

Topics in Social Interaction: Self and Identity (SOCL 7691)

Louisiana State University, Department of Sociology
Spring 2018
Wednesday, 1:30pm-4:20pm
26 Stubbs Hall

Instructor: Dr. Mark H. Walker
Office: 11 Stubbs Hall
E-mail: mwalk67@lsu.edu
Office Hours: M, F 12-1:30pm or by appointment

DESCRIPTION

This course will provide a broad overview of sociological theories of self and identity and examine the use of the self-concept and identity processes within the field of sociology.

COURSE MATERIALS

The required texts in this course are:

Goffman, Irving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Doubleday

Stryker, Sheldon. 1980. *Symbolic Interaction: A Social Structural Version*. Menlo Park: Benjamin/Cummings.

Heise, David R. *The Expressive Order: Confirming Sentiments in Social Action*. New York: Springer (ebook available through LSU library)

This text is available for purchase at the University Book Store. You can also purchase the book online.

Other required readings will be posted on the course website.

REQUIREMENTS

Your progress in this course will be evaluated as follows:

- Research proposal or empirical paper (40 points)
- Research proposal/empirical paper presentation (15 points)
- Weekly article response (15 points)
- Leading discussion (15 points)

- Participation (15 points)

Final Paper: Research Proposal or Empirical Paper. Students will submit either a research proposal or an empirical paper for their final paper. The paper should be between 15-30 pages (double spaced) and use ASA style citations and formatting.

The paper should address some important sociological question related to self and identity, broadly conceived. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of theoretical perspectives and methodological strategies in developing proposals. Due dates for this requirement are as follows:

- * **Week 6** – Inform me of a paper topic.
- * **Week 9** – extended abstract due in class.
- * **Week 17** – Final proposal due on **Wednesday, May 2nd prior to 11:55pm.**

We will also devote some class time to discussing students' proposal ideas as the semester proceeds. The proposal is worth 40 points.

Research Proposal/Empirical Paper Presentation. Your "final exam" for this class will be a 15-20 minute oral presentation of your research proposal. Powerpoint, overheads, or handouts are recommended. We will schedule each of these presentations in the time allotted for the week of November 30th. The presentation is worth 15 points.

Weekly Article Response. With the exception of Week 1, you will e-mail me a 1 to 2 page summary of the readings by 5 pm on the Tuesday prior to Wednesday's class. The summary will not be an abstract for each article, but rather:

- A brief description of the weekly readings' theme, and how each piece contributes to that theme.
- A brief critique of each piece: what is missing? What is not satisfying? How might you do it better?

These reports are crucial for you to keep up with the readings of the course.

Weekly Discussions of Course Readings/Participation. Students should be ready to discuss the following items for each assigned reading each week.

First, what assumptions or claims do the authors of the article make about the individual? What aspects of the individual (if any) do the authors consider to be of theoretical importance? Second, what assumptions or claims do the authors of the article make about social structure? If the authors address social structure, how do they conceptualize it? And third, what assumptions or claims do the authors make about the relation between the individual and social structure? Discussants should also be prepared to address the following standard issues:

- a. Theoretical contributions and adequacy – What are the main conceptual and theoretical ideas in the piece? Are they adequately developed? How innovative or insightful are the main ideas underlying the paper?

- b. Methodological approach and adequacy (where appropriate) – What is the general methodological strategy or approach taken? Is it appropriate? Is there a good fit between the theory, method, and analysis? Is the empirical analysis well done and thorough?
- c. Contribution to the field – Theoretical? Empirical? Does the paper have a clearly important message? What is it?
- d. Interest value of the piece – To what audience?
- e. The quality of the writing – Is the piece clearly written and pleasurable to read?

Discussion Leader. Each person in the class will be required to lead discussion for one week. Discussion leaders should come prepared with thoughtful questions about the assigned readings. The point here is not to lecture or present, but to spark meaningful discussion about the readings. The issues above might be a good jumping-off point for developing your own, more targeted discussion questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (1/10). INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW OF COURSE

Owens, T.J., Robinson, D.T. and Smith-Lovin, L., 2010. Three faces of identity. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 36: 477-499.

Week 2 (1/17). SYMBOLIC INTERACTION [DL: Dustin Lovercamp]

Chapters 1-2 in Stryker, Sheldon. 1980. *Symbolic Interaction: A Social Structural Version*. Menlo Park: Benjamin/Cummings.

Blumer, Herbert. 1969. "Symbolic Interaction" in *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, edited by Craig Calhoun. (Moodle)

Adler, Patricia A. and Peter Adler. 1995. "Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion in Preadolescent Cliques." *Social Psychology Quarterly*. 58(3): 145-162.

Week 3 (1/24). GOFFMAN AND DRAMATURGY [DL: Montana Smith]

Goffman, Irving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Doubleday

Week 4 (1/31). THE STRUCTURE OF THE SELF [Megan Zazeski]

Chapter 1 in Rosenberg, Morris. 1979. *Conceiving the Self*. New York: Basic Books.

Chapter 3-4 in Stryker, Sheldon. 1980. *Symbolic Interaction: A Social Structural Version*. Menlo Park: Benjamin/Cummings.

Chapters 4-6 in Heise, David, and Neil MacKinnon. 2010. *Self, Identity, and Social Institutions*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Week 5 (2/7). IDENTITY THEORY: STRUCTURAL [Montana Smith]

Stryker, S. and Burke, P.J., 2000. "The past, present, and future of an identity theory." *Social psychology quarterly*, pp.284-297.

Merolla David, M., Serpe Richard T., Stryker Sheldon, Schultz P. Wesley. 2012. "Structural Precursors to Identity Processes: The Role of Proximate Social Structures." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 75:149–72.

