

Social Psychology (SOCI 112)

Classroom: Mandeville B-150

Class Hrs: 09:30-10:50 TuTH

Prof Office Hrs: Thursdays 12:30-02:00p (Office)

TA Office Hrs: M 02:00-04:00 (Zoom • calendly.com/mjk002/office-hours)

Professor: Dr. Richard N. Pitt

497 Social Sciences Bldg

rpitt@ucsd.edu

Teaching Assistant: Min Ji Kim

mjk002@ucsd.edu

www.majorsmatter.net/socpsy

"Our sense of being a person can come from being drawn into a wide social unit; our sense of selfhood can arise through the little ways in which we resist the pull. Our status is backed by the solid buildings of the world, while our sense of personal identity often resides in the cracks." Erving Goffman

So, I guess we are who we are for a lot of reasons. And maybe we'll never know most of them. But even if we don't have the power to choose where we come from, we can still choose where we go from there. We can still do things. And we can try to feel okay about them." Steven Chbosky

COURSE DESCRIPTION. How do we come to see ourselves as individuals, and how do social forces shape our perceptions, attitudes, and interactions? This course provides a sociological approach to social psychology, emphasizing how the self, emotions, and cognition are socially constructed. We will begin with micro-level theories such as symbolic interactionism and then move to meso-level perspectives such as exchange theory, and status expectations states theory. The course will also examine the intersections of social psychology with larger social structures, including the impact of race, gender, and class on social interactions. Assignments will encourage students to apply theoretical insights to current events and personal experiences.

TEXTS. All assigned readings will be articles made available to you in course reserves. You can access them in Canvas (under "Course Reserves"). You can also find them by clicking on the book icon on the course webpage. You will be responsible for reading each article assigned and write memos (see point B in grading) for two of them each week. Undergraduate students are conventionally expected to complete 2-3 hours of out-of-class coursework for *every hour in class . . . really*. [I know. Stop laughing!] Research on reading speeds shows that undergrads average about 250-300 words per minute for recognition of the material content. The average 20-page article assigned in this course is about 12500 words and should take you about an hour to read carefully and 30 minutes to skim. As you'll see below, you will be required to outline these articles; that will add an additional 30-45 minutes. Therefore, I fully expect that you should be able to read/outline the articles each week. If you find it difficult to manage this level of work, please let me know and we can discuss some techniques for increasing your reading/skimming speed.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING. Other than the quizzes and the final examination, your grade in this class will be based on your completion of assignments, not "mastery" of material. In order to learn the material we will cover in this class, I need you to complete all of the assignments. Each journal and article memo will be marked as "done" or "not done", not "correct" or "incorrect". These assignments are opportunities to explore, engage with, and challenge ideas raised in the class. Complete them. Each of you starts with an "A" (600 points) and you move down from there. The buffer for each letter grade is 60 points (10%). Pluses and minuses are earned in the 20 point margins at the top/bottom of the letter grade range. The course requirements include attendance (8%), article memos (17%), weekly response essays (25%), and quizzes and a final examination (50%).

Course Schedule

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Week Of March 31 Introduction To Class

Stolte, John F, Gary Alan Fine, and Karen Cook. 2001. "Sociological Miniaturism: Seeing the Big through the Small in Social Psychology." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27:387-413.

Thoits, Peggy. 1995. "Social Psychology: The Interplay between Sociology and Psychology." *Social Forces* 73:1231-1243.

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM AND IDENTITY THEORIES

Week Of April 07 Symbolic Interactionism

Garner, Betsie, and David Grazian. 2016. "Naturalizing Gender Through Childhood Socialization Messages in a Zoo." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 79:181-198.

Goffman, Alice. 2019. "Go To More Parties? Social Occasions as Home to Unexpected Turning Points in Life Trajectories." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 82:51-74.

Week Of April 14 Self and Self-Esteem (QUIZ)

Khanna, Nikki. 2010. "If You're Half Black, You're Just Black: Reflected Appraisals and the Persistence of the One-Drop Rule." *The Sociological Quarterly* 51:96-121.

Milkie, Melissa. 1999. "Social Comparisons, Reflected Appraisals and Mass Media: The Impact of Pervasive Beauty Images on Black and White Girls' Self-Concepts." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 62:190-210.

Week Of April 21 The Self In Action

Bonsu, Samuel. 2007. "The Presentation of Dead Selves in Everyday Life: Obituaries and Impression Management." *Symbolic Interaction* 30:199-219.

Trautner, Mary Nell, and Jessica Collett. 2011. "Students Who Strip: The Benefits of Alternate Identities for Managing Stigma." *Symbolic Interaction* 33:257-279.

Wei, Junhow. 2016. "'I'm the Next American Idol': Cooling out, Accounts, and Perseverance at Reality Talent Show Auditions." *Symbolic Interaction* 39:3-25.

COGNITION AND EMOTION THEORIES

Week Of April 28 Cognition, Schema, and Stigma (QUIZ)

Granberg, Ellen. 2011. "'Now My Old Self Is Thin': Stigma Exits after Weight Loss." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 74:29-52.

Pitt, Richard. 2010. "Killing the Messenger: Gay Black Men's Neutralization of Anti-Gay Religious Messages." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49:56-72.

Week Of May 05 Affect and Emotions

Gengler, Amanda. 2020. "Emotions and Medical Decision-Making." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 83:174-194.

Harlow, Roxanna. 2003. "Race Doesn't Matter, But . . .: The Effect of Professors' Experiences and Emotion Management in the Undergraduate College Classroom." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 66:348-363.

Torres, Mauricio, Mary Cannito-Coville, and Dalia Rodriguez. 2017. "Trayvon Revisited: Race, Fear, and Affect in the Death of Trayvon Martin." *Sociological Forum* 32:1112-1126.

GROUP PROCESS THEORIES

Week Of May 12 Equity, Justice, and Legitimation (QUIZ)

Caleo, Suzette. 2016. "When Distributive Justice and Gender Stereotypes Coincide: Reactions to Equity and Equality Violations." *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* 48:257-268.

Schieman, Scott, Leah Ruppanner, and Melissa Milkie. 2018. "Who Helps with Homework? Parenting Inequality and Relationship Quality among Employed Mothers and Fathers." *Journal of Family Economic Issues* 39:49-65.

Week Of May 19 Social Exchange Relationships

Donnelly, Denise, and Elisabeth Burgess. 2008. "The Decision to Remain in an Involuntarily Celibate Relationship." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 70:519-535.

Whitham, Monica, and Hannah Clarke. 2016. "Getting is Giving: Time Banking as Formalized Generalized Exchange." *Sociology Compass* 10:87-97

Week Of May 26 Status Expectations and Group Processes (QUIZ • No Class On Thursday)

Pedulla, David. 2014. "The Positive Consequences of Negative Stereotypes: Race, Sexual Orientation, and the Job Application Process." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 77:75-94.

Rivera, Lauren. 2010. "Status Distinctions in Interaction: Social Selection and Exclusion in an Elite Nightclub." *Qualitative Sociology* 33:229-255

COURSE WRAP-UP

Week Of June 02 Article Reviews

No Readings This Week. We Will Engage In A Deep-Dive Review Of Your Favorite Articles.