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*


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