Eastern Illinois University
Revised Course Proposal
SOC 3650, Social Psychology

1. Catalog Description
   a. Sociology 3650
   b. Social Psychology
   c. 3-0-3
   d. F, S
   e. Social Psyc
   f. This course focuses on sociological social psychology, that is, how two or more persons fit their behaviors together in cooperation, in competition, and in conflict. The course provides a survey of research on the self, interpersonal and small group behavior, and collective action and social movements.
   g. Prerequisite: SOC 1838G

2. Objectives of the course
   The objectives of the course are to cover the major themes within social psychology. More specifically, the following will be addressed in some detail:
   • the impact of genetics and the environment on the development of the self
   • the impact of one individual on another’s behavior and attitudes
   • the impact of the group on the member’s behavior and beliefs
   • the impact of the group member on group activities and structure
   • the impact of the group on another group’s activities and structure

3. Outline of course
   Organization of the course (week 1)  Chap 1. text
   -introduction to social psychology
     definition
     core concerns
     -theories or theoretical perspectives

   Methods of investigation (week 2)  Chap 2. text
   -conduct of inquiry, critical thinking
   -modes of investigation
   -ethical issues

   The Individual: Learning to perceive the world
   Socialization (weeks 3 & 4)  Chap 3. text
   -genetics, the environment, and the self
   -theoretical perspectives
   -agents of socialization
   -processes of socialization
   -outcomes of socialization
   -adult socialization
Readings


Self and Identity (week 5) Chap 4. text
- nature and genesis of the self
- identities
- social structure and the self
- the self we enact
- self in thought and feeling (emotions and the self)
- self-esteem
- the fragile self

An Outline of Control Theory (week 6)

Readings


Exam # 1
Social Perception and Cognition (week 7) Chap 5. text
- learning how to see
- neuroscience and perception
- schemas as cultural elements
- person schemas and group stereotypes
- impression formation
- attribution theory

Reading

Interpersonal: Interacting with others
Self-Presentation and Impression Management (week 8) Chap 9. text
- definition of the situation
- tactical impression management
- detecting deceptive impression management
- are any groups better at detecting deception? How well do the police detect deception?
- spoiled identities
Reading

Social Influence and Persuasion (week 9) Chap 8. text
-forms of persuasion
-threats and promises
-obedience to authority
-eye-witness identification and the jury
-the role of social structure
-personality vs situational factors

Reading

Helping and Altruism (week 10) Chap 10. text
-motivation to help
-characteristics of the needy
-characteristics of the helper
-normative and cultural factors
-situational and personal factors
-bystander intervention in emergencies

Exam # 2
Aggression (week 11) Chap 11. text
-definition
-characteristics of targets
-situation impacts on aggression
-the role of catharsis
-television and aggression
-reducing aggression, can we make a difference

Interpersonal Attraction and Relationships (week 12) Chap 12. text
-availability, desirability, factors influencing the growth of relationships
-love and liking
-theories of love
-conflict in relationships
-overcoming differences
-dissolving relationships

Collective Action: Aligning with others Chap 16. text
Intergroup Conflict (week 13)
-development of intergroup conflict
-persistence
-effects of conflict on group structure
-self regulating behavior

Collective Actions and Social Movements (weeks 14&15) Chap 20. text
- crowds
- underlying conditions
- precipitating events
- empirical studies of the crowd
- theories of collective behavior
- social movements
- origins, participation, organization, role of violence, role of government, outcomes, causes of decline

Finals

Evaluation:
First hourly exam  20%
Second hourly exam 20%
Final exam 20%
Class participation 5%
Research paper 35%

Students will receive comments and feedback as the papers are initially developed.

4. Implementation
a. Faculty member to whom the course will be assigned initially is Ron Wohlstein
b. No additional cost to students.
c. Text for the course
   H. Andrew Michener and John D. Delamater
d. Sociology 3650 will be offered Fall 2001

5. Rationale
a. Purpose and need: This course has been and is an elective for sociology majors. Social psychology is a major substantive field of sociology which our students should have the opportunity to explore.
b. Justification of the level of the course and prerequisite: This course requires analytic and writing skills commensurate with an upper division course. The prerequisite of introductory sociology provides sufficient exposure to the discipline of sociology before introducing students to a sociological version of social psychology.
c. Similarity to existing courses and/or effect upon programs in other departments: The psychology department offers a course titled social psychology; however, the approach is much different. The revision of this course is minor. Primarily, it is to change the name and description to reflect more accurately course content. The psychology department has no objection to the name change. At most institutions of higher education, both departments teach courses titled social psychology. The major difference is that sociological social psychology concentrates more on the influence of social structure. In addition, the latter third of the class focuses on collective action and social movements while psychology focuses on applied social psychology.
d. Required or elective: This course will be an elective for sociology majors and
minors.

6. Community College transfer
   A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

7. Date approved by Department of Sociology and Anthropology _12/08/00_

8. Date approved by the College of Sciences Curriculum Committee _2/9/01_

9. Date approved by the Council on Academic Affairs _2/22/01_