



Analyzing Human Behavior Undergraduate Course Information Guide

Course Number: DCM 307, 2 or 4 credits, 5 Weeks
Delivery Formats: Online Async

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Course Description

This course explores links between the physical environment and social behavior. Students will observe a public social environment and gather data for analysis. The ethics of social research and the observer's interaction with the environment are key points of inquiry. Connections will be made between skills developed in the field and various managerial and strategic outcomes of contemporary workplaces, focusing on the interplay between expectations and actual behavior. Identification of implications for employee motivation, productivity and job satisfaction are examined. Students develop the ability to analyze social groups and their physical surroundings.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Systematically observe and analyze social environments to understand human behavior.
- Analyze the shaping force of social environments, such as professional workplaces, on responsive action and demeanor.
- Interpret the function and meaning of deviance for organizational and other social environments.

Learning Strategies and Resources

Some learning activities, assignments and deadlines will vary depending on the delivery format of the course and may differ slightly from what is presented in this document.

The learning process in the course is that for each module, you will: complete your reading assignments in the short novels and answer discussion questions; conduct your

field research and complete your analysis for that session, read the academic journal articles and share your observations on the class discuss board.

Required Readings

Books and learning materials are available at the DePaul bookstore, at <http://depaul-loop.bncollege.com>, or through alternative sources.

The Giver. Lowry, Lois (1993). Bantam. Paperback: 240 pages, ISBN: 978-0544336261

Gathering Blue. Lowry, Lois (2000). Houghton Mifflin. Paperback: 224 pages, ISBN: 978-0440229490.

Messenger. Lowry, Lois (2004). Houghton Mifflin. Paperback: 176 pages, ISBN: 978-0385737166

Additional Required Readings provided on D2L:

Campbell, J. (December 07, 1981). George Herbert Mead on Intelligent Social Reconstruction*. Symbolic Interaction, 4, 2, 191-205.

Lapinski, M. K., & Rimal, R. N. (May 01, 2005). An Explication of Social Norms. Communication Theory, 15, 2, 127-147.

Love, M. S., & Forret, M. (May 01, 2008). Exchange Relationships at Work: An Examination of the Relationship Between Team-Member Exchange and Supervisor Reports of Organizational Citizenship Behavior. Journal of Leadership & Organizational Studies, 14, 4, 342.

Nair, N., & Bhatnagar, D. (June 06, 2011). Understanding workplace deviant behavior in nonprofit organizations: Toward an integrative conceptual framework. Nonprofit Management and Leadership, 21, 3, 289-309.

Additional readings may be available on Electronic Reserve, at the [DePaul Library](#). Login to Ares Course Reserves and select the course. Log in using your Campus Connect User ID and password. You will then get a page listing the courses in which you're enrolled that have readings posted in Ares. Click on the title of this course and the list of our electronic reserve readings will be displayed.

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Learning Deliverables

All your written assignments will be submitted in your assignment guide, a single document that contains all your assignments including study questions, discussion forum entries, field observation guides and essay.

Assessment of Student Learning

Distribution of Grade Points

| Graded Assignments | Percentage of Final Grade |
|---|---------------------------|
| Course Reading Assignment Study Questions | 33% |
| Online Discussion Participation | 33% |
| Field Observation Guides / Essay | 33% |

Grading Scale

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| A = 95 to 100 | A- = 91 to 94 | B+ = 88 to 90 |
| B = 85 to 87 | B- = 81 to 84 | C+ = 77 to 80 |
| C = 73 to 76 | C- = 69 to 72 | D+ = 65 to 68 |
| D = 61 to 64 | F = 60 or below | INC |

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Course Schedule

| Week or Module Title or Theme | Readings / Learning Activities | Graded Assignments |
|--|---|---|
| Week 1, Module 1: Self in Social Context | Gathering Blue (Chapters 1-16). Campbell, J. (1981). George Herbert Mead on Intelligent Social Reconstruction. | 1.1 Gathering Blue Study Questions 1.2 Introductions Discussion 1.3 Knowing the Me and the I Discussion |

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| | | 1.4 Preliminary Field Observation Guide |
| Week 2, Module 2: Scientific Observation of Social Environments | Lapinski, (2005). An Explication of Social Norms. Communication Theory. Gathering Blue (Chapters 17-23). The Giver (Chapters 1-7). | 2.1 Gathering Blue Study Questions 2.2 The Giver Study Questions 2.3 Everyday Conditioning Discussion 2.4 First Field Observation Guide |
| Week 3, Module 3: The Social Value of Shared Understanding: Examining Informal Norms | Love, (2008). Exchange Relationships at Work: An Examination of the Relationship Between Team-Member Exchange and Supervisor Reports of Organizational Citizenship Behavior. The Giver (Chapters 8 to 23). | 3.1 The Giver Study Questions 3.2 Informal Norms at Work Discussion 3.3 Informal Norms in the Workplace Essay 3.4 Second Field Observation Guide |
| Week 4, Module 4: The Spectrum of Deviance | Nair, (2011). Understanding workplace deviant behavior in nonprofit organizations: Toward an integrative conceptual framework. Messenger (Chapters 1 to 20). | 4.1 Messenger Study Questions 4.2 Deviance in the Workplace Discussion 4.3 Third Field Observation Guide |

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Course Policies

For access to all SCPS and DePaul University academic policies, refer to the following links:

[SCPS Student Resources Website](#)

[DePaul Student Handbook](#)

The [D2L Course Website](#) for this course.

Credit for Prior Learning

Students whose home college is SCPS that have not transferred more than 99 credit hours from community college or exam credit, and have not reached 132 credit hours toward graduation may qualify for prior learning credit. If you have prior knowledge you think may be equivalent to the learning outcomes of a SCPS course, you can contact the Office of Prior Learning Assessment at scpspla@depaul.edu or the [PLA website](#) for information on how to submit a proposal to use Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credit for a nominal fee in lieu of regular tuition as an alternative to completing a course.

Course Syllabus

The official syllabus for this course that includes course dates, instructor information and quarter specific details will be provided by the course instructor by the start of the course and available on the course D2L website.

Course Registration

To find out when this course will be offered next, you can go to the [SCPS Registration website](#) for details on how to register for the course.

For information on how this course can apply to your program, contact your academic advisor.

School of Continuing and Professional Studies

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