

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**SMALL GROUP INTERACTION  
SOC 2360 A01**

**137 Isbister -Slot 4 -T/Th 8:30-9:45 am**

**Dr. D. Albas**

**January 2008**

**OFFICE: 325 Isbister**

**PHONE: 474-9389**

**OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 10:00 - 11:00  
and by appointment**

**Second Term: 3 credit hours**

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**REQUIRED TEXT:** Albas & Albas: Student Life & Exams: Stresses & Coping Strategies

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course will examine the basic sociological concepts and methods used in analyzing and designing small groups such as the family, children's groups, work groups, and friendship groups.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

- A. Social Groups: What Are They?
  - 1. Definitions
  - 2. Reality of Groups
    - a. The Assembly Effect (production)
    - b. Problem Solving Effects
  - 3. Classification

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

**On Reserve:**

Debra Comer

“A Model of Social Loafing in Real Work Groups”

Human Relations. 1995. vol. 48(6):647-667.

Karen Cerulo and Janet M. Ruane

“Coming Together: New Taxonomies for the Analysis of Social Relations.”

Sociological Inquiry.1998.vol. 68(3):398-425.

Craig Calhoun

“Community Without Propinquity Revisited: Communications Technology and the Transformation of the Urban Public Sphere.”

Sociological Inquiry.1998. Vol.68(3):373-397.

Barrie Thorne

“Borderwork Among Girls and Boys.” In Spencer Cahil (ed.) Inside Social Life: Readings in Sociological Psychology and Microsociology. 1995. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury

Donna Elder

“Friendship and Collaborative Storytelling.” Social Psychology Quarterly. 1988. Vol. 51: 225-235

Required Text:

Albas & Albas: Student Life & Exams: Stresses & Coping Strategies  
Chapter 8      Phase III - The Exam Act Proper

**B.** Theory and Methods

1. The Nature of Scientific Inquiry
2. Conceptual Frameworks

REQUIRED READINGS:

On Reserve:

Dan E. Miller and Robert A. Heinz, Jr.

“The Structure of Social Interaction.” Studies in Symbolic Interaction.1997. Supplement 3:87-107.

Carl Couch “The Structure of Social Relationships”. In Spencer Cahill (ed.) Inside Social Life: Readings in Sociological Psychology and Microsociology. 1995. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury.

George Homans

“The Human Group: Conceptualizations” The Human Group. 1950.

Required Text:

Albas & Albas: Student Life & Exams: Stresses & Coping Strategies  
Chapter 2      Making Sociological Sense of the Exam  
Chapter 3      Uncertainty, Stress, and Coping Mechanisms

**C.** Motivational Basis For Group Formation

1. Anxiety and Affiliation: Social Comparison and Social Support
2. Instrumental Basis for Affiliation

REQUIRED READINGS:

Required Text:

Albas & Albas: Student Life & Exams: Stresses & Coping Strategies  
Chapter 7      Phase II - Immediate Pre-Exam pp.82-94  
Chapter 9      Phase IV - The Post Exam

- D. Social Control
  - 1. Types of Conformity
  - 2. Surveillance and Insulation from Observability

- E. Leadership

REQUIRED READINGS:

On Reserve:

Donna Winslow

“Misplaced Loyalties: The Role of Military Culture in the Breakdown of Discipline in Peace Operations”. The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology. 1998. Vol.35(3): 345-367.

George Homans

“Leadership”. In George Homans The Human Group. 1950.

- F. Interactional Production of Relationships and Social Worlds

REQUIRED READINGS:

On Reserve:

Peter Berger and M. Kelner

“Marriage and the Social Construction of Reality”. In H. Robboy et.al. Social Interaction. 1979.

Diane Vaughan

“Uncoupling”. In R. Cuzzort Humanity and Modern Sociological Thought.

Candice Clark

“Emotions and the Micropolitics of Relationships”. In Spencer Cahill (ed.) Inside Social Life: Readings in Sociological Psychology and Microsociology. 1995. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury.

Ray Cuzzort

“Violent Groups”. In R. Cuzzort Humanity and Modern Sociological Thought.

Louis Zurcher

“The Friendly Poker Game.” Social Forces. 1970. vol.49:173-186.

Michael Katovich

“Extending Couch’s Thesis of Romance as a Complex Accomplishment”. Studies in Symbolic Interaction. 1997. Supplement 3:149-164.

Norman Denzin

“Toward a Phenomenology of Domestic, Family Violence”. American Journal of Sociology. 1984. Vol.90 (3):483-513.

**G. Groups and Total Institutions**

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

**On Reserve:**

Erving Goffman

“Characteristics of Total Institutions”.

Carl Couch

“Tyrannical Relationships.” In Carl Couch Social Processes and Relationships. 1989. Dix Hills, NY: General Hall.

Carl Couch

“Macrostructures”. In Carl Couch Social Processes and Relationships. 1989. Dix Hills, NY: General Hall.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students are required to complete two term tests and a written assignment.

Test I	February 28, 2008	30%
Written Assignment	March 27, 2008	50% <b>(Due in class. No exceptions)</b>
Test II	April 8, 2008	20%

**Student Responsibility and Academic Integrity**

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting in large classes. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in debarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.

NOTE: You must notify me before the test if you must be absent and arrange for a re-write. If the reason for your absence is illness, please provide a note from your doctor. Failure to complete any test or assignment will result in a mark of zero for that test or assignment. Late assignments will be penalized.

Cheating is a serious offense with grave consequences. Students are advised to acquaint themselves with the University policy of plagiarism and cheating, as outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar for the University of Manitoba.

**TENTATIVE GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

A+	=	95 - 100	C+	=	68 - 69
A	=	85 - 94	C	=	60 - 67
B+	=	80 - 84	D	=	50 - 59
B	=	70 - 79	F	=	0 - 49

**March 20, 2008 is the final date for Voluntary Withdrawal without academic penalty.**