

**Roger Williams University
Fall 2015**

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CORE 103 Perspectives in Human Behavior
Section.15 M,W& F. 11:00AM - 11:50AM
M,T,Th 12 – 2pm

<http://www.chrismenton.com/>

Course Description

A study of “the individual in society,” this course draws from areas such as literature, psychology, sociology, anthropology, and biology, first to demonstrate the idea that multiple perspectives and frames of reference broaden our understanding of the same behavior, and second, to propose a model for critical thinking about human behavior in general. Students explore the limitations of a single point of view and the benefits of information derived from multiple vantages as they consider key existential questions: Who am I? What can I know? And, based on what I know, how should I act? Readings include classic and contemporary works in the social sciences as well as literary works such as Ibsen’s *An Enemy of the People*. Requires essays, group projects, and encourages attendance at co-curricular events.

Learning Outcomes

- **Students will be able to explain and describe human behavior from various social scientific points of view.**
- **Students will be able to demonstrate increased awareness of human diversity utilizing the concept of friendship.**
- **Student will examine the characteristics of human habit to the extent that will provide habit shaping options**
Student will consider the human choices regarding discounting behavior

Required Text

1. Racing Across the Lines: Changing Race Relations Through Friendship Paperback
by Deborah L. Plummer **Publisher:** Pilgrim Press; Pap/DVD Re edition (November 30, 2009)

2. The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business Paperback – January 7, 2014 by Charles Duhigg
Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint edition (January 7, 2014)

3. The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil Paperback – January 22, 2008 by Philip Zimbardo
Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint edition (January 22, 2008)

Course Requirements

Grading:	How to find a friend	= 5%
	Group responsibility	= 15%
	Ten test questions	= 10%
	Forum posting	= 10%
	Quizzes	= 20%
	Meaningful query	= 20%
	Final	= 20%

Course Expectations

Attendance - Class participation and, therefore, attendance is required. Three unexcused absences are a lot. Four or more unexcused absences place a student in danger of failing the course or needing to submit additional work. Excused absences are rare.

Class Participation - All students are expected to come to class each session prepared to discuss the assigned readings and participate in class discussions, debates and exercises. Note that the quality of participation is more important than the quantity.

Reading Assignments - Follow the schedule and find the time to do the reading prior to class.

Student Issues - Submit only your own or properly cited work. All work needs to be submitted on due dates. Inform me as soon as possible of other issues you may have, such as diagnosed learning needs, medical or family emergencies, and the host of other legitimate issues that may arise.

A. Information on tutorial services;

- Tutorial Support Services (TSS), located on the second floor of the University Library within the Center for Academic Development, provides peer and faculty tutoring at no charge for all RWU students. The Math, Writing, Science, and Foreign Language Centers offer assistance Monday – Thursday 9 am – 8 pm; Friday 9 am – 3 pm; Sunday 2 pm – 8 pm. For additional information about the Center, including tutor schedules, please see our website at <http://rwu.edu/go/tss>.

B. The Following statement of the RWU Policy on disability accommodations;

- Students who wish to receive academic accommodations for this course must first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in order to begin the accommodation process. The SAS office will provide registered students with the specific information they will need to share with each instructor. SAS is located on the second floor of the Main University Library and is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Please note Student Accessibility Services was previously known as Disability Support Services. Website: <http://rwu.edu/academics/academic-services/sas/current-students>

C. Policy on academic integrity; Please consult the link and omit cynical thinking that give you permission to lower your personal worth standards

- <http://rwu.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-standards>

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D.

- You are required to cite material from outside sources, please follow APA 7th edition. Other write aids are included on the course bridges site
- <http://rwu.libguides.com/citingsources>

Classroom E-decorum;

The use of electronic devices in the classroom need to be for course related activities i.e. taking notes, discrediting the instructor with more credible information, offering specific perspectives or definitions ...

Electronics in the classroom used for non-course related activities will denigrate the quality of discourse distract others and diminish the offending individual's participation grade. Please see http://iacis.org/iis/2013/321_iis_2013_452-462.pdf

Course Schedule CORE 103

Required readings PRIOR to the session they are examined is the minimum expected

You are urged to investigate related academic sources to enhance

Week 1 – Aug 26	Course introductions and overview grouping
Week 2 – Aug 31	What it takes to be your friend? Read Plummer all pages through pg 14
Week 3 - Sept. 7	Who is a friend? From your assigned perspective Read Plummer chapters 1 through 6
Week 4 - Sept. 14	Friend process journal Read Plummer chapters 7 through 12
Week 5 - Sept. 21	Individual Habits Read Duhigg cover through chapter 3
Week 6 – Sept 28	Habits of Organizations Read Duhigg chapters 4 & 5
Week 7 - Oct. 5	Habits of Organizations cont' Read Duhigg chapters 6 & 7
Week 8 – Oct. 13	Habits of Society Read Duhigg chapters 8 & 9 and readers guide p287
Week 9- Oct. 19	Situational transformation Read Zimbardo cover through chapter 2
Week 10- Oct. 26	Degrading rituals Read Zimbardo chapters 3 & 4
Week 11 - Nov. 2	Control, the opposite Read Zimbardo chapters 5 & 6
Week 12 - Nov. 9	Cannot go Read Zimbardo chapters 7 & 8
Week 13 – Nov. 17	Character transformation Read Zimbardo chapters 9 & 10
Week 14 Nov. 24	Ethics and investigation Read Zimbardo chapters 11 & 12
Week 15 Dec. 1	Recent history Read Zimbardo chapters 13 & 14
Week 16 Dec 7	Resolution Read Zimbardo chapters 15 & 16
Final Exam	

Assignments with the exception forum posts Please post all assignments on the course bridges page in .doc, .docx or .rtf format for review purposes

How to find/make a friend? = 5% Write a short piece about making a new friend or new friends. From assigned reading, "reflect on your friendship history (*the successes*) : your childhood friends, friends during adolescence... What has been the basis for forming these" bonds? What elements help you feel safe enough to risk a new beginning in a friendship? How does your experience and elements inform as you are in an opportunity to be a friend to another? Apply intentionality to whatever development of friendships you do this semester. **The first part of this assignment is due beginning of week two.**

Quizzes = 20% You are expected to do the readings prior to attending class on the week the particular reading was assigned. Therefore 7 unannounced quizzes will ask a few short questions about the reading that week. These will be simple information questions. In fact you are invited to submit question to me on the quizzes by fulfilling the next assignment.

Ten test quality questions. = 10% What you genuinely see as valid material for this course is important, therefore each student is responsible to develop 10 questions based on the readings that can be used for a quiz, study guide and on exams. Question construction can be tricky. Ask yourself what is important about what you just read, then put it in the form of a question (just like on Jeopardy). **(Give the answer and page number please.)** I want these questions to cover the breadth of the course and therefore they need to meet the following requirements. Most of the questions you submit should be multiple choice. A small portion can be short essays. Opinion questions, questions with incorrect answers, and true and false, will not be accepted. Questions that are too easy or too complex will be returned for adjustment. You may turn in only one question per week. At least 5 are due by mid semester. Start

Forum posting = 10% Each student will generate a series of posts in the course forum in Bridges the University's course software. <https://bridges.rwu.edu/> Please post early so your queries, question, observations and such so your input can be considered in that week.

Group responsibility = 15% Collaboration required/ encouraged details provided after the sorting hat exercise.

Meaningful query = 20% Please prepare a report regarding an aspect of human behavior you deem worthy of investigation. More details to follow

Final = 20%

