**Social Psychology**

**SOC 2203**

**Fall 2019**

**Course Time: M/W 1-2:15**

**Course Location: 2009 Science Hall**

**Instructor**: David M. Merolla, Ph.D.

**Office**: 2253 FAB

**Telephone**: 313-577-2930 (Main Sociology Number)

**Office Hours:** Thursday 2-4, or by appointment

**email**: dmerolla@wayne.edu

**Text:**

O’Brien, Jodi. *The Production of Reality: Essays and Readings on Social Interaction 6th Edition*.Sage Publications*.* ISBN: 978-1-4522-1763-3

**Registration Note**

The Sociology Department renumbered courses during a curriculum change two years ago. This course was previously offered as SOC 4100. Please make sure that you have not already taken this course under the previous course number.

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the sociological study of social psychology. While there are numerous branches of social psychology, this course focuses on symbolic interactionism as a distinctly sociological approach to understanding the relationship between the individual and society. As such this course examines how individuals experience their own lives in the context of social structure and how social structure is the product of individual actions. Hopefully, this course will be a little different from some of your other courses; this course is centered around ideas and concepts rather than facts. While some of the reading may be a little dense, the course should provide you with a fascinating new lens for the analysis of social life.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

In this course, students will learn how to

1. **Explain** how social structure shapes individual psychological experience
2. **Describe** how social life is based on symbolic communication through language
3. **Describe** the sociological view of the social self
4. **Understand** how social structures are created through collective actions
5. **Analyze** social situations from an interactionist/constructionist standpoint
6. **Observe** socially mindless behaviors

**General Course Policies**

**Attendance:** Although attendance will not be graded, it will be difficult to impossible to succeed in this course without consistent attendance. Material will be covered in class that is not in the text and there will be important announcements and schedule changes announced during class time. I encourage you to get contact information from a classmate in the event that you miss class. **Please do not email me to inform me that you are missing class, ask if it is “ok” miss class, or ask what you missed.**

**Reading.** Students are **required** to read all course materials before class. I expect that some of the readings will be challenging, and will likely introduce concepts and terminology that is new to you. I encourage students to come to class with questions regarding readings. Reading and taking notes will be essential for your success in this course.

**Office Hours.** Open office hours are designed for me to answer specific questions or assist with specific aspects of an assignment. Please come to office hours with questions ready and attempt to complete assignments independently prior to coming to office hours. I am on campus nearly every day, so if you need more that 20 minutes of time, please schedule an appointment.

**Focus.** Students are expected to be focused on class discussions during class time. Excessive cell phone use in class is strictly prohibited.

**Final Grades.** Final grades submitted by the instructor are **final.** If you believe that there has been a clerical error or other mistake you may inquire for an accounting of your grade. However, grades will be based solely on your scores on course assignments and will not be arbitrarily adjusted at the end of the term.

### Academic Honesty. Students are expected to display academic integrity in all of their work for this course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. Any student suspected of dishonesty in their work will receive a zero for the assignment in question and referred to the department chair for further disciplinary action. If you have any questions about academic honesty or plagiarism, please contact me.

### Honor Code. Students are bound by the Wayne State University honor code which states: “Wayne State University holds its students to the highest academic standards. Pride in the University and in oneself requires students to maintain an environment free from any breach of academic honesty. As lifelong representatives of Wayne State, we seek to cultivate honor, integrity, and civility in order to ensure that we earn our degree honestly and that we provide an ethical platform for our continued success”

### Registration.

### Students may *drop* this class through September 11th. Classes that are *dropped* do not appear on the transcript. After September 11th, students are no longer allowed to drop but must *withdraw* from the class. It is the student’s responsibility to request the withdrawal through the registrar’s office. After November 10th you cannot withdrawal from the course and will receive a letter grade.

### Incomplete grades are given in very limited circumstances to students who are passing the course and cannot complete final assignments due to unforeseen, extenuating circumstances. Students that get a grade of incomplete must complete all assignments by January 31st 2020.

**Disability.** Wayne State University is working to build a community that is inclusive and welcoming to all people, including those with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is [313-577-1851](callto:+1313-577-1851) or [313-577-3365](callto:+1313-577-3365) (TDD only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from me without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services. Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University. Please refer to the SDS website for further information about students with disabilities and the services we provide for faculty and students: <http://studentdisability.wayne.edu/>

**Requirements and Grading**

**Exams**: There will be two exams; a midterm and a final. These exams will be a blend of multiple and short answer questions. (60%)

**Quizzes:** Each section of the book will have an online quiz. Each quiz must be completed by the day the section is finished in class. Some quiz questions will appear on the exams. (20%)

**Blog:** The blog assignment will give you the chance to apply course concepts to events in daily life or the news, written in the style of a blog post (1500-2000 words). The blog post is due on December 2nd and will be explained in more detail in class. The blog will be evaluated on the appropriate use of course concepts and the clarity of writing. (20%)

**Tentative Course Schedule – Likely to Change**

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| Week 1  August 28: Introduction to the Course and Course Requirements |
| Week 2  September 4: What is “Real?” O’Brien PP 1-10 |
| Week 3  September 9: The Nature of Humanness O’Brien 11-18  September 11: Perspectives on Social Behavior O’Brien 18-34 |
| Week 4  September 16: Reality as a Collective Hunch: O’Brien 36-52; 59-71;  **Canvas:** *Life is a One Sided Coin*  **Quiz 1 Due**  September 18: Shared Meaning is the Basis of Humanness O’Brien 74-95 |
| Week 5  September 23: Symbol Use, Language and Development O’Brien 96-132; Canvas: Guidelines for Non-Sexist Language   * Warning: Final reading (pp. 127-132) contains potentially offensive language   **Quiz 2 Due**  September 25: Learning the Social Script O’Brien134-149 |
| Week 6  September 30: Socialization and Reference Groups O’Brien 150-187  October 2: Naming Feeling and Experience O’Brien 197-208  **Quiz 3 Due** |
| Week 7  October 7: Exam Review  October 9: Mid Term Exam |
| Week 8  October 14: Producing Social Selves O’Brien 227-243  October 16: The Self as a Process O’Brien 244-258 |
| Week 9  October 21: Significant Others and Self-Development O’Brien 259-284  October 23: Self and Social Context O’Brien 285-303 |
| Week 10  October 28: Contradictions and Conflict in Self Production O’Brien 315-346  **Quiz 4 Due**  October 30: Negotiating Meaning Through Interaction O’Brien 347-359 |
| Week 11  November 4: The presentation of Self: O’Brien 359-396  November 6: The presentation of Self: O’Brien 397-415 |
| Week 12:  November 11: Emotional Labor, Stigma and Resistance O’Brien 415-441  **Quiz 5 Due**  November 13: The Social Production of Reality O’Brien 442-466 |
| Week 13  November 18: A Theory of Reality O’Brien 467-495  November 20: Self Fulfilling Prophecies O’Brien 497-518 |
| Week 14  November 25: Social Change: O’Brien 519-554  **Quiz 6 Due**  November 27: Thanksgiving – University Closed |
| Week 15  December 2: TBA  December 4: TBA |
| December 9th: Exam Review |
| **December 11th Final Exam 12:30-2pm** |