

Social Psychology II:  
Interpersonal Processes  
Psychology 457G TLN: 3298  
Spring 1987

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Office hours: T, Th 1-2 and by appt.

Texts: Forsyth, D. R. An Introduction to Group Dynamics; Brooks/Cole,  
Monterey, CA: 1983.

Reading packet at Kinko's.

On the attached syllabus readings in Forsyth are labelled "Forsyth";  
readings in the reading packet are labelled "Readings".

This course is concerned primarily with the study of individuals interacting in groups of two or more. While we will be discussing topics of importance to disciplines such as law and business, this is not a course in applied social psychology. Many of the topics covered in this course have been researched by both psychologists and sociologists (and often by anthropologists, cognitive scientists, management theorists, etc.); hence, we will draw on the literature of several different disciplines. However, psychological research will be the basis for this course.

Course Requirements

Undergraduates: You will be required to participate in three small group sessions during the course. During each session a short group-behavior demonstration experiment will be conducted. You will be either a subject in the experiment, or an observer, or both. After each experiment, you are to write a brief (around 5-8 page) paper in standard APA research paper format (introduction, method, results, discussion) describing your observations and any insights you may have had as well as noting the purpose of the exercise and citing the relevant literature (I am assuming that you have completed the departmental statistics and research methods courses). These papers will be due one (1) week after the exercise. Late papers will be severely penalized. On May 28, 1987, there will be a final examination consisting of short answer and essay questions. The essay questions will be taken from a larger set of study questions which will be distributed earlier.

Graduates: You will be required to lead Three small group sessions during the course. This will involve meeting with me prior to the session and doing a little (not much) preparation. This is meant to give you an opportunity to both conduct a little research and practice working with groups. The undergraduate students in your group will be asked to comment on your performance at the end of the quarter, but these comments will be for your use only (just as you will not be involved with grading the undergraduates in the course). Also, you will be required to write a term paper on a subject in the field of group behavior, broadly defined, due on May 21, 1987. You must have the topic of this paper approved by me prior to April 28, 1987. Finally, you will be required to take the final examination described above.

## Syllabus

- 4/2    Introduction  
      Group Formation & Influence P + 1  
      Forsyth Ch. 1, 3, 5        Readings #1, 2, 6, 7, 11
- 4/7    Group Formation & Influence P + 2  
      Methods for studying groups  
      Forsyth Ch. 2
- 4/9    Exercise 1 (Interaction coding)
- 4/14   Task Groups: Problem Solving  
      Forsyth Ch. 6, 14
- 4/16   Decision-making 1 [EXERCISE 1 DUE]  
      Readings #5, 9        Forsyth Ch. 12; pp. 440-447
- 4/21   Decision-making 2
- 4/23   Exercise 2 (Communication)
- 4/28   Performance  
      Forsyth pp. 448-453        Readings #3
- 4/30   Planning & Creativity [EXERCISE 2 DUE]  
      Readings #4
- 5/5    Conflict & Conflict Resolution: Social Dilemmas  
      Forsyth Ch. 4, 13        Readings #16
- 5/7    Exercise 3 (Problem Solving)
- 5/12   Bargaining
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- 5/14   Social Influence [EXERCISE 3 DUE]
- 5/19   Collective Behavior: Crowds & Riots  
      Forsyth Ch. 7, 8, 11        Readings #15
- 5/21   Cults & Mass Movements [TERM PAPERS DUE]  
      Forsyth Ch. 9        Readings #12, 13, 14
- 5/26   Deindividuation
- 5/28   Final Examination