

Psychology D16: Critical Analysis in Social Psychology

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10 - 11  
Thursday 10:30 - 11  
And by appointment

Text

Van Manen, M. (1990). Researching lived experience. London, ON: Althouse Press.

Goals of the Course

The course is designed to help the student develop critical skills that can be applied both in the academic and practical settings. We will examine historical trends and issues in social psychology. Students will be assigned a different reading each week and we will consider the reading in detail. Both the text and assigned readings will be on 3 hour reserve in the library.

Evaluation

There will be a midterm exam (two hours), a final exam (three hours), and a term paper (15 pages). Each exam will involve two essay questions and you will be given five single spaced pages to develop an answer (along with an outline). The questions will be given to the students two weeks before the exam. Answers to the questions will be written from memory and no notes will be permitted in the classroom. The term paper will explore a phenomenon from everyday life that is of interest to the student. Working with the professor, the student will define the problem and then interview people to obtain information about real events in which the phenomenon was manifested. These episodes will form the basis for the paper. In addition, the student will search the literature for relevant concepts after the episode data is collected.