Unit 3 Paper Assignment
Psychology 100-02, Fall 2011

LENGTH: 600 words *maximum*
DUE: Friday 12/16 by 4:30pm in my department mailbox
WORTH: 10% of your grade.

In discussion this week, we discussed an "update" to the original Stanford Prison Experiment. Since the golden age of the classic studies in social psychology in the 1950s-1970s, there have been many such attempts to replicate and extend the originals. If the "updates" are well done, the results are always worth thinking about. Either they seem to directly replicate and support the original results (which you might interpret as telling us something 'fundamental' about human social behavior across time and culture) or, as we saw on Monday, they have intriguingly different results, and the question becomes 'why?".

Your assignment is to find an update to another classic study in social psychology.
Some good options: the Sherif study, the Asch study, or the Milgram study.
(If you would like to use another classic study, please run it by me first.)
The update can have been done in an academic setting or a non-academic setting (e.g., a TV show), as long as the attempt was seriously done and reasonably rigorous.
You may need to recruit help from a reference librarian to track down a good update.

The first half (or less) of your paper should introduce the update and summarize its results. Please provide me with some sort of documentation of these results, either as a URL where I can find them myself or stapled to your paper. The rest of your paper should be a careful analysis of why the results were the same as, or were different from, those of the original study. You don't have much space here, so you'll need to be very concise, but use our discussion on Monday as a model: what factors in the design of the update differentiated it from the original? If the results differed, which factors are more plausible as an explanation, and what factors are less plausible or can be essentially ruled out? If the results were the same, what is it safe (vs. still premature) to conclude?

Grading criteria will be primarily focused on the sophistication of your analysis, but as always I will be paying attention to mechanics and style as well. Please ask a trusted friend/classmate to **proofread** your paper if I have noted errors of spelling, grammar, etc. on your first two unit papers.