

Department.: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 282W

Course Title: Social-Organizational Psychology

Credits: 3

Contact Person: John Rickards

Catalog Copy: PSYC 282W. Social-Organizational Psychology. Either semester. Three credits.
Prerequisite: PSYC 268 or PSYC 240. Barnes-Farell, Magley. Social psychological phenomena in the workplace. Social perceptions, personality, stress, work-related attitudes, motivation, team decision-making and effectiveness, leadership and influence, organizational culture.

W Criteria: The writing assignments included in this course are designed to provide opportunities for students to engage in critical analysis of course material. Students prepare a series of four written papers that require them to analyze and integrate material from assigned readings and classroom exercises that illustrate concepts discussed in the text. For each of the first three written assignments, students develop a research proposal (5-7 pages in length) on a topic drawn from issues addressed in the readings and class discussions. Proposals are prepared using the style prescribed in the American Psychological Association Publication Manual. Preparing research proposals gives students practice in framing scientific questions, developing defensible research strategies, and conveying their ideas in a clear, well-organized fashion. An in-class workshop on development of research proposals is held in preparation for the first assignment, and a class debriefing is held after the first proposal has been evaluated. Each proposal receives a preliminary grade with written feedback. Students are given one week to prepare a revised version of the proposal; the final grade for the assignment is based on the revised proposal. Three proposals are prepared and evaluated in this fashion. The fourth assignment requires students to identify the one issue from the syllabus that they feel strongly about, and make a well-justified recommendation for how work organizations should address this issue. The series of four written assignments contributes 40% toward the final grade assigned in the course. In addition, students are informed that they must pass the written component in order to pass the course.

Role of Grad Students: This course does not typically have a graduate student assistant. When a G.A. is available, his/her role is to assist with identifying and conducting in-class exercises.

