

**SMALL GROUPS
SOC 338
SPRING 2020**

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Small groups are a site where the individual and society come into contact. Our behavior, attitudes, cognitions, emotions, and outcomes in groups are influenced by society. Norms, cultural beliefs, and values in society are in turn a product of several group interactions accumulated over time. Much of our interaction with others takes place within groups, and this tendency is getting stronger given the rising importance of groups in contexts such as education, health care, and the workplace.

In this course we will explore a range of issues related to behavior in groups, including why individuals join groups, how groups influence their members (and vice versa), group structure, and leadership. We will investigate theories, research, interventions, and applications concerning small groups.

By engaging in these issues during our course, you will be able to:

- Sharpen your written and oral communication skills
- Know and understand the main theories, concepts, and research findings in the areas of group processes
- Be able to apply sociological knowledge to “real life” groups
- Analyze research on group processes to address problems in groups

CANVAS

Our course has Canvas website: <https://uwm.edu/canvas/home/>. You will use the same username (*username@uwm.edu*) and password that you use for your UWM email account. If you have any questions about content on the course website, please contact me. If you have questions about, or problems using, the Canvas website, please email help@uwm.edu, call 229-4040, or see the service staff in Bolton 225 during their office hours.

CLASS FORMAT

Lectures will be primarily dedicated to briefly reviewing the required readings for the day and discussing additional content that is related to these readings. All of this information will be summarized in PowerPoint slides, which I will upload onto the course’s Canvas website by the morning before class. Most slides present data such as tables, graphs, and quotes, which may come from required readings or the additional content. I will review these data during lectures and describe why it is important. Consequently, in addition to attending class, you will also need

to be attentive during lecture to complete course requirements successfully. Please feel free to ask me to repeat or elaborate on any information while I review the slides.

While I go over the slides, there will occasionally be short opportunities to engage in classroom discussion. The discussion questions I select have no right or wrong answer to elicit discussion. I strive to create and sustain a welcoming environment where all students feel comfortable contributing to discussion.

REQUIRED READING

I expect students to complete assigned reading prior to our class time. The following book is required for this course and can be purchased at the bookstore. I have also placed a copy of this book on course reserve at the UWM library for a two-hour loan period.

Forsyth, Donelson R. 2013. *Group Dynamics (6th edition)*. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole. ISBN-10: 113395653X

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Activities (20 points total): At various times during the semester, we will complete 4-6 in-class activities. I will drop your lowest grade on an activity.

Exams (25 points each): There will be two non-cumulative in-class exams worth 25 points each. We will use an entire class period for each exam. Questions on the exams will be multiple choice, true/false, and short response (2-5 sentences). They will cover material in the readings, in-class videos, classroom discussion, and the additional content that I discuss during lecture. Exams will be open note/book, but computers and mobile devices are not allowed.

Research Report (15 points): A 3-5 page research report that identifies a problem or other interesting phenomenon in groups and summarizes three empirical articles whose findings are relevant for understanding it. We will have class periods dedicated to helping students identify a problem and find and interpret empirical articles. The research report will be your final assignment in the class (instead of a “final exam”). Additional information about the research report can be found on a worksheet that I will post on our Canvas website as the due dates approach.

Research Report Proposal (5 points): A proposal for the research report will be due during the semester, which students will review with each other for feedback. Additional information about the research report can be found on a worksheet that I will post on our Canvas website as the due dates approach.

Oral Presentation of Research Report (10 points): Each student will give a 5-7 minute PowerPoint presentation that summarizes the draft of their research report toward the end of the semester. Part of your grade for this assignment will also be based on the comments you make during the presentations of other students. Additional information regarding this requirement can be found on a worksheet that I will post on our Canvas website as the due date approaches.

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS

In the event that your absence from class prevents you from completing a course requirement, you will be able to make-up the requirement if 1) you notify me at least *two days* prior to the class date you will miss *and* provide documentation for the reason you will miss class; or 2) this is an unforeseeable circumstance (e.g., illness) and you provide documentation when you return to class that explains clearly why you missed the date(s) on which a requirement was to be completed.

Even if you cannot meet either of the two standards above, you will still be able to make-up an assignment you missed. However, you will not be eligible for full credit as I will deduct at least 20% of the maximum, possible score for the assignment from your score.

- For example, exams are worth 25 points each, and 20% of this maximum, possible score is 5 points. I will grade your make-up exam, then deduct 5 points from your score.
- The percentage that I deduct depends on how long after the due date/time for an assignment you notify me that you would like to make-up an assignment. If you notify me within 24 hours passed an assignment due time, I will deduct 20%. For each additional 24 hours after this, I will deduct an additional 20%.
- This means that students are ineligible to receive any credit for an assignment submitted five days or more after it is due.

