

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FALL, 1991

COURSE OUTLINE: SOCIOLOGY 341

COURSE: Sociology 341 N2, Thurs 3:00 PM to 5:50 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Sheri Anderson
Phone: TBA
Office Hours: C-402 Tuesday 1:30 - 2:30 PM
Wednesday 2:30 - 3:30 PM
Thursday 9:00 - 10:00 AM
or by appointment

PREREQUISITE: Sociology 200 (or equivalent)

REQUIRED TEXT: Vander Zanden, James W. SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY.
Fourth Edition, Randon House, 1987
(Available in GPRC bookstore).

NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

This course is designed to be an introduction to the main concepts, theories, theorists, and methodologies of the field of social psychology. This is a complex area of study that often emphasizes a scientific, experimental approach to the study of human behavior although other approaches exist.

Social psychology draws upon both psychology and sociology but it tends to distinguish itself by emphasizing the interaction of individuals and society. The traditional psychological focus on individual behavior and mental processes is tied to their social context, while the sociological emphasis on social structures is linked to the impact of social stimuli on individuals.

Thus, the study of social psychology demands the ability to understand both individual actions, emotions, and attitudes and larger social structures and processes. Through a variety of course materials and a cross-disciplinary approach, students will be introduced to **WHAT** social psychologists do, how they approach issues and problems, and the **WAY** that they do it.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

1. Students will develop a basic vocabulary of social psychology that will build on their existing knowledge of sociology and support further sociological study.
2. Students will attain a knowledge base of the major social psychological concepts, perspectives, theorists and methodologies in the field.

3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the main subject areas of social psychology and an enriched appreciation of the complexities of social life.

4. Students will be encouraged to examine the linkages that connect their personal lives with broader social processes and to develop the ability to think critically about these issues.

5. Students will have an opportunity to strengthen their oral and writing skills through course activities.

EVALUATION METHODS:

This course will use a variety of evaluation methods including two examinations, five to seven quizzes, a mixture of short written activities, exercises and informal presentations, and class discussions. Each is described below:

1. **Examinations:** Examinations will be multiple-choice and will cover the assigned material from the text, class lectures, discussions, and audio visual materials. The final examination will cover the entire course, but with the emphasis on the final portion of the course.

2. **Quizzes:** Quizzes will be primarily definitions of social psychological terms involving true/false, fill-in-the-blank, short answer or matching formats. The number of quizzes will depend on class time available, but it would be wise for students to prepare to write one for each segment of readings assigned for a class. This means students must have prepared for each class by doing the readings assigned before the classes they will be discussed in.

3. **Activities:** Students will participate in in-class exercises, and activities that require short (no more than two pages) written answers to questions posed by the instructor for certain chapters in the text. Students will be expected to utilize concepts from the relevant part of the text for these written exercises.

The emphasis will be on demonstrating an understanding of the concepts, theories, and methodologies relevant for each section and how they manifest themselves in each person's social and personal life. This is a chance for some critical thinking and personal reflection by the student.

Students may also be called on to share their assignments with the class through short (10-15 minute), informal presentations of their analyses and opinions and to ask questions regarding other presentations.

4. **Class Participation:** Although students are expected to attend class, a portion of their mark will be determined by the extent to which they have attended class and

participated in class assignments, completed the other elements of evaluation, and contributed with presentations and questions. This, in "prison" terminology, is basically credit for good behavior.

GRADING SYSTEM:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>INTERPRETATION</u>	<u>PERCENTAGEEQUIVALENT</u>
9		90+
8	Excellent	80-89
7		72-79
6	Good	65-71
5		57-64
4	Pass	50-56
3	Fail	45-49
2		26-44
1		0-25

MARKS:

Midterm Examination:	25%	
Final Examination:	30%	
*Quizzes:	20%	*Prepare for quizzes by pre-reading and knowing key terms, theories, and definitions.
Activities:	20%	
Class Participation:	5%	

OTHER:

Attendance at all classes is expected of students but please let me know if you know in advance that you will not be there.

All assignments must be turned in by the date given. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Students must be present in class to write the quizzes, no make-ups will be allowed.

Students who have an excused absence from the midterm examination will have the percentage weight of that exam transferred to the final examination. Please see the instructor with the appropriate documentation (e.g. note from your physician, etc.). Students are expected to be available until the last day of the examination period in December, as the final is confirmed for this period by the Registrar. No exceptions will be permitted.

Please see me if you are having problems in the course as soon as you can. It may be something we can work out. Also, feel free to come and talk about issues in the course, or about other sociology courses you may be interested in, or careers with a major in sociology. I think society needs more sociology grads.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Read:
Sept.05	Introduction	Chapter 1
Sept.12	What is Social Psychology? Dominant Perspectives and Methods	Chapters 2 and 3
Sept.19	Social Perceptions, Attributions, Communication and Language	Chapter 4
Sept.26	Socialization and Development	Chapter 5
Oct.03	Identities and the "Self"	Chapter 6
Oct.10	Attitudes and Attitude Change	Chapters 7 and 8
Oct.17	Norms and Roles: Order and Conformity	Chapter 9
Oct.24	Relationships: Liking and Loving * Midterm Examination * in last part of class	Chapters 1-9
Oct.31	Altruism: Helping Behavior	Chapter 10
Nov.07	Aggression and Conflict	Chapter 11
Nov.14	Physical Environment and Behavior	Chapter 12
Nov.21	Groups, Power and Influence	Chapters 13 and 14
Nov.28	Racism and Sexism	Chapters 15 and 16
Dec.05	Collective Behavior	Chapter 17
Dec.12-20	Final Examination to be scheduled by Registrar's Office	

Note: the calendar states that November 01, 1991 is the last day for withdrawing with permission from, or changing registration status in courses that terminate in December.