

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**SOCIOLOGY 213: Social Psychology**  
**Fall 2018**  
**T/R: 3:00 p.m– 4:15 p.m. SSB: 5**

**Instructor:** Dr. Chandrouti Persaud.

**Office:** Social Sciences E. **Office Phone:** 662 – 254 - 3352. Email: persaudmvsu@yahoo.com  
**Office Hrs: M/W: 12:30 p.m – 4:00 p.m. T: 10:00 am – 2:00 p.m.**

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Text:** *Social Psychology, Rohall, Milkie, and Lucas*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition  
**Additional Reading will be assigned throughout the semester**
  
2. Each Student must have an email account. Please use a professional email address with your name clearly displayed. Email me at the address above (please use the correct spelling) in the first week of class. Failure to do so -- after August 28, 2018-- will result in you missing valuable information, which you will need for class.

**Catalog Course Description:** (3 credit hrs)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the field of social psychology using a sociological perspective. Students who develop a good grasp of the materials presented in this course should be able to understand some of the basic components underlying the behaviors and mental processes of people involved in social interaction and the methods used by sociologists to construct these theories.

**Purpose/Overview:**

Although the psychological perspective cannot be ignored; this course will focus primarily on the Sociological perspective and the work of Sociologists. The symbolic interaction of persons and systems will be a major focus of the discussions. This course investigates the mental processes, situational factors, individual differences, and group phenomena that influence the way humans interact with each other, i.e., self and others.

**Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:**

In this course, students should develop an understanding/ appreciation of cultural diversity and be able to apply Sociological concepts and critical thinking in short writing assignments and active real life situations.

**Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of theories, issues and research relevant to the study of social psychology, using a sociological perspective.
- Critically examine social processes and interactions in everyday life.
  
- Apply the tools for independent critical analysis, integration, and creative expression through classroom exercises.
  
- Critically examine and prepare for the roles humans play within the social structure.
- Participate in experiential learning and practice the skills of Applied sociology.
- Engage in discourse with peers in a respectful manner, creating a safe and healthy environment in which to express diverse perspectives.

**Course Format/ Activities:** Class meetings will be organized on a lecture/discussion basis with activities, including films, videos, guest speakers, group discussions, homework assignments and student presentations. Mini Projects, based on small group and individual active learning which integrate theory with experiential learning are a major component of the curriculum. Project guidelines will be provided in Wk 6.

**Course Requirements:**

The textbook is required. Students are required to complete all assigned reading and written assignments before class and be thoroughly prepared to engage in discussion/sl. We will not be reading the text book in class. Consistent and thorough preparation is essential to successful completion of this course. This is an academic course and a learning environment, not a talk show. At first you may not understand the concepts; a second reading will be most helpful. Even if you do not fully grasp the material, if you have made a reasonable attempt to read, that will be evident. Students must observe all rules of courtesy and respect, when participating in discussions. **Popular magazines and talk shows are not scholarly sources.**

**Film Scene Analysis**

The study of Social psychology incorporates several theoretical frameworks of analysis, including social deconstruction and critical conflict. The social structure and how we interpret our interactions are critical to understanding social behavior. In these assignments, you will practice observing, describing, and analyzing movie scenes, using select theories.

**Exam/s:** may consist of a combination of multiple choice, true- false, matching, listing, and essays. Test questions will come from lecture, textbook, videos, and any handouts which you have received.

**Important Note:** All papers must be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins, maximum 12 point. A well-written paper successfully conveys your message. Poor grammar, sentence construction, organization, or spelling errors often makes it difficult for your instructor to understand your intended message and could also affect your grade. Any paper requirement violations will result in 0 for that assignment and a possible “F” in the course. **Assignments are due at 2:25 p.m on Thursday/s. No late submissions will be accepted.**

**Academic Integrity:** All of my classes are held to very high standards of academic integrity. All acts of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating on exams, plagiarism, internet papers, presenting someone else’s work as your own, failing to meet academic and professional requirements, will result in an automatic “F.” The University’s academic honesty and plagiarism are enforced in this course.

**Office Hours:** Are posted on my door and on this syllabus. Please make an appointment if you wish at another time. It is a good policy to drop by the office often to discuss your progress and to clarify any lingering questions about the material or to process any difficulties in class. This is your time, use it. Please do not email me with personal problems.

**Attendance Policy:** students who miss **9 hrs of instruction** will receive an automatic F in this class. If you arrive after the roll is signed, you are absent. If you leave early, you are absent. If a student misses a class for a legitimate reason, s/he may bring a written excuse from the original source, e.g. from a doctor, a court summons, etc. Student Athletes must provide a University issued travel schedule – ahead of travel.

