

SOCIOLOGY 326, section 1 / PSYCHOLOGY 326: Social Psychology

Instructor: Noel Byrne, Ph.D.

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Prerequisites: No

GE: upper-division GE D1 (Individual and Society)

Catalog Descriptions

Sociology 326: Examines relationships between self and society, including the formation and change of attitudes and values, interaction and interpersonal dynamics, and the cultural influences on them. Topics include symbolic interactionism, personal and social identities, motivation, prejudice and the consequences of ethnicity, class and gender. Crosslisted as PSY 326. Satisfies GE D1 (Individual and Society).

Psychology 326: The formation and change of attitude and belief systems; interpersonal perception and dynamics; behavior in small groups; and contemporary problems of intergroup relationship. Cultural influences on these processes may be considered. Crosslisted as SOCI 326.

Course Objectives

- On the one hand, our concern will be to arrive at an understanding of the way in which human (read: **our**) behavior is influenced by interpersonal, small group and cultural dynamics.
- On the other hand, it is my intention that course participants develop their own abilities to offer original contributions to the field of social psychology, either in the form of the application of social psychological understandings to "the world out there" or by the generation of original understandings of that (or those) world (s).

Course Format

At each meeting, I will be prepared to lecture on topics related to the assigned readings. Where suitable, in-class exercises will be utilized. Class members will develop either a field project focusing on some feature of a "real world" setting or a conceptual contribution to some aspect of social psychology.

Course Content

Among the matters that will concern us: Humans as symbolic creatures; the social construction of reality; the relation between the self and its social setting; social psychology and social order. Finally (and significantly), we will be concerned with the pervasive impact of **identity norms** on human experience, action, and interaction.

Grading Factors

- Attendance at 90% of class meetings as a *precondition* for a semester grade of "C"
- In-class discussions
- In-class exercises
- Midterm and final essay exams
- Term paper

Required Readings --- Please see course syllabus