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Sociology 241 – Werewolves Assignment

What's the point of this?

This is designed to show you something of how research is done in social psychology, specifically through fieldwork. Fieldwork is really difficult, so this is set up as a fairly structured way of learning that. It's designed to let you practice the following things:

- Figuring out what to write down as you take notes – you can't capture 'everything' so how do you choose?
- Operationalisation – how do you transform a concept into a set of things you can observe and measure? How valid are those relationships likely to be?
- Link observations to literature – what parts of literature and theory CAN you confirm with observations? How do you relate observations to the rest of it?

For March 10:

- As a class, we will choose a single concept to work with on February 20 (everyone will be doing the same thing). Think about how you might observe this concept in our first Werewolves game (February 27), and take notes on how it appeared in our game.
- In **1.5-2 pages**, define the concept, using your textbook and at least one article off your reading list, offer ONE example of how it appeared in Werewolves, and what can be learned about this concept from the game of Werewolves (see below for more detail of what that should look like). We will work through this part of the assignment on March 1 in class (talking about people's examples, how to interpret them, etc.).
- Required sources: your textbook, and at least one article off your supplementary reading list.

For April 3:

- Choose your own concept to look at in our second Werewolves game (March 22). **You must choose something other than what we worked with as a class.** Take notes about how this concept was displayed in our Werewolves game.
- Write **2-2.5 pages** defining this concept, using your textbook, an article off your reading list, and at least one other peer-reviewed article, and offer THREE examples of how it is observed in our Werewolves game. These examples should look at a range of the phenomena (e.g. successful and unsuccessful attempts, high and low levels, or differences between how different groups/individuals applied it).
- Write **3-3.5 pages** about what we can learn about this concept from your observations (Do your observations agree or disagree with the literature you have? Is it something that can reliably be observed? Do individuals appear conscious of what they are doing? Do others encourage or discourage people from acting in this way? Etc.). You aren't

expected to revolutionise social psychology, just demonstrate an awareness of how understandings of concepts evolve through observations and research. This should be done from the perspective of a RESEARCHER – looking to understand this concept and it's application, rather than looking at if this is useful or not to individuals.

- Required sources: your textbook, at least one article off your supplementary reading list, and a peer-reviewed article about your subject that you've found yourself.