Sociology 551
Interactional Approach to Social Interaction

Spring 2018
Friday 1:30-4:30pm
206 Tarbutton

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Office Hours: by appointment, Tarbutton 226

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course approaches the dynamics of social interaction from the symbolic interactionist (SI) perspective. We examine and discuss an overview of both classic and contemporary works in this tradition. In the first section of the course, we will focus on the development of the SI perspective and will read major theorists including Mead, Cooley, Blumer, Goffman, and Stryker. In the second section of the course we will cover recent theoretical developments, focusing on topics including stigma, the looking-glass self, reflected appraisals, identity processes, identity and stress, identity negotiation, and emotions. Throughout the course, we will focus on how selves and identities are created, modified, and enacted through interactions with others.

This course will:
- Deepen students' knowledge of sociological research methods through engaging with studies that draw on a wide range of methodological approaches.
- Increase students' understanding of how sociological theories are developed, tested, and refined, and provide students the opportunity to apply a symbolic interactionist theory to a substantive area of their choosing in the final course paper.
- Improve students' written and oral communication skills through writing exercises, presentations, and discussion facilitations.
- Provide the opportunity to prepare for qualifying exams in social psychology.

COURSE MATERIALS

George H. Mead. 1934. *Mind, Self, and Society.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
Herbert Blumer. 1969. *Symbolic Interactionism.* Berkeley: University of California Press.
Erving Goffman. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.* New York: Doubleday.
Erving Goffman. 1963. *Behavior in Public Places.* New York: Free Press.
Erving Goffman. 1963. *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity.* New York: Simon and Schuster.
Sheldon Stryker. 1980. *Symbolic Interactionism.* Caldwell, NJ: The Blackburn Press.
A specific set of articles and chapters for each session (located in BOX)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Two discussion facilitations (2 @ 20% each)

Each student will sign up to facilitate class discussions twice during the semester. Your discussion facilitation should begin with an explanation/presentation of five key points/punchlines of the readings (10-15 minutes). Then be prepared with questions for the class to facilitate a discussion among seminar participants. Note: All students will be responsible each week to prepare several discussion questions to share.

2. Final Paper Proposal or Prelim Exam Responses (60%)

a. *Final paper proposal or empirical research paper:* Your final paper, in NSF proposal form or empirical research paper "article" form, will give you the opportunity to apply an interactionist theory to a substantive topic of interest; papers should be 20 pages. There are three stages:
   - A one-page proposal including abstract (200-300 words) and selected working bibliography: due March 23 (hard and electronic copy)
   - Detailed outline and presentation of NSF proposal paper or empirical research paper: due April 6 (hard and electronic copy)
   - Final NSF proposal or empirical research paper – due May 7, by 5pm (hard and electronic copy)

b. *Two Prelim Exam Style Responses*: Each prelim response is 10 pages. There are two stages:
   - Prelim-style question on theories in symbolic interaction: due March 23 (hard and electronic copy)
   - Prelim-style question on identity processes in symbolic interaction: due May 7 (hard and electronic copy)

If you have any special needs, please contact me at the beginning of the semester and we will discuss the necessary arrangements (for additional information, visit the Emory Office of Accessibility Services website; see http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/.

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COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to revision)

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Jan 19   Introductory Discussion

Jan 26   George Herbert Mead

Hegtvedt, Karen A. and Cathryn Johnson. 2017. Chapter 3. Individuals in a Social World. Pp. 39-61 in *Social Psychology: Individuals, Interaction, and Inequality*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Mead, G.H. 1934. *Mind, Self, and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 42-82; 100-125; 135-200; 273-280; 298-302.

Feb 2   **Herbert Blumer**

Blumer, Herbert. 1969. *Symbolic Interactionism.* Berkeley: University of California. Chapters 1, 7, 8, and 9.

