Soc 230
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Fall 2014

Instructor: Professor David J. Hutson
Email: hutsondj@whitman.edu
Office: Maxey Hall 239
Office Hours: W, 11:30am-1:00pm; Th, 1:00pm-2:30pm; and by appt.
Class Meetings: MW, 2:30pm – 3:50pm, Maxey 308

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces students to the major theories and analytic perspectives in sociological social psychology, primarily focused on interactions and identities. Throughout the semester, we will investigate people’s behavior stemming from participation in social groups, interactions in various contexts, and the effects of the cultural environment and social structures on individual identity formation. Topics to be explored include: social interaction and impression management; racial, gender, and sexual identities; body image, appearance, and attraction; obedience and conformity; pro-social and antisocial behaviors; attitudes, prejudice, and discrimination; deviance; emotions; and socialization. Students will periodically collect and analyze data through interviews and/or observations, and produce analytic essays that apply course concepts and theories to explain aspects of human social behavior.

REQUIRED TEXTS
• All course readings will be made available online.

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS
Fieldwork Assignment #1 10%
Fieldwork Assignment #2 10%
Essay 1 25%
Essay 2 25%
Final Exam 20%
Participation 10%

FIELDWORK
Two times during the semester you will perform fieldwork exercises and collect data in the form of ONE interview and ONE ethnographic observation. Both fieldwork exercises (each worth 10% of your course grade) will have clear guidelines for conducting the interview/observation, and for analyzing the data to complete the assignment. You will use this data, along with course readings, to write your essays.

ESSAYS
Throughout the semester, you will write two 6-8 page essays (each worth 25% of your course grade) that utilize the interview/observation data you collected to explicate key social psychological concepts and theories. The essays will have clear instructions made available well before they are due. Late essays will be accepted up to 4 days after the original due date, with a 5% penalty applied each day late.

EXAM
We will have one Final Exam (worth 20% of your course grade) held during the normal Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam is cumulative, although a detailed study guide will be made available to students to aid their review. The exam consists of objective questions, short answer (answerable in a few sentences) and short essay questions (answerable in about 2-3 paragraphs).
[Section 1] Sociology & Social Psychology

W 9/3  Introduction to Course

M 9/8  Methods and Ethics in Social Psychology
  •  Lecture Readings

W 9/10  Theoretical Perspectives in Social Psychology
  •  Seminar Readings

[Section 2] The Self and Socialization

M 9/15  The Self, Cognition, and Early Childhood Socialization
  •  Lecture Readings

W 9/17  Mass Media and Sub-Cultural Socialization
  •  Seminar Readings

[Section 3] Identity

M 9/22  Constructing Identities through “Identity Work”
  •  Seminar Readings

W 9/24  Intersections of Identity
  •  Lecture Readings
  •  In-Class Exercise
    o  Interview Practice Session
[Section 4] Managing Impressions

M 9/29 Appearance and the Presentation of Self
  • Seminar Readings

W 10/1 Impression Management
  • FIELDWORK 1 DUE
  • Lecture Readings
  • In-Class Exercise
    o Analysis of “Face Work” in Media

[Section 5] Emotions and Emotional Labor

M 10/6 The Social Psychology of Emotions
  • Lecture Readings

W 10/8 Emotional Labor in Social Life
  • Seminar Readings

Mid-Semester Break Week

M 10/13 NO CLASS (Mid-Semester Break)

W 10/15 Mid-Semester Participation Evaluations
  • PAPER 1 DUE

[Section 6] Interpersonal Attraction & the Sociology of Beauty

M 10/20 Beauty and Attractiveness
  • Lecture Readings
  • In-Class Exercise
    o “Hot or Not?” Rating Celebrities’ Physical Appearance
**W 10/22**  
Hooking Up, Dating, and Partner Selection  
• Seminar Readings  

**[Section 7] Charisma & Social Influence**

**M 10/27**  
Charisma in Social Groups  
• Seminar Readings  

**W 10/29**  
Observing Social Interactions  
• Lecture Readings  
  o Observation Practice  
    o Observe at assigned location from 2:30pm – 3:00pm.  
    o Meet back in classroom at 3:10pm to discuss results.

**[Section 8] Prejudice & Discrimination**

**M 11/3**  
Understanding Prejudice, Power, and Discrimination  
• Seminar Readings  

**W 11/5**  
Inequality in Social Interactions  
• **FIELDWORK 2 DUE**  
  • Lecture Readings  

**[Section 9] “Virtual” Interactions**

**M 11/10**  
Online vs. Real Life? Community vs. Isolation?  
• Seminar Readings  
W 11/12  Presentation of Self Online
   • Lecture Readings

[Section 10] Prosocial & Antisocial Behaviors

M 11/17  Altruism and Prosocial Behaviors
   • PAPER 2 DUE
   • Lecture Readings

W 11/19  Anti-Social Behaviors
   • Seminar Readings

*** THANKSGIVING BREAK ***

[Section 11] Deviance & Conformity

M 12/1  Conformity and Social Norms
   • Seminar Readings

W 12/3  Labeling Deviance
   • Lecture Readings
[Section 12] Collective Behavior

M 12/8  
**Understanding Social Movements**
- Seminar Readings

W 12/10  
**Social Psychology of Crowds**
- Lecture Readings
- Final Exam Review (in-class)

**FINAL EXAM**  
**Friday, December 19**  
**2:00pm – 4:00pm**