### **Course Evaluation and Grading Scale:**

Final Grades in SO 213 will be based on the following:

- Class attendance and Participation in activities
- Required activities which will include; in-class writing exercises, group exercises,
- Oral Presentation. Journals
- Assignments

**Grading:** A total of 300 points is possible in this course.

Mid Term Exam	50 points
Assignments 5 x 20	100 points
Final Project	100 points
Attendance and Participation	50 points

**Total points: 300**

**A: 100% - 90% = 300 - 270 points. B: 89%- 80% = 269 -240 points. C: 79% -70% = 239 - 210 points. D: 69% - 60% = 209 - 180 points. F: 59 - 0% = 179 - 0 points**

**Grade Appeals:** Any student who can establish evidence that s/he deserves a higher grade, after discussing their performance with me, can appeal that grade by following University procedures as explained in the Student Handbook. Please keep your own records to present a credible defense.

This syllabus is subject to change based on the instructor's assessment of the progress and process. Changes will be announced in class. Students who are absent are responsible for getting all handouts/ assignments from their peers before the next class. If you are experiencing difficulty with the material, it is your responsibility to ask for clarification. Please hold yourself accountable for your own performance. Poor study habits + failure to complete/understand reading material = poor performance.

### **Special Needs/ Accommodations.**

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If you feel you are eligible to receive accommodations for a covered disability (medical, physical, psychiatric, learning, vision, hearing, etc.) and would like to request it for this course, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) program administered by University College. It is recommended that you visit the Disabilities Office located inside the Social Sciences Building Rm 105 to register for the program at the beginning of each semester. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Mr. Billy Benson, Jr. via phone or email at 662-254-3005 or [billy.benson@mvsu.edu](mailto:billy.benson@mvsu.edu).

### **Diversity Policy**

All students, regardless of religious affiliation, race, color, nationality, creed or sexual orientation must feel safe within this space. Please conduct all discussions with regard for the right to human dignity and respect for all individuals.

***Before Entering Class, your cell phones and pagers must be turned off /silent. No phone equipment should be visible on your person. Turned off does not mean "vibrate." If you leave the classroom to answer your phone, you will be graded as absent for the entire class. Any student engaging in non-productive or threatening behavior or behavior considered by the instructor to be disruptive to the learning environment will be removed from the classroom.***

## Tentative Course Outline Weekly Schedule

This schedule outlines the material planned for each week. I will not be reading the textbook in class. Exams will be from the book, lectures, films and any other material discussed. The textbook is a source for the lectures and a manual for your preparation. You must read the textbook in order to follow the instruction/material/content presented/covered. For some units, we will not use the book, except for theory to conduct exercises. **Do not read the textbook in class.** Before coming to class you must read the assigned material, complete all assignment/s and be prepared to participate in discussions and activities. The weekly schedule is subject to change, based on the progress of the class. You are responsible for finding out about any announcements made in class.

**Wk. 1. 08/21:** Introduction to the Sociological Perspective in Social Psychology  
*Read ch 1, 2*

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**Wk. 2. 08/28:** Perspectives in Soc. Psychology: Symbolic Interaction  
*Read chs 1, 2, 3*

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**Wk. 3. 09/04:** Studying People  
*Read chs 1,2,3,5*

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**Wk.4. 09/11:** Self and Identity  
*Read chs 1, 2, 3, 5*

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**Wk 5. 09/18:** Self and Identity. Movie: “Nell.”

*Review all chapters for Assignment 1: Movie Review, incorporating theory*

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**Wk 06. 09/25:** **Movie Review: In class Assignment**  
*Read ch 9* **Project Guidelines**

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**Wk. 07. 10/02:** Mid Term Assignment Due. Proposal for Final Presentation/s Due  
*Read ch 9, 10* *Social Attitudes*

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**Wk. 08. 10/09:** Social Attitudes.  
**Movie: Mississippi Masala”**  
*Read ch 9, 10*

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**Wk. 09. 10/16**Assignment 2: Movie Critique, incorporating theory.  
*Read ch 11:*

**Wk 10. 10/23: Collective Behavior:**  
*Read ch 11: Assignment II*

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**Wk. 11. 10/30:** Documentary: Eyes on the Prize  
*Project Prep*

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**Wk. 12: 11/06: Field – Prep for Group Projects**  
*Project Prep*

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**Wk 13. 11/13: Group Presentations**  
*Project Prep*

**Wk 14. 11/20: Fall/Thanksgiving Break**  
*Project Prep*

**Wk. 15. 11/27: Group Presentations**  
*Project Prep*

**Wk. 16: 05/04: Group Presentations**

*NOTE: This document does not constitute a contract with the University. It contains guidelines. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary in the syllabus.*