CRITICAL ANALYSIS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYD16F
FALL 2007
COURSE OUTLINE

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 - 2:00
Thursday 12:00 - 1:00

Text: Van Manen, M. (1990). **Researching Lived-Experience**. London: Althouse.

Goals of the Course

The course is designed to help students understand the difference between psychology as a *discipline* and as a *profession*. This is equivalent to mastering *skills* in a particular area and learning how to develop a *career*. The could will therefore help students develop *critical* skills which can be applied both in academic and practical settings. One way to do this is to 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. Assigned readings will be on *3 hour reserve* in the library. The purpose of the textbook will be to help students understand the theoretical foundation of their term paper.

Evaluation

There will be a midterm exam (two hours), a final exam (three hours), and a term paper (30 pages minimum). Each exam will involve two essay questions and students will be given 5 single-spaced pages to develop an answer (along with an outline). The questions will be distributed to the students two weeks before the midterm an final exams. 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 are collected and interpreted. They then compare their ideas with those in the literature (when available) and reflect on the overall process.