Social Psychology of Groups  
Winter 2016  
Sociology 498,  
Online

Instructor: Marek N. Posard, PhD  
Office hours: By appointment

E-mail: mposard@gmail.com

REQUIRED READINGS:

There is no required text for the course. There will be a number of required readings that will be available on-line through the University of Maryland Enterprise Learning System (ELMS).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides students an overview of sociology's group processes perspective. The course will cover select theories, findings, and concepts of sociological group processes. Additionally, as a methods course, the class will cover the ways in which group processes research is carried out.

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS:

Your grade for the course will be made up of four parts as follows (each part is discussed in turn below):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Exams</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Weekly Exams (30%): The instructor will give students exams each week on the material covered in previous days. Any and all material that was due in past days may be on these exams. Students will take these exams online. The instructor will not accept late submissions.

Final Paper (40%): Students will write a 5-page paper that is due on Friday, January 22 @ 11:59 PM (EST). The instructor will not accept late submissions.

The instructor will stop reading and grading after the 5th page. This paper requires students to pick a negative experience they had in a group, apply a theory from the course to this experience, and discuss how this theory explains their negative experience.

This assignment shall be written in Calibri Light, 12-point font. Margins shall be 1-inch for each of the four sides of a Microsoft Word document. This paper shall be double-spaced, with line and character spacing set at zero.

Final Exam (40%): The final exam will be cumulative and may contain multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. It will open to students on Friday January 22 @ 8:00 AM (EST) and close on Sunday, January 24 @ 11:59 PM (EST). The instructor will not accept late submissions.

MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES:

Honors Pledge: On each exam, you will be required to write by hand and sign the University of Maryland Honors Pledge.

Students with disabilities or special needs: Any students with documented disabilities who may require additional time, help, or an alternative format on the graded requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements.

Religious observance: Students will not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs and shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. If you expect that observances of religious beliefs will require you to miss any class meetings or course deadlines, talk with me beforehand to make alternative arrangements.
**DRAFT SYLLABUS:** ALL CONTENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**Missed exams.** Make-ups for missed exams will be provided only in extreme circumstances that can be documented. In order to take a make-up exam, you MUST notify me prior to the scheduled time of the exam.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the borrowing of information, wording, organization, or ideas without acknowledging the source. You must acknowledge the sources that you use in this class. Further, when you repeat the exact language of your source, you must put the material in quotation marks. In this class, the minimum penalty for plagiarism will be a grade of zero for the assignment; more extensive plagiarism or cheating will result in a course grade of “F” and the filing of charges of academic misconduct.

**Cancelled classes:** If class is cancelled for any reason, that day’s scheduled activities will be carried out the next time that class meets. If the date of an exam is cancelled, the test will be the next time the class meets. If the university is closed on the day of the final exam, information on the date and time of the exam will be posted on ELMS.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

Following is an outline for the semester. The outline is tentative and may change. You are responsible for any changes regarding material in the syllabus that I announce in class.

**Monday January 4: Introduction to the course**


**Wednesday, January 6: Experimental Methods**

**Friday, January 8: Status**


**Monday, January 11: Power**


**Wednesday, January 13: Identities**

**Friday, January 15: Social Identities**

**Monday, January 18: Social Exchange**

**Wednesday, January 20: Affect**

**Friday, January 22: Technology and Group Processes**

**Final Paper Due @ 11:59 PM (EST)**

**Final Exam Opens @ 8 AM (EST)**