

Sociology 545
Social Psychology
Fall 2005

Professor Jerald G. Schutte

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This class meets in SH 102 on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:45 pm. It is a seminar format with associated readings and discussions. Its goal is to promote critical insight into the three most prominent perspectives in Social Psychology, both from an historical perspective as well as an applied analysis. The grade will consist of four evaluations each counting for 25% of the grade: 1) Midterm; 2) Final; 3) Leadership in Readings' discussion; and 4) Project applying class concepts to a real world situation. Plus and minus grading will be used. Readings will be assigned on a weekly basis and discussed the following week. Office hours will be held immediately before and after class, as well as Saturdays at 3:30 pm in SH 178A

Sociology 545

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Week 1	Aug-31	<p>Introduction: Presentation of the logistics of and perspective on class assignments to be carried out in Soc 545, together with a discussion and overview of the approaches to micro theory and their associated methodology.</p> <p>Logistics Perspective and Overview Methods and Approaches</p>
Week 2-3	Sep 7-14	<p>Cognitive Theory – Survey of the literature pertaining to the principals of perception and cognition, balance/dissonance and attribution theories in Social Psychology.</p> <p>Perception and Cognition Balance and Dissonance Attribution Theory</p>
Week 4-5	Sep 21-28	<p>Symbolic Interaction Theory – Discussion of the Approaches to the theory of self and role as conveyed in the early to mid 20th century literature. Emphasis will be on integration of inter-disciplinary approaches.</p> <p>The Self Concept Role and Self The Interpretive Approach</p>
Week 6-7	Oct 5-12	<p>Exchange Theory – Exposure to the principals of social exchange as put forth by Homans and later Blau as refined in the Game Theoretical language of Kelley.</p> <p>Principals of Exchange Exchange and Power</p>
Week 8	Oct 19th	<p>Midterm – In class examination on the principles of the three micro approaches to Social Psychology--two hour written essay format.</p>

Week 9-10 Oct 26 to Nov 02

Groups – An introduction to the theory of social groups; their structure, process and dynamics with emphasis on the application of micro perspectives to the measurement of concepts such as boundary maintenance, structural balance, status characteristics, group think and inter-group relations.

Structure – Coalitions/Structural Balance
Communication – Status Characteristics
Cohesiveness – Group Think and risky shift

Week 11-12 Nov 09 to Nov 16

Institutions – Application of micro approaches to the measurement of institutional problems and processes, with emphasis on latent functions and effects

Law and Politics
Economics
Family and Education

Week 13-14 Nov 23 to Nov 30

Collective Behavior – Critique of the micro approaches to analyzing emergent behavior, not guided by pre-established norms, particularly crowd, mass and social movement behavior.

Crowd Behavior
Mass Behavior
Social Movements

Week 15 Dec 07

Final – Take home to be distributed in class with a due date of December 14th. Emphasis on global assessment of the social psychology perspective and its role in sociology