

# COURSE OUTLINE

## PSYC-202 Social Psychology 3 Semester Hours

### HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### Description

In addition to understanding and applying major concepts, facts, principles, and theories of social psychology, the student will be able to interpret, analyze and critically evaluate social psychological materials. The student will be able to explain the important research on these topics: T-groups, conformity, obedience, attraction, attitude change, cognitive dissonance, prejudice and aggression. Students will study several social psychological topics of their own choosing. Prerequisites: PSYC-101. (3 hours weekly).

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

#### Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the varied topics that are a part of the field of social psychology.
2. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the research methods used by social psychologists and the related ethical issues.
3. Define and give examples of selected social psychological concepts and facts.
4. Locate social psychological information in the Library and in textbooks.
5. Critically evaluate nontechnical social psychological information.
6. Use correct APA format for written assignments: documentation, references.
7. Apply social psychological concepts to the book Walden Two.
8. Apply social psychological concepts to everyday life.
9. Better participate in small group discussions.

## **Major Topics**

- I. Social Psychology
- II. Experimental Research
- III. Conformity
- IV. Helping Others
- V. Obedience
- VI. Attitudes and the Mass Media
- VII. Cognitive Dissonance
- VIII. Attraction
- XI. Prejudice
- X. Groups

## **Course Requirements**

Grading: Grades will be based on weekly written assignment and class participation. Emphasis will be on a higher order thinking skill rather than memorizing. Class attendance is essential.

## **Other Course Information**

PSYC-202 is an Arts and Sciences elective.