

Social Psychology II
Interpersonal Processes
Psychology 457G TLN:4231
Spring 1988

Dr. Robert Mauro
311 Straub
686-4917

T.A.: Chris Winter
272 Straub
686-4964

Office Hours: TuTh 11:00-12:30 & by appt.

Texts:

D. Forsyth, (1983). An Introduction to Group Dynamics; Brooks/Cole, Monterey, CA.

Reading packet available at Kinko's (articles identified on the syllabus by author's last name).

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 four 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 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 at the times noted on the syllabus (approximately one week after the exercise). At the end of the course, there will be a final examination consisting of both multiple choice and short answer/essay questions taken from a larger set of study questions which will be distributed about one week before the final.

Graduates: You will be required to lead four 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 June 2, 1988. You must have the topic of this paper approved by me prior to April 26, 1988. Finally, you will be required to take the final examination described above.

Grading:

Undergraduates: Each paper will be worth 30 points. The final will be worth 80 points. Late papers lose 1 point for each day that they are late. To obtain an A in the course you must accumulate 170 points, a B - 150 points, a C - 130 points, and a D - 110 points. To obtain a P you must accumulate 70 points.

Graduates: The term paper and the final are each worth 50% of the course grade.

- | | |
|------|--|
| 3/31 | Introduction
Forsyth Ch. 1 |
| 4/5 | Methods for studying groups
Forsyth Ch. 2
Group Formation & Influence
Forsyth Ch. 3 & 5; Festinger, Schachter & Bach; Gerard & Mathewson; McGrath (Social Interaction...) |
| 4/7 | Exercise I |
| 4/12 | Group Formation & Influence
Forsyth Ch. 9
Newcomb |
| 4/14 | Exercise II (Exercise I due) |
| 4/19 | Problem Solving
Forsyth Ch. 6 & 14 |
| 4/21 | Decision-making
Forsyth Ch. 12; Cartwright
Wallach, Kogan, & Bem; McGrath (Decision making...)
Forsyth pp 440-447 |
| 4/26 | Exercise III (Exercise II due) |
| 4/28 | Decision-making |
| 5/3 | Planning & Creativity
Dunnette, Campbell, & Jaastad
Diehl & Strobe |
| 5/5 | Exercise IV (Exercise III due) |
| 5/10 | Performance
Forsyth pp 448-453
Zajonc |
| 5/12 | Clinical Applications
Forsyth Ch. 16 |
| 5/17 | Social Dilemmas
Forsyth Ch. 4 & 13 (Exercise IV due)
Messick & Brewer |

5/19	Bargaining	
5/24	Social Influence Forsyth Ch. 7; Freedman	
5/26	Mass movements/ Cults Forsyth Ch. 8 Festinger; Johnson	
5/31	Crowds & Riots Forsyth Ch. 11	
6/2	Deindividuation Mann	
6/7	FINAL EXAMINATION	10:15 AM

Short Paper Grading Criteria

Abstract

Is the problem stated clearly, the results summarized, and their implications stated? (1)

Introduction

Is the relevant literature (from the text and readings) discussed? (2)
Are the experimental hypotheses logically and clearly derived from this literature? (2)

Method

Are the experimental procedures described so that someone without any other source of information would be able to replicate the experiment? (3)

Results

Are the results described in a clear and non-evaluative fashion both in numerical form and in words? (3)

Discussion

Are the implications of the results for the experimental hypotheses stated clearly and correctly? (2)
Are the implications of the results and experimental hypotheses for broader questions discussed clearly and logically? (2)