Hegtvedt, Karen A. and Cathryn Johnson. 2017. Chapter 4. Identity Processes. Pp. 63-90 in *Social Psychology: Individuals, Interaction, and Inequality*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Feb 9   **Erving Goffman and Managing Emotions**

Goffman, Erving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.* New York: Doubleday. Chapters I and III.

Goffman, Erving. 1967. *Interaction Ritual.* New York: Pantheon Books. Chap. 1.

Hegtvedt, Karen A. and Cathryn Johnson. 2017. Chapter 7. Beyond Cognition: Affect and Emotions. Pp. 163-199 in *Social Psychology: Individuals, Interaction, and Inequality*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Hochschild, Arlie Russell. 1998. "Emotion Work and Feeling Rules." Pp. 59-66 in *Inside Social Life,* 2nd edition, edited by Spencer Cahill. Los Angeles: Roxbury.

Cahill, Spencer and Robin Eggleston. 1994. "Managing Emotions in Public: The Case of Wheelchair Users." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 57:300-312.

Wingfield, Adia Harvey. 2010. "Are Some Emotions Marked 'White Only'?: Racialized Feeling Rules in Professional Workplaces." *Social Problems* 57:251-68.

Vaccaro, Christian, Douglas Schrock, and Janice McCabe. 2011. "Managing Emotional Manhood: Fighting and Fostering Fear in Mixed Martial Arts." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 74:414-437.

Feb 16   **Looking Glass Self and Reflected Appraisals (former graduate student guests - Nikki Khanna and Dr. Caitlin Killian)**

Cooley, Charles Horton. 1983. "Looking-Glass Self." Pp.183-185 in *Human Nature and the Social Order* by C.H. Cooley. New Brunswick: Transaction Pub.

Felson, Richard. 1985. "Reflected Appraisal and the Development of Self." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 48:71-78.

Khanna, Nikki. 2004. "The Role of Reflected Appraisals in Racial Identity: The Case of Multiracial Asians." Social Psychology Quarterly 67:115-131.

Khanna, Nikki. "2010. 'If You're Half Black, You're Just Black': Reflected Appraisal and the Persistence of the One Drop Rule." *The Sociological Quarterly* 51:96-121.

McCall, George. 2003. "The Me and the Not-Me: Positive and Negative Poles of Identity." Pp. 11-25 in *Advances in Identity Theory and Research,* edited by Peter Burke, Richard Serpe, and Peggy Thoits. New York: Kluwer/ Plenum.

Killian, Caitlin and Cathryn Johnson. 2006. "'I'm Not an Immigrant!': Resistance, Redefinition, and the Role of Resources in Identity Work." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 69(1):60–80.

Feb 23   **Sheldon Stryker**

Stryker, Sheldon. 1980. *Symbolic Interactionism.* Caldwell, NJ: The Blackburn Press.

March 2   **Identity Processes: Formation and Negotiation**

Lee, James. 1998. "Which Kids Can 'Become' scientists? Effects of Gender, Self-Concepts, and Perceptions of Scientists." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 61:199-219.

Merolla, David M., Richard T. Serpe, Sheldon Stryker, and P. Wesley Schultz. 2012. "Structural Precursors to Identity Processes: The Role of Proximate Social Structures." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 75:149-172.

Wilkins, Amy C. 2012. "Becoming Black Women: Intimate Stories of Intersectional Identities." *Social Psychology Quarterly 75:173-196.*

Kaufman, Joanne M. and Cathryn Johnson. 2004. "Stigmatized Individuals and the Process of Identity." *The Sociological Quarterly* 45:4:807-833.

Martin, Karin. 2009. "Normalizing Heterosexuality: Mothers' Assumptions, Talk, and Strategies with Young Children." *American Sociological Review* 74:190-207.

March 9   **Identity Processes: Stigma (former grad student guest - Dr. Ashby Walker)**

Goffman, Erving. 1963. *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity.* New York: Simon and Schuster. Pp. 1-19; 73-104.

Link, Bruce and Jo Phelan. 2001. "Conceptualizing Stigma." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27: 363-385.

