This seminar will address fundamental questions of solidarity and social organization. How do human groups work? Why do individuals sometimes sacrifice their time, their money, and even their lives to promote collective goals? We will explore a variety of accounts for the emergence of cooperation in groups and organizations, ranging from altruism and emotional attachment to structured exchange and social control.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

- Read all of the assigned chapters and articles

- Choose one class (or more) when you will serve as “lead discussant”:
  Prepare a brief orientation for the class, including some discussion questions.
  You may choose to address some points in colleagues’ “reflections” below.

- Each week (when you are not lead discussant) write “reflections” on the reading:
  Write an informal 1-2 page single-spaced response to one or more important points in the reading. Submit electronically (using E-Submit) by Noon on Wednesday. Please label clearly with your name and the name of the author(s) you are addressing.

- Seminar project:
  Work on a project that will contribute to our understanding of the course material, while advancing your own career. Examples of appropriate projects:

  - Prepare a grant/fellowship application
  - Design an empirical investigation
  - Write a conference paper or thesis chapter
  - Revise a working manuscript for publication

  Also, collaboration (with other graduate students) or double-dipping (with other seminars) will be fine, if this contributes to a publishable product.

BOOKS

- Homans, George. 1950. *The Human Group*
- Kanter, Rosebeth Moss. 1972. *Commitment and Community*
- Frank, Robert. 1988. *Passions Within Reason: The Strategic Role of the Emotions*
EVALUATION CRITERIA

65% seminar participation, including weekly discussions and reflections
35% seminar project

COURSE SCHEDULE

We will be discussing the required reading in our seminar meetings. (If some pages are bold, focus attention on those pages.) Most weeks include optional “further reading” – usually a formalization or empirical investigation – for your enjoyment after the seminar meeting.

Week 1 – March 29

INTRODUCTION

Week 2 – April 5

Homans, George. 1950. The Human Group (40-44, 48-189, 281-312, 334-368)

Further Reading:

Week 3 – April 12


Further Reading:

Week 4 – April 19


Further Reading:
**Week 5 – April 26**


**Further Reading:**


**Week 6 – May 3**


**Further Reading:**


**Week 7 – May 10**


**Further Reading:**


**Week 8 – May 17**


**Further Reading:**

Ekeh, Peter. 1974. *Social Exchange Theory: The Two Traditions* 20-78


**Week 9 – May 24**


**Further Reading:**


OUTTAKES (Readings from previous seminars that don’t fit on the syllabus this year)

Durkheim, Emile. 1984. *The Division of Labor In Society* Book One, Chapters 2 & 3, pp. 31-87*


Readings from Nesse, Randolph M. 2001. Evolution and the Capacity for Commitment
   Chapter 1 (pp. 1-6,12-36) – Nesse: Natural Selection and the Capacity for Subjective Commitment
   Chapter 2 (pp. 48-55) – Schelling: Commitment: Deliberate Versus Involuntary
   Chapter 3 (pp. 57-74) – Frank: Cooperation Through Emotional Commitment
   Chapter 4 (pp. 77-91) – Hirshleifer: Game-Theoretic Interpretations of Commitment
   Chapter 8 (pp. 163-182) – Cohen & Vandello: Honor and “Faking” Honorability
   Chapter 9 (pp. 186-216) – Richerson & Boyd: Evolution of Subjective Commitment to Groups
   Chapter 13 (pp. 292-306) – Irons: Religion as a Hard-to-Fake Sign of Commitment
   Chapter 14 (pp. 310-323) – Nesse: The Future of Commitment

   Chapter 3 (pp. 61-112) – Lindenberg: Solidarity: Its Microfoundations and Macrodependence
   Chapter 6 (pp. 197-211) – Heise: Conditions for Empathic Solidarity
   Chapter 7 (pp. 213-237) – Collins & Hanneman: Modeling the Interaction Ritual Theory
   Chapter 9 (pp. 263-302) – Johnsen: Structures of Solidarity
   Chapter 11 (pp. 343-372) – Markovsky: Network Conceptions of Solidarity