

Independent Study Spring 2014 – open to all students MC 399 (1 credit) or non-credit reading group

Interpersonal Theory: Applications to Social and Political Relations



MC 399 (or non-credit)

Spring 2014

Thursdays, 6:00-7:15 p.m.

January 30 – March 12

369L North Case Hall

Is Barack Obama a weak, ineffectual president or a dynamic leader of Lincoln's ilk? Has the Tea Party lost its mind? Why is Russia such a bully? You can begin to answer these questions and others dealing with communication and other complex social relations using interpersonal theory. Interpersonal theory holds that one can understand most things worth thinking about in terms of processes operating within and between people.

Interpersonal theory provides an array of conceptual and empirical tools that social scientists can use to describe and predict the stylistic and dynamic aspects of social relations. The goal of this 8-week reading group is for students to learn about and apply interpersonal theory to better understand, describe, and predict social relations. Weekly meetings will be discussion-focused and will integrate analysis of student-chosen media items with short readings.

The reading group will be led by JMC Professor Colleen Tremonte (tremonte@msu.edu) and IIT Fellow and clinical psychology graduate student Matt Yalch (yalchmat@msu.edu).

To enroll, please email Professor Colleen Tremonte (tremonte@msu.edu). Include: 1) full name, 2) PID, 3) whether you would like to sign for credit or not-for-credit, 4) your major and class level.

