Structural Aspects of Social Interaction  
SOC 552/ PSYC 533  
Dr. Brandy Simula

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines theories that address how status, power, and legitimacy processes operate in small group interaction. We will see the development and extension of theories in the status, power, and legitimacy areas, as well as review the empirical support for these theories. We will discuss the various new directions in the status and networks literature. The status characteristic, gender, will be emphasized, but other status characteristics will be given attention as well.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Active and informed participation (10%)
The success of this seminar depends on the active and informed participation of all seminar members. This means reading carefully and preparing questions and comments in advance.

Discussion facilitations and critical review papers (3 @ 15% each)
Each student will facilitate class discussions three times during the semester (depending on the seminar size, one or more of these facilitations may be in pairs). Your discussion facilitation should begin with a brief overview synthesizing the readings (10-15) and you should then use the discussion questions you prepare to facilitate a discussion among seminar members. You will also write a 5-page critical review essay of the works we read on the days you facilitate seminar discussions. Please turn in a hard copy of your discussion questions and critical review essay on the days you facilitate discussions.

Seminar paper (45%)
Your final paper for the course should be 15-20 pages and may take one of different forms:

- A position paper presenting an argument regarding a theoretical or empirical issue on a topic relevant to status, power, and/ or legitimacy processes in social interaction
- A research proposal that includes a literature review and methods section
- An analytical synthesis of topics stemming from the two different parts of the course
- A substantially revised version of a previous paper that draws on topics course in the course

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan 14 Introduction to Course
PART 1: STATUS

Jan 21 Classical Studies of Emergence and Operation of Status Orders and Overview and Basic Assumptions of the Expectation States Theory of Status Processes


Jan 28 Gender Status and Interaction


Feb 4 Status and Legitimacy


For review:


Feb 11 Class cancelled

Feb 18 Status Processes and Organizations


Feb 25 Status/ Legitimacy Processes in Organizations- Gender


Mar 4 Origins of Status Characteristics


Mar 11 Spring Break/ No Class
Mar 18 Status, Legitimacy, Race, and Ethnicity


PART II: POWER AND LEGITIMACY

Mar 25 Conceptions and Theories of Power and Legitimacy


* Paper Proposals Due

Apr 1 Social Exchange Networks


For review:


Apr 8 Exchange Network Extensions


Lawler, Edward J., Shane R. Thye, and Jeongkoo Yoon. 2008. “Social Exchange and


**Apr 15 Status, Power, and Legitimacy**


**Apr 22 Final paper presentations**

Hard copy of final paper due in my mailbox by 5pm on April 30th.