**Paper Assignment #2: Analysis of the film *Crash* (2004 – Director Paul Haggis) using social psychological concepts and theories**

Your paper should be 5-6 double-spaced typed pages using Times New Roman 12 point font. **This paper is due Monday, May 7 by 5:00pm.** Submit your paper on CANVAS. Hard copies will not be accepted. You will lose 25% of your grade for every 24 hours the paper is late.

**Description:**

The purpose of the final paper is to use the concepts and theories from class and the book to analyze the film *Crash*. Write an analytical paper explaining the ways that social psychological concepts or theories you have learned about throughout the semester can be used to understand and analyze *Crash*.

1. Clearly describe the overall theme of the movie, giving enough background information on it for someone who does not know much about the topic to understand what the movie is about (2-3 sentences).

2. Identify *at least 6 different psychological principles* that appear to be operating in the events or individuals depicted in the film (e.g., self-fulfilling prophecy, conformity, modern racism, hindsight bias, etc) from *Crash* that relate to our discussion about topics such as social influence, social cognition, aggression, prejudice, discrimination, pro-social behavior, group dynamics, etc.

(a) briefly describe the relevant scene (you may assume that your reader has seen the film).

(b) describe **in detail** the psychological concept/principle/theory you believe is relevant. Your job here is to demonstrate that you understand the concept/principle/theory, and that you can describe it in your own words. An occasional quote from your text or another source is fine, but for the most part, you should be conveying your knowledge without the aid of others’ words. You don’t need to do library research for this – using your text or your lecture notes as resources is fine – but remember the rules about avoiding plagiarism! Again, show me that you have a good understanding of the concept/principle/theory. It’s best if you are specific about the principles you discuss. For example, don’t just indicate that your scene illustrates conformity. Instead, indicate what specific concept, theory, or aspect of conformity that your scene illustrates. It's very important that you do more than simply say something like “this scene illustrates conformity." You must be specific on precisely how and in what form the scene illustrates conformity, or how it fails to support what you learned about conformity in class.

(c) elaborate on how the selected scene illustrates the principle you have identified. Provide examples of whether the selected scene either confirms or disconfirms evidence from our discussions in class and/or readings. It’s also ok to write about how a scene might fails to follow predictions derived from the psychological principle or theory. Where possible, make reference to how your scene maps onto specific research findings (for example, describe how the scene is similar to or different from relevant experiments we’ve discussed in class or that you’ve read about).

3. Provide a conclusion for your paper and your analysis of the movie (2-3 sentences)

4. Make sure to clearly describe your analysis of the movie in regards to the concepts or theories we learned in class/from the book. You must clearly explain how social psychological theory and research findings helps to explain, understand, and analyze the event/issue/situation from *Crash.* Grammar is important, so please spell check and proofread your papers!