missing or poorly/incompletely fulfilled.
- D range represents a worse version of "C."
4. Tentative grading schedule calculated as follows.
I reserve the right to give in-class quizzes on the readings if necessary (meaning, I feel that too many students are NOT completing and contemplating the readings before class) and re-calculate the distribution of graded material in accordance with this change.

A= 200-185 points
A- = 184-179
B+= 178-173
B  = 172-165
B- = 164-159
C+= 158-153
C  = 152-145
C- = 144-139
D+= 138-133
D  = 132-125
D- = 124-119
F < 119
Student Evaluation
Participants will be asked to evaluate the course through an online survey which will be announced toward the end of the course. Please plan to participate in this survey.

Netiquette
It should go without saying that standards of common courtesy apply in our virtual classroom as they do in a face-to-face context. Please review the netiquette standards under “Start Here”. Unacceptable behavior including cyber bullying will not be tolerated. Class netiquette mandates that you do your best to act within the normal expectations of human interaction while interacting with your classmates online.

Computer Compatibility and other Technical Issues
In order to get information about making sure your computer is compatible for the course, please click on the Blackboard Support link under Academic Resources. I am not an IT technician and I cannot help you upload assignments, tell you what’s wrong with your computer or give you an extension of time because of any computer related problems. You are in an online class, so you are responsible for determining whether your computer is compatible with Blackboard and ensuring that you see confirmation that your assignments are uploaded successfully before they are due. Contact an IT technician immediately at 970-351-4357 if you have problems. I cannot accept any email attachments as your submitted assignments.

Disability Support Services
Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at 970-351-2289 in order to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

UNC’s Policies
UNC’S policies and recommendations for academic misconduct including plagiarism will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Students’ website. http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html
UNC’s Honor Code
All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community’s academic, professional and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

I realize this is a tremendous amount of information. I am here to answer any questions; please do not hesitate to ask. I want you to succeed in this course and more importantly, I want you to learn about practicing sociology!

LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED