

Week 3: Symbolic Interaction + Expectancy Violation Theory

COMM 2100 Introduction to Comm Theory
SI Session

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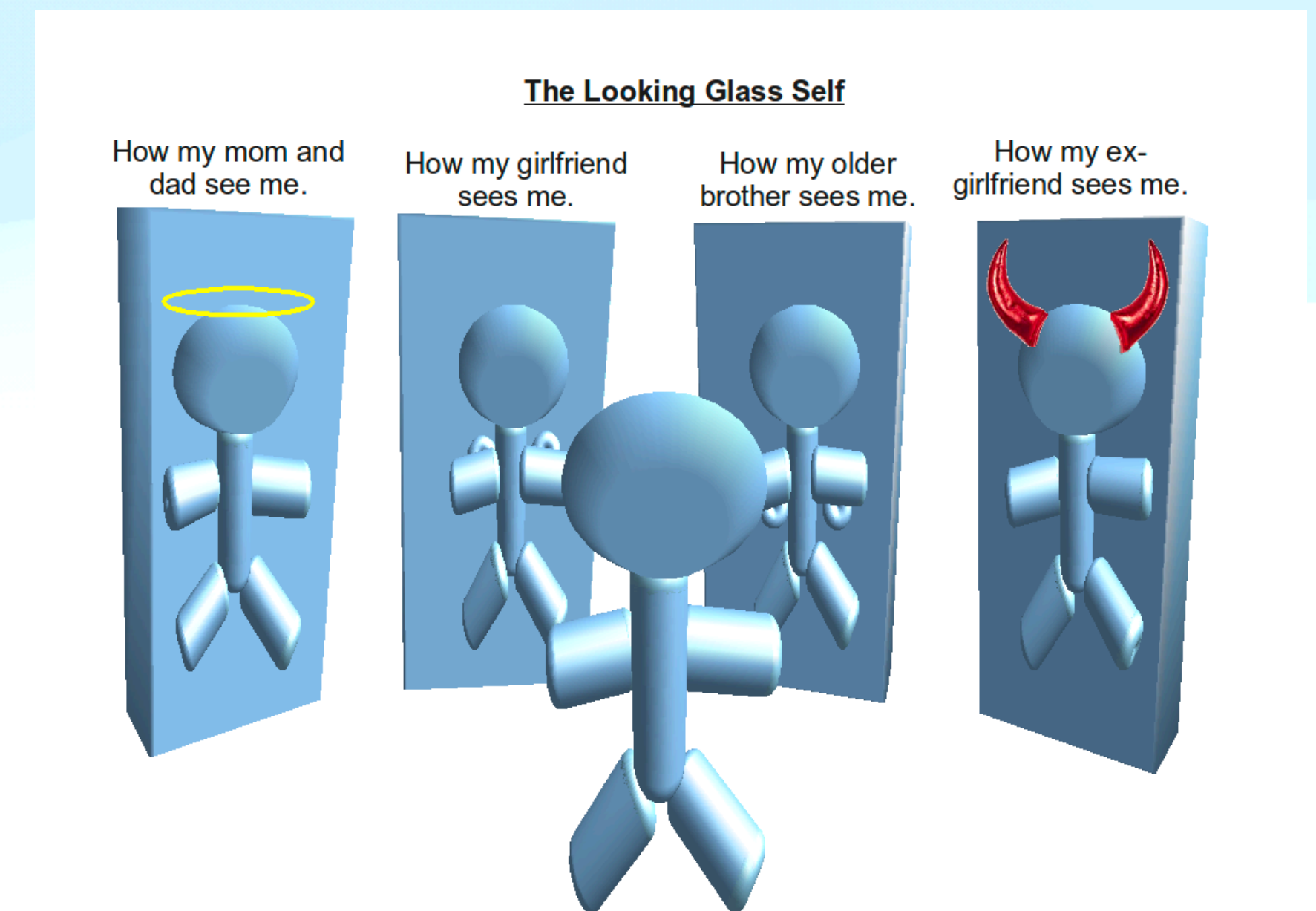
Who are you? How do you define yourself?

- In my family, I am _____.
- At college, I am _____.
- In work, I am _____.
- Among friends, I am _____.
- In class, I am _____.
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Symbolic Interaction

The ongoing process of language and gestures in anticipation of how the other will react. In this process, meanings and the concept of self emerge.

- How to understand the “looking-glass self”?
 - “The mental self-image that results from taking the role of the other, the objective self.” (p. 60)
- Is the “looking-glass self” a subjective self or an objective self?
- Which is more powerful for you? The subjective self (I) or objective self (me)?



Symbolic Interaction

The “other”: Who is your significant other? Who is your generalized other? How do you take their opinions on you differently?

- significant others: a person who's very important to your well-beings. especially a spouse or one in a similar relationship.
- generalized other: the non-specific composite mental image a person has of themselves based on societal expectations and responses.

Why others can influence us?

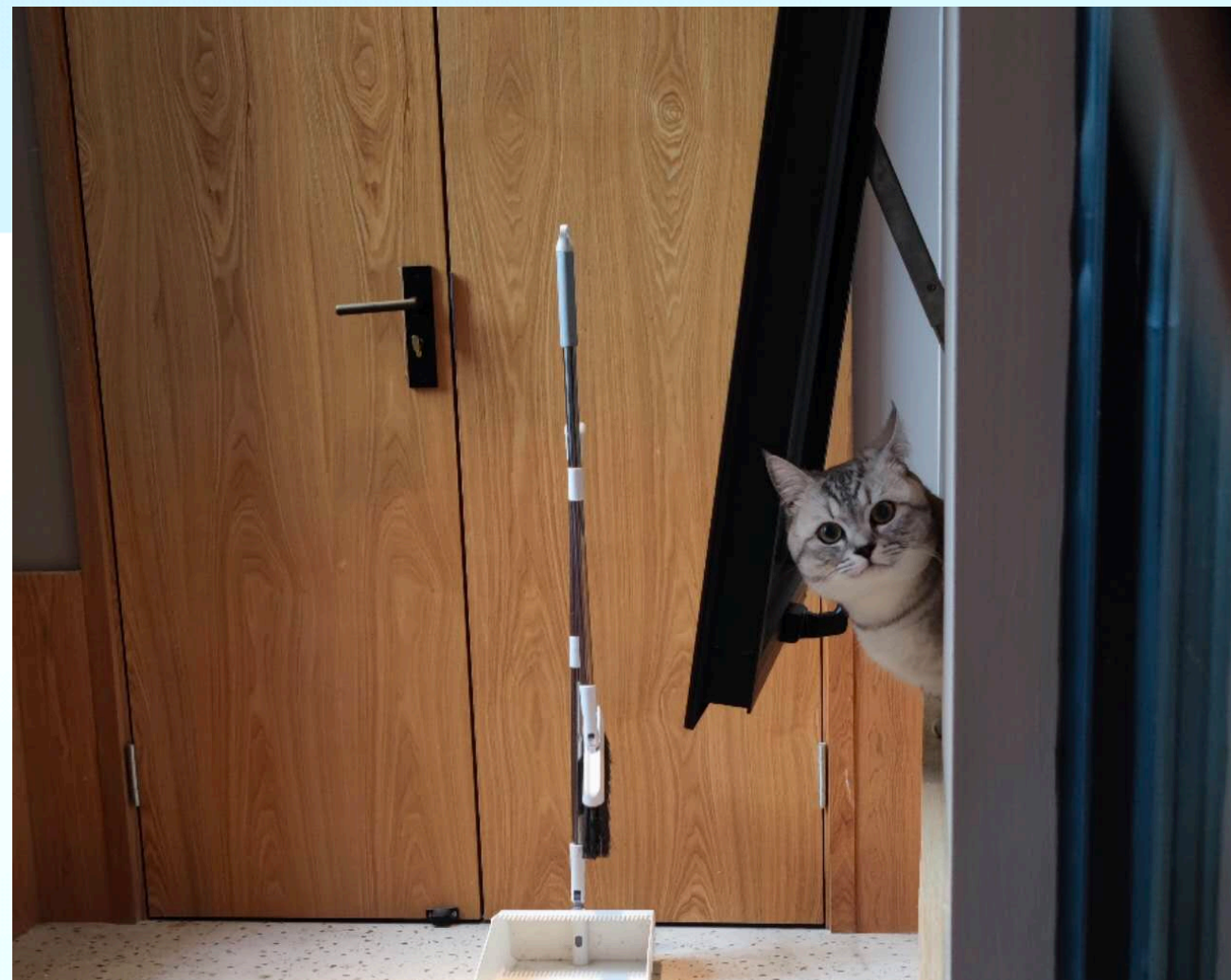
Interaction and meaning

- naming: People label us.
 - What will be your label? Where does it come from?
- Self-fulfilling prophecy: “the tendency for our expectations to evoke responses that confirm what we originally anticipated.” (p. 64)
 - Can you think of a time when you become the best/worst person due to the others’ words? Why could they work on you?

It's constructed!

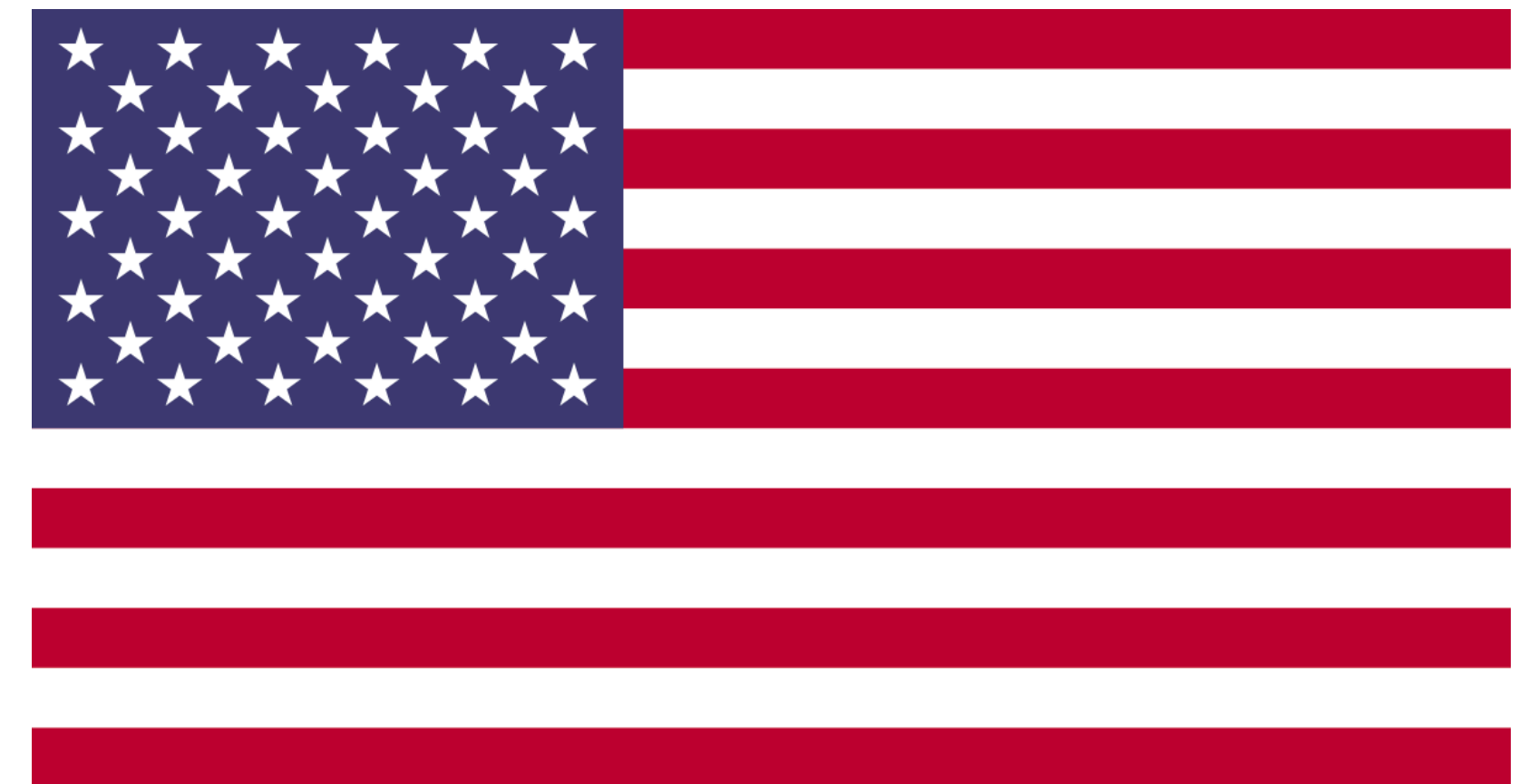
Not only the concept of “self”, but all things in the world!

- Can you tell me one of the meaningful items for you in your bedroom?
- Does each item mean the same to everyone?