Thoits, Peggy. 2011. "Resisting the Stigma of Mental Illness." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 74: 6-28.

Markowitz, Fred E., Beth Augall, and Jan S. Greenberg. 2011. "Stigma, Reflected Appraisals, and Recovery Outcomes in Mental Illness." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 74: 14-165.

Granberg, Ellen. 2011. "'Now my 'old self' is thin': Stigma Exits after Weight Loss." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 74: 29-52.

March 16   **Spring Break**

March 23   **Identity Processes: Identity (Control) Theory (former grad student guest - Dr. Lesley Watson)**

Burke, Peter J. 1991. "Identity Processes and Social Stress." *American Sociological Review* 56:836–49.

Stets, Jan and Peter Burke. 2005. "Identity Verification, Control and Aggression in Marriage." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 68:160-178.

Burke, Peter. 2006. "Identity Change." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 69:81-96.

Stryker, Sheldon and Peter Burke. 2000. "The Past, Present, and Future of an Identity Theory." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 63: 284-297.

Burke, Peter. 2004. "Identities and Social Structure: the 2003 Cooley-Mead Award Address." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 67: 5-15.

March 30   **Identity Processes: Bases and Types of Identities (Guest Dr. Ellen Granberg)**

Owens, Timothy, Dawn Robinson, and Lynn Smith-Lovin. 2010. "Three Faces of Identity." *Annual Review of Sociology* 36:477-499.

Granberg, Ellen. 2006. "'Is That All There Is?' Possible Selves, Self-Change, and Weight Loss." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 69(2):109–26.

Davenport, Lauren D. 2016. "The Role of Gender, Class, and Religion in Biracial Americans' Racial Labelling Decisions." *American Sociological Review* 81:57-84.

April 6   **Presentations of NSF Proposal or research empirical paper outlines**

April 13   **Identity Processes: Social Identity Theory and Identity Theory**

Hegtvedt, Karen A. and Cathryn Johnson. 2017. Chapter 12. Intergroup Processes. Pp. 309-342 in *Social Psychology: Individuals, Interaction, and Inequality*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Hogg, Michael, D.J. Terry, and K.M. White. 1995. "A Tale of Two Theories: A Critical Comparison of Identity Theory with Social Identity Theory." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 58:255-269.

Stets, Jan and Peter Burke. 2000. "Identity Theory and Social Identity Theory." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 63:224-237.

Liu, Christopher C. Sameer B. Srivastava. 2015. "Pulling Closer and Moving Apart: Interaction, Identity, and Influence in the U.S. Senate, 1973-2009." *American Sociological Review* 80:192-217.

Stets, Jan and Michael J. Carter. 2012. "A Theory of the Self for the Sociology of Morality." *American Sociological Review* 77:120-140.

April 20   **Macro-Micro Links in Identity Research**
*Note: No critical reviews for this session

Smith-Lovin, Lynn. 2007. "The Strength of Weak Identities: Social Structural Sources of Self, Situation, and Emotional Experience." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 70: 106-124.

Hunt, Matthew. 2003. "Identities and Inequalities: Exploring Links Between Self and Stratification Processes." Pp. 71-84 in *Advances in Identity Theory and Research,* edited by Peter Burke, Richard Serpe, and Peggy Thoits. New York: Kluwer/ Plenum.

April 27   **Discussion of Papers**

May 7   **Final Papers due by 5:00 pm** (hard and electronic copy)

General Recommended Readings:

Handbook of Social Psychology, 2nd. Edition, 2014. Springer, edited by DeLamater and Ward.

Pescosolido, Bernice, A. and Jack K. Martin. 2015. "The Stigma Complex." *Annual Review of Sociology* 41:87-116.

Burke, Peter J. and Jan E. Stets. 2009. *Identity Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Handbook of the Social Psychology of Inequality, 2014, Springer, edited by McLeod, Lawler, and Schwalbe.