

Syllabus---Fall 1994
Psychology 457/557
Group Processes
MWF 9 - 9:50
146 Straub

Dr. Carene Davis-Stitt
Office: 346 Straub
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Office Hours: MW 1:00-3:00
& by appointment

This course will focus on the study of individuals interacting in groups of two or more. Social scientists study group processes because within all organizations and social systems, and across all walks of life, groups are the fundamental setting in which things get done. Researchers in several disciplines (i.e., anthropologists, cognitive scientists, management and communication theorists, and sociologists) have studied the topics we will cover, therefore, this course will also draw from those literatures. The primary basis for this course, however, will be psychological research.

Text: Required

D. Forsyth, (1990). An Introduction to Group Dynamics (2nd Ed.).
Monterey, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Additional readings in packet available at bookstore. Required

Course Requirements

This is a graduate/advanced undergraduate course. You will be expected to be able to read and to write at that level.

Undergraduates

Your participation is required in several small group sessions during the course, in which short group behavior demonstrations will be conducted. You will be required to write a brief report (5-6 pages) in APA style following two of those sessions. You will also be asked to do a brief critical thinking writing exercise during certain class sessions.

There will be a midterm and a cumulative final examination consisting of multiple choice questions and short answer/essay questions taken from a larger set of study questions which will be given out in class about one week before each examination.

Grading

The small papers will each be worth 10 points. The writing exercises will be worth a total of 10 points. The midterm will be worth 30 points and the final will be worth 40 points, for a total of 100 points. To obtain an A in the course you must accumulate 90 points; a B -- 80 points, a C -- 70 points, and a D -- 60 points. To obtain a P you must accumulate 65 points.

Graduates

You will be required to lead and/or assist with the small group sessions during the course, which will involve meeting with me prior to the session and doing some preparation. Also, you will be required to write a term paper on a subject in the field of group behavior, due on 11/23/94. You must have the topic of this paper approved by me prior to 10/28/94. You will also be required to take the final examination described above.

Grading

The term paper is worth 60% and the final is worth 40% of the course grade.

*****IMPORTANT DATES*****

Wed 10/7 Exercise I small group process (participation required).
Fri 10/10 Data Analysis for Exercise I and Assignment distributed.
Fri 10/17 Paper due for Exercise I.
Fri 10/28 MIDTERM
Mon 10/31 Exercise II small group process (participation required).
Wed 11/2 Data Analysis for Exercise II and Assignment distributed.
Fri 11/11 Paper due for Exercise II.
Mon 12/5 FINAL EXAM 10:15 - 12:15

I'm looking forward to a stimulating, rewarding, and successful teaching/learning experience this term. I hope you are too!

Mon	9/26	Introduction Forsyth Ch. 1
Wed	9/28	Group Formation Forsyth Ch. 3
Fri	9/30	Development & Socialization Forsyth Ch. 4
Mon	10/3	Group Structure Forsyth Ch. 5
Wed	10/5	Methods for studying groups Forsyth Ch. 2 Heyns & Zander
Fri	10/7	Exercise I
Mon	10/10	Performance Forsyth Ch. 9
Wed	10/12	Leadership Forsyth Ch. 8
Fri	10/14	Conformity and Influence Forsyth Ch. 6
Mon	10/17	Conformity and Influence (cont.) EXERCISE I paper due
Wed	10/19	Power Forsyth Ch. 7 Study questions distributed
Fri	10/21	Decision-Making---Defective Forsyth Ch. 10
Mon	10/24	Decision-Making---Effective
Wed	10/26	Problem Solving Review for midterm
Fri	10/28	MIDTERM

Mon	10/31	Exercise II
Wed	11/2	Communication Leavitt Forsyth pg. 129-133
Fri	11/4	Social Conflict Forsyth Ch. 12 & 13
Mon	11/7	Intragroup conflict & social dilemmas Messick & Brewer
Wed	11/9	Intergroup conflict Rothbart
Fri	11/11	Environmental Processes Forsyth Ch. 11 EXERCISE II paper due
Mon	11/14	Conflict Resolution
Wed	11/16	Bargaining, Negotiation, & Coalition Formation
Fri	11/18	Mass movements and cults
Mon	11/21	Mass movements and cults (cont.)
Wed	11/23	Mass movements and cults (cont.) Study Questions distributed
Fri	11/25	Thanksgiving break---no class
Mon	11/28	Collective Behavior: Crowds & Riots Forsyth Ch. 14
Wed	11/30	Collective Behavior: Deindividuation
Fri	12/2	Collective Behavior (cont.) Review for Final exam
Mon	12/5 10:15 - 12:15	FINAL EXAM