

Socy 33 – Self and Society

Spring 2012

Professor Kathryn J. Lively
Office: 103 Silsby Hall
Phone: 646-9284
E-mail: Kathryn.j.lively@dartmouth.edu

Class meets: Moore B03, 10: MWF T Th 10:00 – 11:05 (x-hour: Th 12:00-12:50)

This course is designed to introduce you to sociological approaches to social psychology, primarily by focusing on the relationship between self and society. Our recurring questions throughout the semester will be: How am I, as a social being, created by society? And, in turn, how is society created and/or sustained by me? By the end of the term, you will have multiple answers to these two questions.

In contrast to a psychology class, even a psychology class called social psychology, this one takes a distinctly sociological point of view. Consequently, it will not overlap greatly in content with a psychology course (although there will be a few common elements).

My goals are to introduce you to a variety of sociological perspectives on the self and society, to challenge you with some of the unanswered questions and debates in social psychology, to expose you to a few of the classic studies which continue to affect social psychological thought to this day, and to enable you to identify social, contextual, and situational factors that cause you to think, feel, and believe as you do in your day-to-day life. We will also learn strategies that can be derived from social psychological theory to help you “get ahead” in your personal goals and relationships.

Although social psychology has several different branches, most of our time will be spent dealing with Symbolic Interaction. Symbolic Interaction is not merely a social psychological theory, but a general perspective that also runs throughout sociological thought, more broadly.

Late exams: Mid-terms are due in class and the final is due on the assigned exam date for the class. If you miss the deadline, my mailbox is in 111 Silsby Hall. For each day your exam is late, you will lose part of a grade. For example, if your exam is of B quality, but is one day late, your grade will be B-; if two days late, a C+, and so on. This rule also applies to weekends--note that you would lose two days over a weekend because the Sociology office is closed and your exam would not be in officially until Monday (conclusion: it is a good idea to avoid being late!). If finals are not in by the day grades are due, you will earn a 0.

Papers are due, in class, the day they are assigned and are subject to the same late policy as for exams.

Plagiarism: Because you are writing take home exams for this course, you need to know the meaning of plagiarism. Plagiarism means "to steal and use [the ideas or writings of another] as one's own" (American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 1970, p. 1001). You plagiarize if you copy an author's words without both placing them in quotes and citing the source, and you plagiarize if you copy part or all of another student's exam. Close paraphrasing of someone else's work borders on plagiarism, too.

Plagiarism, like cheating, is a violation of the honor code at Dartmouth and will be dealt with accordingly. When in doubt, put the idea even more completely in your own words or resort to proper quotes and citations!

Disabilities: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak to me *by the end of the second week of the term*. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Disabilities Coordinator may be consulted to verify the documentation of the disability.

Attendance: If you miss more than five days of class, you will lose an entire letter grade, regardless of your performance on other activities and assignments. I will be calling roll every day. If you are an athlete, please provide me with a letter from your coach detailing any away days that might conflict with this course.

Class participation: Sitting silently in class (even with perfect attendance) will get you a C. You must be proactive. You must be engaged. Feel free to bring things into class (“show and tell” if you will if it’s pertinent to the material we’re covering for the day or that we have covered to date).

The use of laptops and cell phones in the classroom: If I catch you on blitz or facebook (or even *suspect* that you are on blitz or facebook) you will lose *two* letter grades—this is non-negotiable. If your cell phone rings in class you will lose a third of a letter grade. If your cell phone rings twice in class, you will lose your cell phone. If you are addicted to on-line/cellular communication, do not bring your computer to class and turn off your phone. To do otherwise is not only annoying, but also disrupting and disrespectful.

Attendance: If you miss more than five days of class, you will lose an entire letter grade, regardless of your performance on other activities and assignments.

Evaluation:

Mid-term (In-class April 27th & Take Home): 30%

Final (In Class): 20%

Final Paper (10-15 pages): 30%

Daily Blog: 10%

Class Participation: 10%

Assignments:

Mid-term (in class and take home; short answer and essay)

Final (in class; non-cumulative; short answer and essay)

Final Paper – an assessment of your You-Turn exercise (via Steph Gariano), must include thoughtful sociological/social psychological analysis of your “success” or “failure” to create “semi-permanent” self-change.

Daily Blog: This is a tool for you to make your own sense of the reading and class discussions. Your daily response/blog will be spot checked by me throughout the term. I will not announce these; if I check and you are missing a substantial number of responses you will receive a zero for that particular cycle. I will do these checks two or three times during the course of the term. It is important that you posts capture the

main points of the reading and, potentially any critical questions you have regarding the reading. Although the reading material will appear on the exam, it may or may not actually get covered in class.