Stryker Sheldon, Serpe Richard T. 1994. "Identity Saliency and Psychological Centrality: Equivalent, Overlapping, or Complementary Concepts?" *Social Psychology Quarterly* 57:16–35.

Week 6 (2/14). IDENTITY THEORY: PERCEPTUAL CONTROL MODEL [Drew Burns]
Inform me of paper topic

Burke, P.J., 1991. "Identity processes and social stress." *American Sociological Review*, pp.836-849.

Burke, P.J. and Stets, J.E., 1999. "Trust and commitment through self-verification." *Social Psychology Quarterly*, pp.347-366.

Cast, A.D. and Burke, P.J., 2002. "A theory of self-esteem." *Social forces*, 80(3), pp.1041-1068.

Week 7 (2/21). AFFECT CONTROL THEORY [Drew Burns]

Chapters 1-10, in Heise, David R. *The Expressive Order: Confirming Sentiments in Social Action*. New York: Springer

Robinson, D.T. and Smith-Lovin, L., 1992. Selective interaction as a strategy for identity maintenance: An affect control model. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, pp.12-28.

Robinson, D.T., Smith-Lovin, L. and Tsoudis, O., 1994. Heinous crime or unfortunate accident? The effects of remorse on responses to mock criminal confessions. *Social Forces*, 73(1), pp.175-190.

Week 8 (2/28). SELF-EVALUATION, PSYCHOLOGICAL RESOURCES, & SELF-MOTIVES
[Chelsea Adams]

Leary, Mark R. 2007. "Motivational and Emotional Aspects of Self." *Annual Review of Psychology* 58:317–44

Erol, Ruth Yasemin and Ulrich Orth. 2011. "Self-Esteem Development from Age 14 to 30 Years: A Longitudinal Study." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 101:607–619.

Pearlin, Leonard I. and Carmi Schooler. 1978. "The Structure of Coping." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 19:2–21.

Week 9 (3/7). EMOTIONS AND THE SELF [Chelsea Adams]

Hand in extended abstract.

Stets, J.E., 2005. Examining emotions in identity theory. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 68(1), pp.39-56.

Stets, Jan E. and Peter J. Burke. "Emotions and Identity Non-verification." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 77(4):387-410.

Robinson, D.T., Smith-Lovin, L. and Wisecup, A.K., 2006. Affect control theory. In *Handbook of the sociology of emotions* (pp. 179-202). Springer US.

Erickson, Rebecca J., and Christian Ritter. 2003. "Emotional Labor, Burnout, and Inauthenticity: Does Gender Matter?"

Week 10 (3/14). RACIAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY [Caitlin Charles]

Higginbotham, Evelyn Brooks. 1993. "The Politics of Respectability." In *Righteous Discontent*. (Chapter 7).

Mabry, J.B. and Kiecolt, K.J., 2005. Anger in Black and White: Race, Alienation, and Anger. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 46(1), pp.85-101.

Nagel, J., 1994. Constructing ethnicity: Creating and recreating ethnic identity and culture. *Social problems*, 41(1), pp.152-176.

TBA

Week 11 (3/21). GENDER IDENTITY [Dustin Lovercamp, Megan Zazeski]

Kimmel, M.S., 2004. Masculinity as homophobia: Fear, shame, and silence in the construction of gender identity. *Race, class, and gender in the United States: An integrated study*, pp.81-93.

Risman, B.J., 2004. Gender as a social structure: Theory wrestling with activism. *Gender & society*, 18(4), pp.429-450

West, C. and Zimmerman, D.H., 1987. Doing gender. *Gender & Society*, 1(2), pp.125-151.

shuster, stef. 2017. "Punctuating Accountability: How Discursive Aggression Regulates Transgender People." *Gender & Society* 31(4): 481-502.

Week 12 (3/28). *No Class – Spring Break*

Week 13 (4/4). *No Class – Academic Conference Week*

Week 14 (4/11). **EXTENSIONS AND APPLICATIONS I** [Leiflyn Gamborg]

Large Michael D., Marcussen Kristen. 2000. "Extending Identity Theory to Predict Differential Forms and Degrees of Psychological Distress." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 63:49–59.

Walker, M.H. and Lynn, F.B., 2013. The embedded self: A social networks approach to identity theory. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 76(2), pp.151-179.

Cain, C.L., 2012. Integrating dark humor and compassion: Identities and presentations of self in the front and back regions of hospice. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 41(6), pp.668-694.

Miles, Andrew. 2015. "The (Re)genesis of Values: Examining the Importance of Values for Action." *American Sociological Review* 80(4):680-704.

Week 15 (4/18). **EXTENSIONS AND APPLICATIONS II** [Caitlin Charles, Leiflyn Gamborg]

Schröder, T., Hoey, J. and Rogers, K.B., 2016. "Modeling dynamic identities and uncertainty in social interactions: Bayesian affect control theory." *American Sociological Review*, 81(4), pp.828-855.

Burke, Peter J. "Identity Change." *Social Psychology Quarterly*. 69(1): 81-96.

Thoits, P.A., 1983. Multiple identities and psychological well-being: A reformulation and test of the social isolation hypothesis. *American sociological review*, pp.174-187.

Hogg, M.A., Terry, D.J. and White, K.M., 1995. A tale of two theories: A critical comparison of identity theory with social identity theory. *Social psychology quarterly*, pp.255-269.

Week 16 (4/25). **In-Class Presentation of Empirical Paper/Research Proposal**

Final Paper Due: Wednesday, May 2nd prior to 11:55pm.