

## Assignment #3:

- 1.) The Milgram study was focused on the conflict between obedience to authority versus personal conscience. Stanley Milgram's obedience study was inspired by his research on the justifications and reasoning that soldiers gave when questioned about their part in genocides committed during times of war. Milgram's study was designed to study how far a person would go under the command of an authority figure and at what point a person would start to question the authority and what finally causes the person to question that authority.
- 2.) There are a few benefits to Milgram's study. His study questioned a rather touchy topic and provided a live demonstration of how far a person will go when under the instruction of authority. In this case, almost 70% of participants obeyed to the XXX level of shocks, blindly following the instruction of the authority in the room. The study also showed when whether or not the authority figure commanded something questionable in morality with the potential to harm or endanger another person came in question. When complaints came from the other room, many of the participants began to hesitate and question the study. Participants began to question who would be held responsible for any side effects or risks/results from the study in order to ensure that they are free from blame. Not many studies have been able to analyze and observe this kind of behavior due to the questionable manner in which experiments with these questions are designed. Some drawbacks to Milgram's study were most definitely apparent, as well. Milgram's study

was designed in a way that was technically unethical. The study did not properly warn or inform the participants of potential risks to their own mental/emotional health from the outcomes of the study and what was required of the participants in the study. Since the study questioned an unknown facet in human nature and man's capability to follow orders at the expense of others, the resulting knowledge threatened the stability and state of mind of each of the participants. This is one MAJOR drawback that directly questions the ethical responsibility of the study.

3.) In my research design, I would warn the participants that the study could lead to new knowledge or confirmation of theories concerning the ability of man to follow orders at the expense of others. I would also inform the participants that nobody will be harmed in my study. This may make it slightly more difficult to conduct the experiment, but since I would still not fully disclose the complete reality of the study in order to keep the participants honest and real and that way my data would still be accurate. Milgram gave no real warning to the side effects of his study concerning man's capabilities under the instruction of others. My study would also allow for participants to quit at any point in the study that they feel uncomfortable or unstable. This would force me to recruit more participants. Milgram did not allow people to quit in his study.

4.) My warnings and slight disclosure in the purpose of my study would prepare the participants in a way that Milgram's study did not. Also, by providing the participants with a way out, I think that this will encourage the participants to continue with the study and will cause fewer repercussions.

5.) My design and Milgram's design are almost identical except for a few minor additions of warnings and a way out, therefore my study still questions the limits to

which man is willing to go under the instruction of an authority figure, and I would also be able to document the point in the study at which the participant starts questioning the authority and the reason behind his or her sudden hesitance and insecurity.