GRADES

Your final grade will be based on the number of total points you receive for completing course requirements.

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Points</i>
Activities	20
Exam #1	25
Exam #2	25
Research Report	15
Research Report Proposal	5
Oral Presentation	10
Total	100

<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Grade</i>
94-100	A	74-76	C
90-93	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F
Partial points will always be rounded up.			

CREDIT HOURS

The university has asked departments to break down for students how much time they will spend working on various aspects of their classes.

As the UW System assumes “that study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours” (UWS ACPS 4), a 3-credit course such as this one will require a minimum of 144 (3 x 48) hours of your time. You may find it necessary to spend additional time on a course; the numbers below only indicate that the course will not require any less of your time.

- 37.5 hours in the classroom
- 75 hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the instructor in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic
Jan. 21	Course overview
Jan. 23	Groups and society <i>Read: Chapter 1</i>
Jan. 28	Studying groups <i>Read: Chapter 2</i>
Jan. 30	Forming groups I <i>Read: Chapter 4</i>
Feb. 4	Forming groups II <i>Read: Chapter 4 (cont'd)</i>
Feb. 6	Self and identity I <i>Read: Chapter 3</i>
Feb. 11	Self and identity II <i>Read: Chapter 3 (cont'd)</i>
Feb. 13	Influence <i>Read: Pages 202-231</i>
Feb. 18	Cohesion <i>Read: Pages 133-146, 151-161</i>
Feb. 20	Exam #1
Feb. 25	Structure I <i>Read: Chapter 6</i>
Feb. 27	No class
Mar. 3	Structure II <i>Read: Chapter 6 (cont'd)</i>

Mar. 5	Power, Authority, & Status I <i>Read: Chapter 8</i>
Mar. 10	Power, Authority, & Status II <i>Read: Chapter 8 (cont'd)</i>
Mar. 12	Leadership <i>Read: Chapter 9</i>
Mar. 24	Performance <i>Read: Pages 319, 323-339</i>
Mar. 26	Decision-making <i>Read: Pages 357, 371-398</i>
Mar. 31	Crowds and collective behavior I <i>Read: Chapter 17</i>
Apr. 2	Crowds and collective behavior II <i>Read: Chapter 17 (cont'd)</i>
Apr. 7	Intergroup relations I <i>Read: Chapter 14</i>
Apr. 9	No class
Apr. 14	Intergroup relations II <i>Read: Chapter 14 (cont'd)</i>
Apr. 16	Exam #2
Apr. 21	Prep for research report
Apr. 23	Prep for research report
Apr. 28	Oral presentations of research report
Apr. 30	Oral presentations of research report
May 5	Oral presentations of research report
May 7	Oral presentations of research report
May 14	Research report due on Canvas by 9:30AM

UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Students with Disabilities. In the pursuit of equal access and in compliance with state and federal laws, the University is required to provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. To learn more, please visit: <http://uwm.edu/arc/>

Religious Observances. Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>

Students called to active Military Duty. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: <https://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/>

Incompletes. A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work.

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf

Discriminatory Conduct. Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding

discriminatory conduct can be found at:

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf

Title IX/Sexual Violence. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education program or activities, and UWM policy prohibits such conduct (see Discriminatory Conduct, above). This includes sexual violence, which may include sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking in all educational programs and education-related areas. UWM strongly encourages its students to report any instance of sex discrimination to UWM's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@uwm.edu). Whether or not a student wishes to report an incident of sexual violence, the Title IX Coordinator can connect students to resources at UWM and/or in the community including, but not limited to, victim advocacy, medical and counseling services, and/or law enforcement. For more information, please visit: <https://uwm.edu/sexual-assault/>

Academic misconduct. Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. <http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/>

Complaint procedures. Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf

Grade appeal procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School.

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_28_Grade_Appe_by_Students.pdf

LGBT+ resources. Faculty and staff can find resources to support inclusivity of students who identify as LGBT+ in the learning environment. <http://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/>

Smoke and Tobacco-Free campus. UWM prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco on all campus property. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_49_Smoke_Toba_Free_Policy.pdf

Final Examinations. Information about the final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, and make-up examinations.

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_22_Final_Examinations.pdf

Book Royalties. In accord with department policy, the royalties from the sale of UWM sociology faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities of UWM sociology students.