Dear Student:

Welcome to Psychology 109: Social Psychology, Section #10343 a 100% online class for the Summer 2014 term June 16, 2014-August 8, 2014. This course is 100% online; there are no classroom meetings. Psychology 109 will journey through the fascinating world of Social Psychology. Social Psychology is the study of how we think, feel and behave with the presence or imagined presence of others. It covers topics such as attribution (how we explain the intentions of ourselves and others), social interaction, group dynamics, attitude formation and change, stereotyping and prejudice, altruism, aggression, conformity, and relationships. We will also apply the field to business, the law and health. The course provides an introduction to the psychological theories, psychological research and applications in major areas of social psychology. This course is 3 units; it is UC and CSU transferable and it applies to the Associate Degree.

My name is Micheal Huff and I will be your online instructor. Please read this entire letter for details about logging into the course and the details of the course requirements. If you have any additional questions after reading this letter in its entirety, please feel free to send me an email at micheal.huff@canyons.edu. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Course Availability

The course will be available on COC's Blackboard system beginning Monday, June 16, 2014. On or after that date, you must login to Blackboard, https://bb9.canyons.edu/ to enter our classroom. Log in to the website and post to the "Roll Call" Discussion Board no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 to confirm your presence in the online classroom. In a face to face class on the first day, the instructor calls the roster and each student who is present raises his/her hand and/or says "Here!" so the instructor knows that the student is present in the classroom. The "Roll Call" Discussion Board is our class Roll Call. Log into Blackboard, enter the "Roll Call" Discussion Board, add a new thread and just briefly introduce yourself to indicate that you have successfully logged into the online classroom and are present. Doing so will confirm your enrollment in the course and avoid being dropped as a "no show." You can and will be dropped from the class if you do not log in and post to the "Roll Call" Discussion Board inside the online classroom by that date and time. No exceptions will be made. A student from the waiting list will then be added in your place.

Please note: it is the student’s responsibility to drop and withdraw from the course after this point. If you no longer wish to continue in the course, please consult Admissions and Records for drop and withdrawal deadline dates and use the online registration system to withdraw. It is your responsibility to be accountable for your academic records. If you stop participating in the course after the withdrawal date, will result in a final grade of “FW” or “Failure to Withdraw” on your transcript.

If the class is closed and you would like to add...

If you are on the official waiting list, the COC web registration system automatically adds students from the waiting list to the course. All wait-listed students will receive priority over those not wait-listed. If there is room in the course, I will add students based on their number on the waiting list. If you are on
the waiting list, send me an email indicating your interest in adding the course. If there is room in the course, I will email you a 4 digit add code that will allow you to add the class through the COC online registration system, “My Canyons.” If you are on the waitlist and I do not receive an email from you by Tuesday June 17, 2014 by 11:59 pm, I will assume that you are no longer interested in the course and I will delete your name from the waiting list. Important note: You must PAY for the class, not just register, before you can access Blackboard. Keep in mind; if you add the class, it may take one to two business days before your account is created in Blackboard and you will not be given additional time to complete assignments.

If you are not on the official wait list, I will consider adding you after any officially waitlisted students. Send me an email indicating your interest; if there is room in the course after all of the waitlist students have been accommodated, I will send you an add code. Important note: You must PAY for the class, not just register, before you can access Blackboard. Keep in mind; if you add the class, it may take one to two business days before your account is created in Blackboard and you will not be given additional time to complete assignments.

How do I log in to Blackboard?

Your user name is your 7 digit Student ID number (ex: 1234567); your password is student. After you log in the first time, be sure to change your password. Through email, I may communicate your progress, grades, and assignments. When sending an e-mail to me please use the COC email provided inside your My Canyons account. If I do not recognize your email address because your name is not in the “From” line and the subject line does not identify you as a student, I will assume it is spam or a virus and your email will be deleted without a response.

Blackboard is the course management system supported by COC, and I will use a Blackboard website to teach the class. If you are not already familiar with the Blackboard course management system, I strongly suggest that you complete the Blackboard Tutorial located here: http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm

Course Requirements:


The printed text is available in the bookstore; here is the link for the COC Bookstore. You may also purchase the book from other online sources. I have also seen it listed on several online rental websites such as textbooks.com, chegg.com, valorebooks.com and others. I highly suggest you investigate options to access the textbook. You need access to the textbook or ebook on the first day of class, June 16, 2014. You do not need to purchase any additional study guides or access codes. There is extensive
reading, chapter quizzes, web research, self-assessments, writing assignments, discussions in Blackboard, and three large exams over the duration of the term.

Because this is an online course, you must have regular access to a computer that has reliable internet access. Before continuing in the course, please make sure that you have a reliable computer with internet access. If you do not have a computer at home, computers are available on the College of the Canyons campus. You may also wish to check your local public library. If your internet connection is dropped because of a faulty connection or you have other difficulties with your computer, it is your responsibility to troubleshoot the problem. COC does provide Blackboard support for students, but having faulty equipment is not a valid excuse to make-up a quiz, assignment or discussion board post. It is your responsibility to log into Blackboard to complete assignments, check for new announcements, and review assignment deadlines.

Attention Summer students: Because this is a 8 week format, the pace of this course is very, very fast. The course content is the same as in a 15 week semester; thus, we cover approximately 1-2 chapters per week. There will be discussion board postings, chapter quizzes and homework assignments due nearly every couple of days. You must log onto our class’s site regularly to retrieve and submit assignments and to participate in discussion board activities with classmates and me. If you are going to be unable to participate in this manner, this is not the course for you.

Email Note: All correspondence will be sent to your my.canyons email. If you have not set up your my.canyons email, please do so now. Here is a link to help you set up your email account or forward your my.canyons email to an alternate email address.

http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Admissions/StudentEmail.asp

Am I ready for an online class?

The requirements for the class will be completed using Blackboard, an online course management system as a virtual classroom. It will be extremely helpful if you have a working knowledge of using internet browser software (such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.), with sending and receiving e-mail, as well as attaching a file to an e-mail message.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have reliable equipment and network connections before signing up for this (or any) online class. A flaky computer or unstable internet connection is not an acceptable reason for missing assignments in this course.

Learning in the online world requires strong time management skills and a consistently high level of self-motivation. Although I will be in the online world with you, participating in the online discussions and providing weekly feedback to you, I am only present if you log in to the classroom. Thus, there is a significant amount of effort required for success in the online world: in addition to keeping up with the reading for the course, there are weekly discussion board topics, online web pages to view and comment on coupled with weekly homework assignments, and a quiz to be completed for each module. In addition, exams will occur approximately every other week. You should expect to spend 16-18 hours
per week completing the reading assignments and additional requirements for this class. If this sounds like more than you can manage without external prompting, perhaps a more traditional class is for you. If you are highly motivated, then this is the course for you.

I look forward to having you join this class. This course will likely change the way you think, feel and behave in the presence of others and give you amazing insight on the intentions and behaviors of others. If you have any questions about the course, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at micheal.huff@canyons.edu. Please write Psych 109 in the subject line of the e-mail message or I may not respond. I generally respond to properly identified emails within 48 hours. I’ll “see” you online June 16.

Sincerely,

Micheal Huff

Micheal.huff@canyons.edu