

## GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Department of Sociology  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43403

### PURPOSE

The Graduate Program in Social Psychology focuses on the reciprocal relationship between the individual and society. The objective of the Social Psychology program is to give interested students a solid background in general social psychology with a special emphasis on the issues and substantive topics associated with the sociological social psychological perspective. Although the program emphasizes that all social psychology students should develop solid theoretical knowledge and research techniques, the guiding principle of the program is flexibility. One of the strengths of social psychology is the scope of topics within its purview, and one of the strengths of the social psychology program is the willingness of faculty to guide students in the selection of coursework which is most compatible with their own interests. Aside from employment in universities or other agencies of higher education, graduates of the Social Psychology program will have valuable skills related to such diverse areas as public opinion, mass communications, consumer behavior and public health. All graduate students in the social psychology program are encouraged to develop a professional orientation toward research and publication through direct involvement in the activities of the faculty.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students choosing a major or minor in this program are responsible for meeting the general degree requirements described in the Graduate Catalog and those set forth in the Department of Sociology's Graduate Student Handbook. In addition, students in the Graduate Program in Social Psychology must satisfy the following specific requirements:

1) **All students in the Social Psychology program** are required to take SOC 650 (Proseminar in Social Psychology). The Proseminar in Social Psychology introduces the principal theoretical perspectives in the discipline, including the various schools of symbolic interactionism, social structure and personality, cognitive theories, and exchange theory. Prominent issues in social psychology, such as the nature of the self and the self-concept, psychological versus sociological social psychology, the paradigmatic crisis, and the problems of attitude and behavior consistency are also introduced in this course.

2) **M.A. students majoring in Social Psychology** must satisfactorily complete SOC 650 and at least **two** additional courses from the core curriculum.

3) **Ph.D. students minoring in Social Psychology** must satisfactorily complete SOC 650 and **three** additional courses from the core curriculum.

4) **Ph.D. students majoring in Social Psychology** must satisfactorily complete SOC 650 (Proseminar) and at least **five** additional courses from the core curriculum.

The Core Curriculum in Social Psychology:

SOC 647: Sociology of Mental Illness

SOC 650: Proseminar in Social Psychology

SOC 653: Social Psychology of the Marital Dyad

SOC 680: Selected Topics\*

(i.e., Adolescence)

SOC 738: Race and Ethnic Relations

SOC 750: Advanced Social Psychology (Theory)

SOC 753: Socialization

\*Temporary number; proposals for permanent numbers in progress.

Students are encouraged to take as many other courses from the core curriculum as is consistent with their own professional goals and development. Furthermore, all students entering the program in Social Psychology are encouraged to enroll in Sociology 685 and 785 (Readings in Sociology) with a faculty member in the area of social psychology as a means of pursuing topics that are not routinely covered in existing seminars. Students should note that only a limited number of credit hours of independent study work can apply to the minimum degree requirements. Students should consult the Department of Sociology's Graduate Student Handbook for specific information on this limitation.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Some M.A. students and all Ph.D. students are required to satisfactorily pass a written preliminary examination. The examination will cover major schools of thought in social psychology, methodological issues unique to social psychology, prominent problems and issues in social psychology, as well as the current research in the leading social psychological journals. It is expected that all graduate students in social psychology will be familiar with relevant articles appearing in current issues of American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Social Forces, Social Problems, Social Psychology Quarterly, Sociology of Education, and Symbolic Interactionism. Knowledge of relevant articles in additional journals, such as Public Opinion Quarterly and in those published by the American Psychological Association (e.g., Journal of Personality and Social Psychology) is strongly encouraged.

A 3.0 grade point average for M.A. students, and a 3.2 grade point average in post-master's work for Ph. D. students is necessary in order to qualify to take a preliminary examination. When preparing for an examination in Social Psychology, students are encouraged to talk with the faculty in order to obtain a measure of their expectations and some guidance as to the kind of questions they will be asked. As stated in the Graduate Student Handbook, students have a right to this information, and faculty have a responsibility to provide it.

Students should assume that all written examinations will cover the amount and quality of material appropriate for their respective levels of study. Thus, the expectations for doctoral students majoring in social psychology are significantly higher than those for doctoral students minoring in the area. In turn, doctoral minors are expected to have greater comprehension of the field than those pursuing M.A. degrees. Therefore, while the general examinations required of everyone will normally be similar, grading standards will differ according to each student's status in the program.

### EXAMINATION FORMAT

**Ph.D. Students (Major):** Doctoral students majoring in Social Psychology must satisfactorily complete an eight hour preliminary examination. The exam consists of two four-hour sections. The first section focuses on major theoretical orientations, and the second section emphasizes more specific issues and topics and may require application of the various theoretical orientations. However, for Ph.D. majors the quality of answers must exceed the minimum expectations for other students. The second four-hour examination will focus on current issues in social psychological research. In addition, doctoral students take comprehensive examinations in methods/statistics and their minor area, as specified in the Graduate Student Handbook.

### SUMMARY

The Department of Sociology at Bowling Green State University offers both an M.A. program in social psychology and a Ph.D. program with social psychology as either a minor or major area. The social psychology program, emphasizes flexibility and coursework tailored to meet the needs and interests of our students. Nevertheless, all students are encouraged to select additional courses from the core curriculum in social psychology as is consistent with their own professional goals and development. In short, each student must accept responsibility for designing a course of study that will best serve his or her professional goals. The Department of Sociology's faculty in Social Psychology will make every reasonable effort to insure that students will meet all degree requirements and emerge as well-qualified professionals. The Social Psychology faculty believes that this program is a challenging opportunity for able, motivated students.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY

Alfred DeMaris, Professor

Ph.D. 1982--University of Florida

Equity Theory; Family Sociology; Quantitative Methods

Ranae Evenson, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. 2006--Vanderbilt University

Mental Health; Health; Stress; Life Course

I-Fen Lin, Associate Professor

Ph.D. 1997--University of Wisconsin-Madison

Distributive and Procedural Justice; Survey Research Methods

Monica A. Longmore, Professor

Ph.D. 1991--Washington State University

Symbolic Interaction; Self-Concept; Equity Theory; Family Sociology

Gary Oates, Associate Professor

Ph.D. 1993—University of Maryland

Social Psychology of Race; Quantitative Methods