

# Topics in Social Interaction: Contemporary Social Psychological Theories (SOCL 7691)

---

Louisiana State University, Department of Sociology  
Fall 2016  
Thursday, 9am-11:30am  
26 Stubbs Hall

Instructor: Dr. Mark H. Walker  
Office: 11 Stubbs Hall  
E-mail: [mwalk67@lsu.edu](mailto:mwalk67@lsu.edu)  
Office Hours: M, F 12-1:30pm or by appointment

## DESCRIPTION

---

This course will provide a broad overview of the field of sociological social psychology.

## COURSE MATERIALS

---

The required textbook for this course is:

**Burke, Peter J. (editor). 2006. Contemporary Social Psychological Theories. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.**

This text is available for purchase at the University Book Store. You can also purchase the book online.

Other required readings will be posted on the course website.

## REQUIREMENTS

---

Your progress in this course will be evaluated as follows:

- Research grant proposal (40 points)
- Research proposal presentation (15 points)
- Weekly article response (15 points)
- Leading discussion (15 points)
- Participation (15 points)

*Research Grant Proposal.* Students will submit a ten-page (single-spaced, 1- inch margins all around; 12-point Times New Roman font) proposal written in accordance with the National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant format. Further information can be found on the following Web site:

\* <http://nsf.gov/pubs/2001/nsf011113/nsf011113.htm#PREP>

The paper should address some important aspect of sociological social psychology, broadly conceived. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of theoretical perspectives and methodological strategies in developing proposals. Due dates for this requirement are as follows:

- \* **Week 5** – Inform me of a paper topic.
- \* **Week 7** – Draft of the Project Overview and Objectives due in class.
- \* **Week 16** – Final proposal due on Monday, December 5th at 5 pm.

We will also devote some class time to discussing students' proposal ideas as the semester proceeds. The proposal is worth 40 points.

Research Proposal Presentation. Your "final exam" for this class will be a 15-20 minute oral presentation of your research proposal. Powerpoint, overheads, or handouts are recommended. We will schedule each of these presentations in the time allotted for the week of November 30th. The presentation is worth 15 points.

Weekly Article Response. With the exception of Week 1, you will e-mail me a 1 to 2 page summary of the readings by 5 pm on the Tuesday prior to Wednesday's class. The summary will not be an abstract for each article, but rather:

- A brief description of the weekly readings' theme, and how each piece contributes to that theme.
- A brief critique of each piece: what is missing? What is not satisfying? How might you do it better?

These reports are crucial for you to keep up with the readings of the course.

Weekly Discussions of Course Readings/Participation. Students should be ready to discuss the following items for each assigned reading each week.

First, what assumptions or claims do the authors of the article make about the individual? What aspects of the individual (if any) do the authors consider to be of theoretical importance? Second, what assumptions or claims do the authors of the article make about social structure? If the authors address social structure, how do they conceptualize it? And third, what assumptions or claims do the authors make about the relation between the individual and social structure? Discussants should also be prepared to address the following standard issues:

- a. Theoretical contributions and adequacy – What are the main conceptual and theoretical ideas in the piece? Are they adequately developed? How innovative or insightful are the main ideas underlying the paper?
- b. Methodological approach and adequacy (where appropriate) – What is the general methodological strategy or approach taken? Is it appropriate? Is there a good fit between the theory, method, and analysis? Is the empirical analysis well done and thorough?

- c. Contribution to the field – Theoretical? Empirical? Does the paper have a clearly important message? What is it?
- d. Interest value of the piece – To what audience?
- e. The quality of the writing – Is the piece clearly written and pleasurable to read?

*Discussion Leader.* Each person in the class will be required to lead discussion for one week. Discussion leaders should come prepared with thoughtful questions about the assigned readings. The point here is not to lecture or present, but to spark meaningful discussion about the readings. The issues above might be a good jumping-off point for developing your own, more targeted discussion questions.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

---

### **Week 1 (8/25). INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW OF COURSE**

#### **Week 2 (9/1). INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

House, James S. 1977. "The Three Faces of Social Psychology." *Sociometry* 40:2:161-177.

