

# The Sociology of Small Groups & Subcultures

## Course content

This course introduces students to classical and contemporary research on the sociology of small groups and subcultures. It uses a microsociological perspective to explore the role of small groups and subcultures in organizing society, creating social change, and shaping our identities and actions.

## Learning outcomes

- Understanding micro social dynamics in small groups and subcultures
- Understanding the key role of small groups and subcultures in creating large-scale social change
- Understanding methods for studying small groups and subcultures

## Skills

- Ability to theorize about small groups and subcultures
- Experience studying small groups and subcultures
- Enhanced critical reading and discussion skills

## General competence

- Awareness of the significance of small groups and subcultures for social life, and understanding of the complex and dynamic interplay between micro and macro forms of social interaction.

## Admission

XXX

## Teaching

- Lectures
- In-class discussions

## Grading

Final exam

Grades range from A to F, where A is the best grade and F is failing.

## Examination

- This course has a supervised 4-hour, in-class written exam. The examination is given in English. Responses may be submitted in Norwegian or English.

## Credits

10

## Level

Bachelor

## Teaching

Fall 2021

## Examination

Fall 2021

## Teaching language

English

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# Tentative Reading List

## MODELS AND METHODS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Ridgeway, An Introduction to the Study of Small Groups

Ridgeway, Methods for Small Groups

Mills, Models of Small Groups

Becker, Howard. 1953. "Becoming a Marihuana User."

Hogg, M. A., Hohman, Z. P., & Rivera, J. E. (2008). Why do people join groups? Three motivational accounts from social psychology. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 2, 1269–1280. JULIE

## SOCIALIZATION AND IDENTITY

Fine, Gary Alan. 1979. "Small Groups and Culture Creation: The Idioculture of Little League Baseball"

Charles Cooley. "The Looking Glass Self"

Tamotsu Shibutani. "Reference Groups as Perspectives,"

Levine and Moreland, "Group Socialization: Theory and Research."

## CONFORMITY AND OBEDIENCE I

Prentice and Miller. "Pluralistic Ignorance and Alcohol Use on Campus."

Asch. "Opinions and Social Pressure."

Deutsch & Gerard. "A Study of Normative and Informational Social Influences Upon Social Judgment."

Salganik, Dodds, and Watts. "Experimental Study of Inequality and Unpredictability."

## **CONFORMITY AND OBEDIENCE II**

Milgram, Stanley. 1963. "Behavioral study of obedience." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 67:371-378.

Cialdini, *Influence*, "Authority: Directed Deference"

Rosenhan et al., "On Being Sane in an Insane Place."

## **GROUP RYTHMS AND EMOTIONS**

Kalkhoff and Gregory, "Biosolidarity"

Collins, "The Mutual Focus/Emotional Entrainment Model."

Collins, "In the Zone Versus The Glaze of Combat: Micro-situational Techniques of Interactional Dominance."

Sawyer, "What Mel Brooks can teach us about Group Flow."

## **SOCIAL ROLES IN GROUPS**

Gimmel, "The Dynamics of Scapegoating in Small Groups"

Klapp, "The Fool as a Social Type"

Simmel, "The Stranger"

Goffman, "The Stigmatized Self"

## **DEVIANCE**

Schachter, "Deviation, Rejection and Communication."

Orcutt, "Societal Reaction and the Response to Deviation in Small Groups."

Scott, "Deviance, Sanctions, and Social Integration in Small-Scale Societies."

Dentler and Erikson, "The Functions of Deviance in Groups."

## **CREATIVITY: ART AND SPORT**

Shenk, "Powers of Two"; (1) Prologue and (2) Twins from the Ends of the Earth

Farrell, "Collaborative Circles and Creative Work."

Corte, "A Refinement of Collaborative Circles Theory: Resource Mobilization and Innovation in an Emerging Sport."

## **CREATIVITY: SCIENCE AND TERRORISM**

Parker, John and Edward. J. Hackett, "Hot Spots and Hot Moments in Scientific Collaborations and Social Movements."

Cropley et al., "Malevolent Creativity: A Functional Model of Creativity in Terrorism and Crime."

## **CULTS AND NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS**

Wessinger, *How the Millennium Comes Violently*

"1978 – "Jonestown"

"1995 – "Aum Shinriko"

Galanter, "The Cult as a Social System."

Lofland and Stark, "Becoming a World-Saver: A Theory of Conversion to a Deviant Perspective"

## **RETHINKING THE SOCIAL PSYCH OF TYRANNY**

Reicher and Haslam, "Rethinking the Psychology of Tyranny: The BBC Prison Study."

Turner, J. C, "Tyranny, Freedom and Social Structure: Escaping our Theoretical Prisons."

Zimbardo, P. G., “On Rethinking the Psychology of Tyranny: The BBC prison study.”

Haslam, S. A. & Reicher, S, “Response. Debating the Psychology of Tyranny: Fundamental issues of theory, perspective and science.”

### **Nov 1: EXITING GROUPS**

Helen Ebaugh – “Becoming an Ex.”

Sternberg – “When Cupid’s Arrow Falls (1) Decay of Relationships; (2) Dissolution and Beginning.”

Appel, Willa. 1983. “Getting Out.”

### **Nov 8: MICRO-MESO LINKAGES**

Fine and Harrington, Tiny Publics

Ritzer, Macro-micro Integration

### **SUBCULTURES OF RISK AND VIOLENCE I**

Desmond, “On the Fireline”: Chapters 1 and 2

Wacquant, Loïc. 2011. “Habitus as Topic and Tool: Reflections on Becoming a Prizefighter.”  
Qualitative Research in Psychology 8 (Spring): 81-92.

Cohen et al., "Insult, aggression, and the southern culture of honor: an "experimental ethnography".

## **SUBCLUTURES OF RISK AND VIOLENCE II**

Anderson, *Code of the Street*, "Drugs, Violence, and Street Crimes"

Buford, *Among the Thugs*, "11-35; 129-159"

## **MUSICAL SUBCULTURES**

Adams and Sardiello, *Deadhead Social Science: You Ain't Gonna Learn What You Don't Want to Know*; Chapter 10: Vending at Dead Shows: The Bizarre Bazaar; Chapter 13: Becoming a Deadhead

Lee, *Blowin' Up: Rap Dreams in South Central* (TBA)

Corte and Edwards, "White Power Music and the Mobilization of Racist Social Movements"

## **SUBCLUTURES OF POVERTY AND PRIVLEDGE**

Desmond, *Evicted* (selections TBA)

Khan, *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite* (selections TBA) Introduction & Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-76), Chapters 3 & 4 & Conclusion (pp. 77-150; 193-200)