DANGEROUS GROUP DYNAMICS

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Fall Semester
2 credits
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This class will examine how ordinary civilians come to passively (i.e. a stampede) or actively (i.e. concentration camp guards) participate in and perpetuate anything from a negative group dynamic to mass trauma. Each class will also review interventions that can be used to prevent the emergence of a dangerous group dynamic. This class can be of use in studying the dynamics of as well as for working with groups of people.

COURSE ASSESSMENT
Class participation and attendance (10% of final course grade): It is expected that all students will complete assigned readings and be active participants in class discussions. All class readings can be found on the course Moodle.

Midterm multiple-choice exam (19% of final course grade): Students will be asked to complete a multiple-choice exam on terms reviewed in class.

Final Research Project Outline (71% of final course grade):
Please select a case study of a dangerous group dynamic. Please use in-class readings, class lectures and your own independent research to analyze the case. Use at minimum 12 terms or theories reviewed in class (and underline the term used). 8 pages double-spaced, bibliography not included.

Please discuss in your paper:
1) What happened in your case?
2) What factors contributed to the emergence of a dangerous group dynamic?
3) What interventions were used in this case?
4) What lessons can be learned from this case?
5) How can these lessons be applied to other individuals/ groups/ organizations/ events?

Please note:
All citations must be in APA format. See here for examples of how to cite: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

All assignments must be in Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1” margins, and double-spaced.

PLEASE NOTE

Attendance:
Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unexcused absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:
Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else’s work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

In-class behavior:
Should students be found to be texting, using their cell phone, or internet surfing they will be asked to leave class.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


A range of articles will be uploaded to the course Moodle.