



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
3210 TOLMAN HALL #1650

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-1650
TEL: (510) 642-5292

Seminar in Leadership, Groups and Creativity

Psych 290J
Fall 2006
Thursdays 3-4 Room 2129 Tolman
Dr. Charlan Nemeth
3327 Tolman Hall
Office hours: Thursdays 11-12

This seminar will look at issues of influence in groups through the prism of film. Students will be able to attend several lectures of Psych 163 (group processes) providing the literature on persuasion, groupthink, polarization, the role of dissent and jury decision making which will link to weekly discussions on group processes as exhibited in film. A reader for the graduate seminar will be made available. Students will be expected to participate fully in discussion, to lead at least one session and to write and present a report illustrating and analyzing at least 2 group processes through media portrayal.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction, Status, Power Exercise: Group Activity *Footage: Milgram Study	
2	Leadership *Film: 12 o'clock high	R: Chemers R: Kroll, Toombs & Wright
3	Famous Speeches: JFK/Churchill	Cialdini
4	Status; Conformity *Film: Cults	B&K: Ch 5 (pp 60-69)
5	Independence; Being different Film: The Insider	Schachter
6	Minority Influence; Dissent *Film: 12 Angry Men R: Nemeth	B&K: Ch 5 (pp79-85) R: Wood, Lundgren et al
7	Groupthink; Polarization *Film: Challenger	B&K: Ch 5 (pp70-78) R: Nemeth and Goncalo
8	Creativity: Individual Film: Exerpts They Made America	R: Nemeth and Nemeth R: Gardner
9-10	Presentations: Film Analysis	



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| 11 | Creativity (cont)
Film: Exerpts from They Made America | R: Nemeth &Nemeth-Brown |
| 12 | Film Analysis Papers Due: Discussion | |
| 13 | Thanksgiving Vacation | |
| 14 | Innovation in the Workplace
*Film: IDEO | R: Leavitt&Lipman-Bluman
R: Nemeth |
| 15 | Film clips: Fish | |

General Discussion

*These films will be shown 2-3pm in 2129 Tolman as part of Psy 163; discussion to follow. Other films not starred will be shown in our 3-4 period.

In this graduate seminar, we will concentrate on leadership, influence within groups, and the effects of such leadership and influence on creative performance. This course will be run in parallel with Psych 163, the undergraduate course on Group Processes. Students will be expected to attend lectures in Psych 163, especially on Thursdays when films (those starred) will be shown. Following that, the graduate seminar has a one hour discussion on the film and the research that underpins the issues of leadership, influence or creativity. For some weeks, attendance at Psy 163 is not necessary (3,10,12,15) and, for others, we will explore additional short films or exerpts.

Grading will be based on participation (25%) and on the analysis of a film of that student's choosing which illustrates some basic issues raised by the readings and films of the course (75%). For the latter, each student will show segments of the film that relate to his/her analysis of the issues (weeks 9 or 10) and will provide a 15 page paper providing a more detailed analysis which should include a minimum of 5 new references (those not included in the readings) which are fully reviewed.