In this seminar we will discuss recent research on power, status, and social hierarchy. Topics will include interactions with emotion, motivation, and self-regulation; self-, social, and meta-perceptions of power and status; interpersonal processes; and biological systems associated with power and status. Student input about topics and papers is encouraged. The class is offered for 3 or 4 credits; students who choose the 4-credit option will complete a term project (a literature review or study proposal) in addition to other assignments.

Class meetings

Class meetings will consist primarily of discussion. The night before each class meeting (no later than midnight), you should email to the class three discussion questions based on the readings. We will use these discussion questions to guide our discussion.

Each member of the class will also be assigned one class meeting to give a presentation and lead a discussion. For your presentation, you will read an additional article (beyond the assigned readings for everybody) and prepare a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation about the background, method and results (where applicable), conclusions, and your interpretations and ideas for future research building on the article. You will then lead a discussion based on your presentation.

Grading

Students who enroll for 3 credits will be graded based on class participation (50%) and on their in-class presentation (50%).

Students who enroll for 4 credits will also be required to write a paper (30% participation, 30% presentation, and 40% paper).

Final paper (4-credit option only)

For students enrolled for 4 credits, the final paper is due on Friday, December 7 by 5:00 PM. Your paper may be on a topic of your choosing that falls within the scope of the course, subject to my approval before you begin working. In the paper you will propose a line of research in the style of a grant application. I recommend that you meet with me before the end of October to discuss your topic. The formatting (citations, margins, spacing, etc.) should follow APA style for manuscripts. The body of the paper should be 8 to 10 pages, no longer. References, figures, etc. do not apply toward the page count.
Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me as soon as possible. Please request that the counselor for students with disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

Changes

Any aspect of this course, including topics, readings, or grading criteria, may be changed at my discretion. Changes will be announced in class or on Blackboard.

Schedule and readings

Sept 25: Introductions and organizational meeting

No readings

Oct 2: Definitions and overviews


Oct 9: Power, inhibition, and emotion


*Presentation:*

**Oct 16: Interpersonal perception**


*Presentation:*


**Oct 23: Personality perspectives**


*Presentation:*


**Oct 30: Signaling and behavior**


*Presentation:*

Nov 6: Interpersonal theory


*Presentation:*


Nov 13: Neuroendocrine approaches


*Presentation:*


Nov 20: Mental health


*Presentation:*

Nov 27: Social class and health


*Presentation:*