

In Class Assignment –Intergroup Conflict

This assignment works well in a classroom where you have recently reviewed the concept of inter-group conflict and factors that lead to or contribute to inter-group conflict. This assignment asks students specifically to address how microaggressions lead to intergroup conflict.

Several materials to consider as out of class reading on in class before the assignment include:

The Ted Talk, When 'I' Becomes 'We' | Mina Ciara (18:54):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XfOYFpjH7o>

Robbers Cave Experiment (3:19)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QGNxRGgBwM>

Understanding and Responding to Intergroup Conflict: Toward an Integrated Analysis
By Linda R. Tropp in The Oxford Handbook of Intergroup Conflict Edited by Linda R. Tropp
Published in 2012. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199747672.013.0001

Show the apartment scene microaggressions video (linked below) in class and then ask students to complete the following assignment in their small groups (about 4 students per group is ideal). When students have completed the assignment use the assignment as a launching point for further classroom discussion.

Apartment - https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6RwM_AygD_MME5hUFVwRVJPRTQ

See worksheet

Concepts: diffusion of responsibility; manhood acts or masculinity; dehumanization (moral code); aggression in group deindividuation; social identity

Possible discussion prompts following worksheet:

Some of the gendered microaggressions in the scene include ones whose themes are - second class citizenship; assumptions of inferiority; and assumptions of traditional gender roles. Why might the use of these specific kinds of microaggressions trigger group identification and intergroup conflict?

Thinking about the interactions in the video why do you think the unfriendly interaction between people who were apparently friends persisted?

What might have been done or said by each of the 4 actors in this scene to change the interaction or to reduce the inter-group conflict?

In Class Assignment – Inter-Group Conflict

Date: _____ Names: _____

Use the microaggressions video you just watched and your knowledge on intergroup conflict from lecture and the course reading to respond to the following prompts.

1. Identify the behaviors of the participants in the video that evidence inter-group conflict?
2. How did the conversation in the room change the structure of the interaction – the way in which the members related to each other?
3. What caused the social tension to emerge in the room?
4. Discuss the factors that lead to the shift to “us versus them” in the video.
5. Identify the gendered stereotypes in conversation. What were the stereotypes about men saying? About women?