Class Participation: Attendance, attentiveness and contribution

Required texts:

Sandstrom, Kent L., Daniel D. Martin, and Gary Alan Fine. 2010. *Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality: A Symbolic Interactionist Approach to Social Psychology and Sociology*, Third Edition. Oxford University Press.

Assorted Readings on Blackboard (Under Assignments)

Week 1.

March 26 Overview of the Class Organization, Contents, Requirements, and Expectations

March 28 Social Psychology in The World – Guest: Steph Gariano

March 30 What is Social Psychology?

First Blog Post Assignment: Do a write up of your experience doing the You-Turn Exercise; you don't have to reveal all of the content of your You Turn, but do a meta-analysis of your experience actually doing it. Keep the You Turn itself, as it will be the basis of your final paper assignment (due on the last day of classes; May 18th).

Week 2. Introduction to Symbolic Interaction

April 2. Sandstrom et al, Chapter 1, "The Meaning of Symbolic Interaction."

April 4 Sandstrom et al, Chapter 2, "The Interactionist Toolkit: Methods, Strategies, and Relevant Perspectives."

Thorne, Barrie. 1993. *Gender Play: Girls and Boys in School* (Chapter 2)

April 6 More Social Psychology in Everyday Life

Goffman, Erving (selection from Presentation of Self)

Clark, Sympathy Rules: Sympathy Biography

Week 3. The Social Construction of Self

April 9

Sandstrom, et al. Chapter 3, “People as Symbol Makers and Users: Language and the Creation of Reality.”

April 11

Goffman, Erving. *Stigma*, (Chapters 1 & 2)

April 13

Ellis, Carolyn. “I Hate My Voice: Coming To Terms With Minor Bodily Stigma”

Video: Frasier: “The Match Maker.”

Week 4. Socialization

April 16

Sandstrom, et al., Chapter 4, “Socialization: The Creation of Meanings and Identity.”

April 18 Gender Play, Chapter 1, 5 & 7

April 19 X-Hour:

Corsaro, Bill. “Children’s Peer Culture.”

Simon, Robin, Donna Eder, and Cathy Evans. “The Creation of Romantic Norms Among Adolescent Girls.”

April 20

Video: No Dumb Questions (Group Exercise, following).

Week 5. Identity

April 23

Sandstrom, et al., Chapter 5, “The Nature and Significance of the Self.”

April 25

Snow, David and Leon Anderson. 1987. "Identity Work among the Homeless: The Verbal Construction and Avowal of Personal Identities." *American Journal of Sociology* 6: 1336-1371

Granberg, Ellen. 2006. "Is That All There Is?: Possible Selves, Self-Change, and Weight Loss." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 69: 109-126.

April 26 – X-Hour; Review Session

April 27 – In class Midterm (take home posted on Blackboard; due noon April 30 – via blackboard)

Week 6. Role Theory

April 30 No Class

May 2 –Sandstrom, et al., Chapter 6, "Role Taking, Role Making, and the Coordination of Action."

May 3 X-Hour (12:00 – 12:50) Jackson, Pamela "Role Sequencing."

May 4 – Callero "From Role-Paying to Role-Using."

Week 7. Social Reality: Constructing and Negotiating Deviance

May 7 Sandstrom, et al., "The Politics of Social Reality: Constructing and Negotiating Deviance."

May 9 Deviance

Thoits, Peggy. "Emotional Deviance...."

Lois, Jennifer. "Maternal Deviance...."

May 11

Taylor, Verta. *Selections from Rock-a-Bye-Baby* (1)

Week 8. Collective Behavior and Social Movements

May 14 Sandstrom, et al. "Collective Behavior and Social Movements."

Britt, Lory and David Heise. "From Shame to Pride in Identity Politics."
<http://www.indiana.edu/~socpsy/papers/BrittHeise.pdf>

May 16 Schrock, Doug. "Emotional Resonance...."

May 18 Taylor, Verta Selections from Rock-a-Bye-Baby (2);

Final Project, due in class

Week 9. Emotion and Social Interaction

May 21 Lively and Sandstrom "Emotion and Social Interaction."

May 23 Thoits, Peggy. "Managing the Emotions of Others."

Harlow, Aida. "Are Some Emotions Marked 'White Only?'"

May 25 Smith-Lovin and Tsoudis

Robinson, Smith-Lovin and Tsoudis

Week 10 Wrap up & Alternative Perspectives within Social Psychology

May 28 – Social Structure and Personality

McLeod, Jane and Karen Kaiser. "Childhood Emotional and Behavioral Problems and Educational Attainment...."

May 31 – Status Expectations States

Correll, Shelly, et al. "Getting a Job: Is There a Motherhood Penalty?"

June 1 – Final Exam (short answer and essay; computers are allowed for the exam to facilitate efficient and legible communication; notes and books are not).