

Sociology 3020, Social Psychology
Spring 2013
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 - 1:50pm
Dixie State College of Utah

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday 11:00am - 12:00pm

The Course:

Sociology is the study of human social interaction and structure. Psychology is the study of individuals and individual behavior. Social Psychology, then, is the study of individual behaviors, their relationships to social interaction and structure, and the influences of interaction and structure on individual behavior. We will see that social psychologists go about understanding behaviors in a systematic fashion via empirical observations - they are scientists. By the end of the course you will have an understanding of people as symbol using creatures with selves, of symbols as the creations of humans with each other, and of society as the result of a multitude of meaningful human interactions.

Course Objectives:

Students completing social psychology should:

- demonstrate an ability to identify the ideas, people, and events that are generally thought to be important by social psychologists;
- demonstrate an understanding of social psychology as a scientific discipline (i.e. the gathering and analyzing of empirical data in a systematic fashion);
- demonstrate an understanding of symbolic interactionism as a major theoretical perspective of a sociological social psychology;
- demonstrate an understanding of objects, symbols, self, mind, and society as the major concepts used by symbolic interactionists for understanding human behaviors;
- demonstrate and ability to apply the above symbolic interactionist concepts to specific empirical arenas.

Texts:

Charon, Joel M. *Symbolic Interactionism*. Prentice Hall.

O'Brien, Jodi. *The Production of Reality*. Pine Forge Press.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on four Field Essays and three Content Essays. Each essay will be worth roughly 14% of your final grade.

Field Essays:

You will write four Field Essays in which you will apply concepts from our readings and class discussions to observations you make of a specific interactional arena. I will make available a Field Essay assignment on January 20; your essays are due in class on February 1, March 1, April 3, and April 26.

LATE ESSAYS WILL BE MARKED DOWN ONE FULL GRADE.

Content Essays:

You will write three Content Essays based exclusively on concepts from our readings and class discussions. I will make available Content Essay assignments on February 1, March 8, and April 17. Essays are due on February 8, March 22, and April 24.

LATE ESSAYS WILL BE MARKED DOWN ONE FULL GRADE.

Attendance:

Attendance is not mandatory, though expected. I lecture on material not from the texts. There will be elements of the essays that are not from the texts. If you miss class you risk missing information important for the essays.

NOTE: I reserve the right to (a) adjust individual grades based on my evaluation of your participation and enthusiasm in the course and (b) make changes to the syllabus during the course if I feel it will benefit the class.

ANOTHER NOTE: You must complete all essays to pass this class.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE POLICY: Academic dishonesty in any form, including, but not limited to, plagiarism on written assignments, submitting other person's work as one's own, and cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated at Dixie State College of Utah.

Teachers at Dixie State College of Utah have the right to manage their classroom environments to ensure a good learning climate.

Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

Important class and college information will be sent to your dmail email account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a dmail email account. If you do not know your user name and password, go to www.dixie.edu and select "dmail" for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your dmail email, so please check it often.

Course Schedule

Week & Topics

Readings

Week #1

January 7-11

Review of Sociology

Week #2

January 14-18

Perspectives

Realities and Truths

Charon, Ch. 1

O'Brien, "What is

Real?," 1, & 3

Field Essay Assignment available, Wednesday, January 16

Week #3

January 21-25

Perspectives of Social Science

The Perspective of Symbolic Interactionism

Charon, Chs. 2 & 3

No School, Monday, January 21

Week #4

January 28-February 1

The Meaning of Symbols

The Importance of the Symbol

Charon, Chs. 4 & 5

Field Essay #1 Due, Friday, February 1

Content Essay #1 Assignment available, Friday, February 1

Week #5

February 4-8

Humans as Symbol Using Creatures

O'Brien, "Shared

Meaning as the Basis of

Humanness," 7 & 9

Content Essay #1 Due, Friday, February 8

Week #6

February 11-15

The Self

Charon, Ch. 6

Week #7

February 18-22

Social Selves

O'Brien, 11, 12, & 18

No School, Monday, February 18

Week #8

February 25-March 1

Mind
Field Essay #2 Due, Friday, March 1

Charon, Ch. 7

Week #9
 March 4-8
 Taking the Role of the Other

Charon, Ch. 8
 O'Brien, 22

Content #2 Assignment available, Friday, March 8

Week X
 March 11-15
No School

Week #10
 March 18-22
 Human Action
 Social Interaction

Charon, Chs. 9 & 10

Content Essay #2 Due, Friday, March 22

Week #11
 March 25-29
 Social Order

O'Brien, "Meaning is Negotiated through Interaction," 20, 23, & 27

Week #12
 April 1-5
 Society
 Erving Goffman

Charon, Chs. 11 & 12

Field Essay #3 Due, Wednesday, April 3

Week #13
 April 8-12
 Social Construction of Reality

O'Brien, "Building and Breaching Reality," & 31

Week #14
 April 15-19
 Ambiguity, Complexity, and Conflict

O'Brien, "Boundaries and Contradictions," & 39

Make Content Essay #3 Assignment available, Wednesday, April 17

Week #15
 April 22 & 24
 Studies and Applications of Symbolic Interactionism

Charon, Ch. 13

Last Class, Wednesday, April 24
Content Essay #3 Due, Wednesday, April 24

Friday, April 26
Field Essay #4 Due No Later Than 2:00pm