Psych 692r: Social Psychology Graduate Seminar  
Course Syllabus – Fall 2009  
Class Meetings: F 3:10-4:30 in Lagomarcino E165

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Overview: Welcome to 692r! This course provides students with opportunities to discuss a variety of professional development issues and to improve presentation/summarization skills. It also provides social students and faculty opportunities to present and obtain feedback on their research, and to learn about others’ research.

Text: There is no text assigned for the course, but we will rely on occasional readings.

Meeting Times: Approximately three times a month, we will meet as a group to discuss professional development issues (e.g., academic job search, vita construction, publishing, teaching effectiveness) and to present and discuss social psychological research (e.g., colloquium). Approximately one time a month, students will meet by themselves over lunch or coffee for social support and to share information with each other.

In addition, the entire social area will gather twice a month (Fridays at 3:10) for colloquia presentations. Both faculty and students present colloquia at these gatherings. The colloquia presentations are an important part of professional development because they provide a venue in which students can hone and polish their presentation skills, to obtain feedback on their ongoing research, or to get help with difficult issues they have encountered in their research. This is perhaps the most important function of the seminar! They also provide a valuable opportunity to observe how others solve research problems and think about research questions. These are only semi-formal, and are designed to create a low-pressure environment for presenters to hone their skills and “try out” audiences.

Attendance and Participation: All social students are expected to be enrolled and to participate in 692r for 3 credits. The course will be graded. Both the weekly daytime meetings and the colloquia gatherings (Fridays 3:10-4:30) depend on the presence and participation of students with varying levels of experience in the program. Therefore, all are expected to attend all weekly meetings and the colloquia, with one exception. ABD students (i.e., those who completed all requirements for the Ph.D. except for the dissertation itself – including having the POS committee-approved dissertation proposal) may elect to skip the weekday meetings at which they are not presenting. However, they are expected to keep the scheduled time open, and to present appropriate material to the class on days arranged in conjunction with the instructor. ABD students who elect this option should sign up for 2 credits instead of 3.

New students learn from the accumulated experiences and training of the older students; when they become older students, they are expected to help the new students. For all meetings,
students are expected to come prepared to contribute to discussions of assignments or others’ presentations. Attendance will be taken at both the weekly meetings and colloquia gatherings.

On occasion, there may be other career-relevant conflicts, such as meetings with the Preparing Future Faculty Group. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the conflict date, to request an excused absence. Also, there may occasionally be a much-needed course that conflicts with either the weekly meetings or the colloquia gatherings. Again, this is the student’s responsibility to discuss this with the 692r instructor prior to the start of the semester of course conflict.

All graduate students may present at least once per year at the colloquium gathering or the regular meeting time. First year graduate students will likely present in the 2nd semester, and may give brief (20 minute) presentations rather than full colloquia. Second and third year students may give either moderately long presentations (about 30 minutes) or full presentations. Students beyond their 3rd year will give full 50 minute presentations. Multiple brief presentations may be scheduled for the same colloquium gathering.

**Student Facilitators:** When appropriate, one or two students will serve as facilitators of a scheduled topic. These students will structure and guide our discussion of the topic by (1) identifying (with my help) sources of relevant information, (2) generating questions for discussion, and (3) serve as the “go to” person for the material. When necessary, the facilitators will distribute the relevant information and questions at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting time. Although facilitators will play an important role by shaping our discussion of the topic, they are not expected to have all of the answers. We are all expected to read the information they have provided and to carefully consider the questions they have raised. In this way, we will all be prepared to share our thoughts and insights.

Outside Speakers: Whenever possible, we will have outside speakers present an informal talk at one of our weekly meetings, have lunch with graduate students, or present a research colloquia. We will pay for these speakers; lodging and travel costs with the $800 received by our student group, *Graduate Students in Social Psychology*.

Weekly Meeting Schedule: Below is a preliminary schedule and a list of possible topics for the weekly meetings for the Fall semester. A preliminary colloquium schedule is also given. Because of the nature of this course, the schedule will inevitably change. This is especially true of the colloquia presentations. Please try to be understanding and flexible with respect to these changes.