Kalkhoff, Will. "Sociological Social Psychology." Forthcoming in the *Encyclopedia of Social Psychology*, edited by Roy Baumeister and Kathleen D. Vohs. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Thoits, Peggy A. 1995. "Social Psychology: The Interplay between Sociology and Psychology." *Social Forces* 73: 4:1231-1243.

#### **Week 3 (9/8). SOCIAL STRUCTURE**

Cook, Karen S. and Joseph M. Whitmeyer. 1992. "Two Approaches to Social Structure: Exchange Theory and Network Analysis." *Annual Review of Sociology* 18:109-127.

Howard, Judith A. 1994. "A Social Cognitive Conception of Social Structure." *Social Psychology Quarterly*, Special Issue: Conceptualizing Structure in Social Psychology: 210-227.

Chapter 6 in *Self, Symbols, and Society* (Pp. 116-142) – Mead on Self and Society

Sewell, William F. 1992. "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation." *American Journal of Sociology* 98:1-29.

#### **Week 4 (9/15). AGENCY-STRUCTURE & MICRO-MACRO DEBATES**

Collins, Randall. 1981. "On the Microfoundations of Macrosociology." *American Journal of Sociology* 86:5:984-1014.

Coleman, James S. "Social Theory, Social Research, and a Theory of Action." *American Journal of Sociology* 91:6:1309-1335.

Lawler, Edward J., Cecilia Ridgeway, and Barry Markovsky. 1993. "Structural Social Psychology and the Micro-Macro Problem." *Sociological Theory* 11:268-290.

Fuchs, Stephan. 2001. "Beyond Agency." *Sociological Theory* 19:24-40.

### **Week 5 (9/22). SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM**

*Inform me of paper topic*

Chapter 1 in *Contemporary Social Psychological Theories* (Pp. 1-23) – Symbolic Interactionism, George McCall

Chapter 12 in *Self, Symbols, and Society* (Pp. 249-263) – Hebert Blumer on Symbolic Interactionism

Adler, Patricia A. and Peter Adler. 1995. "Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion in Preadolescent Cliques." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 58:3:145-162.

Snow, David A. and Leon Anderson. 1987. "Identity Work among the Homeless: The Verbal Construction and Avowal of Personal Identities." *American Journal of Sociology* 92:6:1336-1371.

### **Week 6 (9/29). IDENTITY THEORY I**

Chapter 5 in *Contemporary Social Psychological Theories* (Pp. 88-110) – Identity Theory, Jan E. Stets

Stryker, Sheldon, and Richard T. Serpe. "Commitment, identity salience, and role behavior: Theory and research example." In *Personality, roles, and social behavior*, pp. 199-218. Springer New York, 1982.

Merolla, D. M., Serpe, R. T., Stryker, S., & Schultz, P. W. 2012. Structural Precursors to Identity Processes: The Role of Proximate Social Structures. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 75.

Walker, Mark and Freda Lynn. 2013. "The Embedded Self: A Social Networks Approach to Identity Theory." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 76:2:151-17.

### **Week 7 (10/6). Fall Break.**

### **Week 8 (10/13). IDENTITY THEORY II**

*Hand in draft of Project Overview and Objectives.*

Burke, Peter J. 1991. "Identity Processes and Social Stress." *American Sociological Review*. 56(6): 836-849.

Stets, Jan E. and Michael J. Carter. 2012. "A Theory of Self for The Sociology of Morality." *American Sociological Review*. 77(1): 120-140.

Burke, Peter J. and Jan E. Stets. 1999. "Trust and Commitment through Self-Verification." *Social Psychology Quarterly*. 62(4): 347-366.

Burke, Peter J. 2006. "Identity Change." *Social Psychology Quarterly*. 69(1): 89-96.

### **Week 9 (10/20) AFFECT CONTROL THEORY**

Chapter 7 in Contemporary Social Psychological Theories (Pp. 137-164) – Affect Control Theory, Dawn T. Robinson and Lynn Smith-Lovin

Robinson, Dawn T. and Lynn Smith-Lovin. 1992. "Selective Interaction as a Strategy for Identity Maintenance: An Affect Control Model." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 55:1:12-28.

