PSY 618 Group Dynamics  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014

Professor: Dr. Stephen Reysen  
Class Location: HEN 207  
Class Hours: R 7:20PM to 10:00PM  
Office Location: Binnion 213  
Office Hours: M 8:00AM to 1:00PM, and by appointment  
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Office Fax: 903-886-5780  
Email Address: Stephen.Reysen@tamuc.edu (email is the best way to reach me)

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: In this course we will cover the fundamental theories and research conducted in social psychology concerning group processes. We will cover both classic and modern group social psychological research. There is no textbook for this class. Instead we will read journal articles and book chapters each class. I will have these available on ecollege. There are no lectures. Instead we will discuss the readings that are assigned each class. The purpose of the readings is to give you an understanding of (1) early group dynamics research, (2) modern group processes research, and (3) how social psychological research is conducted. Due to the breadth of the research that has been conducted in social psychology on group dynamics it is impossible to cover every theoretical contribution. Therefore, I have selected what I believe to be key writings in the field.

During the first class we will assign discussion leaders for each paper we will discuss in the class. The discussion leader will be responsible for (1) quickly summarizing the main points of that reading, (2) leading the discussion of that paper, (3) make sure we cover the major issues in the paper, and (4) provide their perspective on that paper. Discussion leaders are not to extensively summarize each paper, because all class members will have done the reading before the class session.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading: Grades will be based on reaction papers and a final research proposal paper. Reaction papers (1/2 page single-spaced) are due by class time for that week (feel free to work ahead). The final research proposal is a serious proposal of research. This paper should not exceed 15 pages (double spaced, times new roman 12-point font, .rtf or .doc or .docx format). In the proposal you will review some relevant literature, state a hypothesis, and then propose a study that directly tests your hypothesis. Please discuss this paper with me before beginning.

Assessment:  
Reaction papers: 120 points  
Research proposal: 80 points
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You will need access to a computer with internet to access eCollege.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor:
Please feel welcome to contact me in person during office hours, before or after class, online through University email or schedule an appointment to meet with me. All email should receive a response within 48 hours. If you have not received a response then assume your email did not go through and please try again to make contact. All email should include student’s last name, first name, course name and brief description of the reason for contact.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Attendance: Class attendance will be taken. Class attendance will be used in determining grades for students who are on the borderline between two course grades. I start class on time. IF YOU ARE MORE THAN 10 MINUTES LATE IT WILL COUNT AS AN ABSENCE.

Student Behavior: 
My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. (1) Electronic devices should be turned off or put on vibrate when in class. (2) Immaturity will NOT be tolerated! If a student’s behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to leave. (3) Respect: Given the nature of this course, we may discuss issues that some of you may find embarrassing, uncomfortable, and/or even “inappropriate.” To remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. (4) The Student’s Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions. It’s simple. Do NOT cheat (to cheat is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage) or plagiarize (to plagiarize is to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one’s own)! (5) Do NOT talk during class unless you are participating in class discussion.

Recording:
Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

University Closing Due to Inclement Weather:
University closing information will be posted on the web at http://web.tamuc.edu. Information will be forwarded to radio station KETR (88.9 FM); Dallas-area television stations KDFW (Channel 4), KXAS (Channel 5), and WFAA (Channel 8); and, Tyler/Longview-area television station KLTV (Channel 7).
Changes to Class:
Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced in class. Students that do not attend class are responsible for the alterations made to the syllabus.

Students with Disabilities:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:
Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1: Thursday August 28th
Introduction, Syllabus

Week 2: Thursday September 4th

Week 3: Thursday September 11th

Week 4: Thursday September 18th


**Week 5: Thursday September 25**


**Week 6: Thursday October 2**


**Week 7: Thursday October 9**


**Week 8: Thursday October 16**


**Week 9: Thursday October 23**


**Week 10: Thursday October 30**


**Week 11: Thursday November 6**


Week 12: Thursday November 13th


Week 13: Thursday November 20th


Week 14: THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS

Week 15: Thursday December 4th
Presentations. No reaction papers due.

Final Research Proposal Papers are DUE on Friday December 5th by 5:00PM by email.