Robinson, Dawn T., Lynn Smith-Lovin, and Olga Tsoudis. 1994. "Heinous Crime or Unfortunate Accident? The Effects of Remorse on Responses to Mock Criminal Confessions." *Social Forces* 73:1:175-190.

Kroska, Amy and Sarah Harkness. 2006. "Stigma Sentiments and Self-Meanings: Exploring the Modified Labeling Theory of Mental Illness." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 69:4:325-348.

### **Week 10 (10/27). SOCIAL STRUCTURE & PERSONALITY I**

McLeod, Jane D. and Kathryn J. Lively. 2003. "Social Structure and Personality." Pp. 77-102 in Handbook of Social Psychology, edited by John Delamater. New York: Kluwer-Plenum.

Kohn, Melvin L. and Carmi Schooler. 1982. "Job Conditions and Personality: A Longitudinal Assessment of Their Reciprocal Effects." *American Journal of Sociology*. 87(6): 1257-1286.

Pearlin, Leonard I., Elizabeth G. Menaghan, Morton A. Lieberman, and Joseph T. Mullan. 1981. "The Stress Process." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 22:337-356.

Elder, Glen H., Jr. 1994. "Time, Human Agency, and Social Change: Perspectives on the Life Course." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 57:4-15.

### **Week 11 (11/3). EMOTIONS**

Hochschild, Arlie Russell. 1979. "Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure." *American Journal of Sociology* 85:3:551-575.

Kemper, Theodore D. 1987. "How Many Emotions Are There? Wedding the Social and Autonomic Components." *American Journal of Sociology* 93:2:263-289.

Simon, Robin W. and Leda E. Nath. 2004. "Gender and Emotion in the United States: Do Men and Women Differ in Self-Reports of Feelings and Expressive Behavior?" *American Journal of Sociology* 109:5:1137-1176.

Scheff, Thomas J. 2000. "Shame and the Social Bond: A Sociological Theory." *Sociological Theory* 18:1:84-99.

### **Week 12 (11/10). EXPECTATION STATES THEORY**

Chapter 12 in *Contemporary Social Psychological Theories* (Pp. 268-300) – Expectations, Status, and Behavior, Joseph Berger and Murray Webster, Jr.

Cohen, Elizabeth G. 1982. "Expectation States and Interracial Interaction in School Settings." *Annual Review of Sociology* 8:209-235.

Gerber, Gwendolyn L. 1996. "Status in Same-Gender and Mixed-Gender Police Dyads: Effects on Personality Attributions." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 59:4:350-363.

Dovidio, John F., Clifford E. Brown, Karen Heltman, Steve L. Ellyson, and Caroline F. Keating. 1988. "Power Displays between Men and Women in Discussions of Gender-Linked Tasks: A Multichannel Study." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 55:4:580-587.

### **Week 13 (11/17). POWER & EXCHANGE**

Chapter 2 in *Contemporary Social Psychological Theories* (Pp. 24-45) – The Social Exchange Framework, Linda D. Molm

Blau, Peter. 1964. "Social Exchange." Pp. 88-114 in *Exchange and Power in Social Life*. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Transaction Publishers.

Emerson, Richard M. 1962. "Power-Dependence Relations." *American Sociological Review* 27:1:31-41.

Lovaglia, Michael J. 1999. "Understanding Network Exchange Theory." Pp. 31-59 in Shane R. Thye, Edward J. Lawler, Michael W. Macy, and Henry A. Walker (Eds.), *Advances in Group Processes*, Vol. 16. Stamford, CT: JAI Press.

Markovsky, Barry, David Willer, and Travis Patton. 1988. "Power Relations in Exchange Networks." *American Sociological Review*. 53:220-236.

### **Week 14 (11/24). THANKSGIVING BREAK**

### **Week 15 (12/1). In-Class Presentation of Grant Proposal.**

### **Week 16 (12/8). Final (Written) Proposal Due**