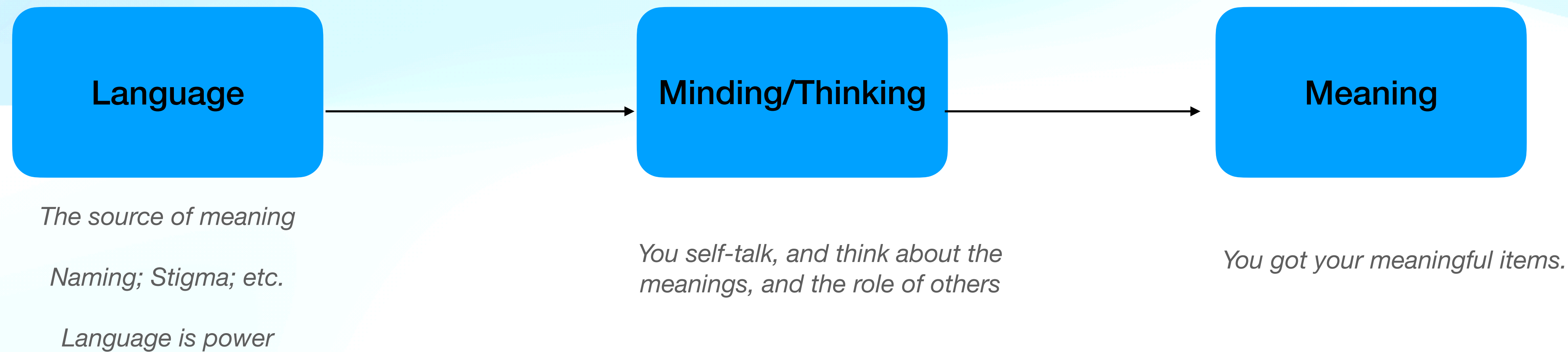


My meaningful item: my cat.

- Where does the meaning come from?

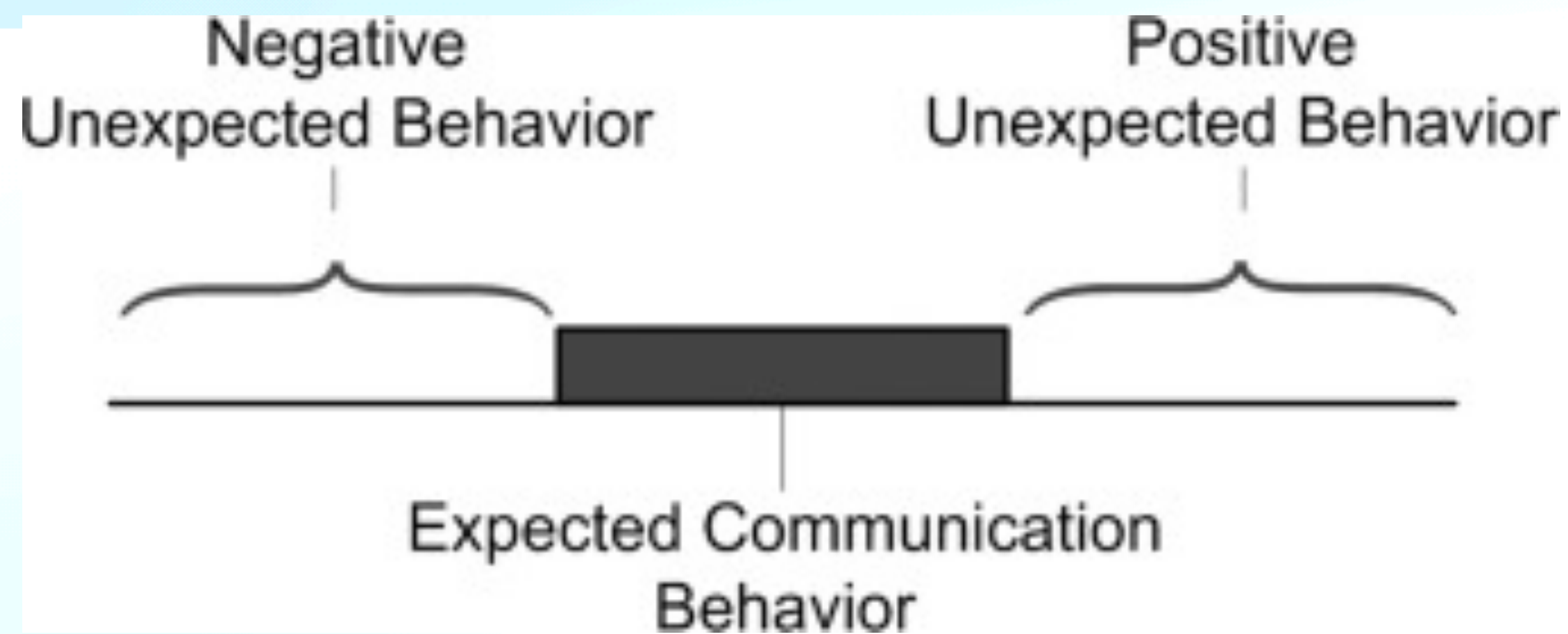


The creation of meaning in symbolic interaction



Expectancy Violation Theory

- Expectancy violation theory (EVT) is a theory that analyzes how individuals respond to an unanticipated violations of social norms and expectations.
- Can a violation ever be positive?

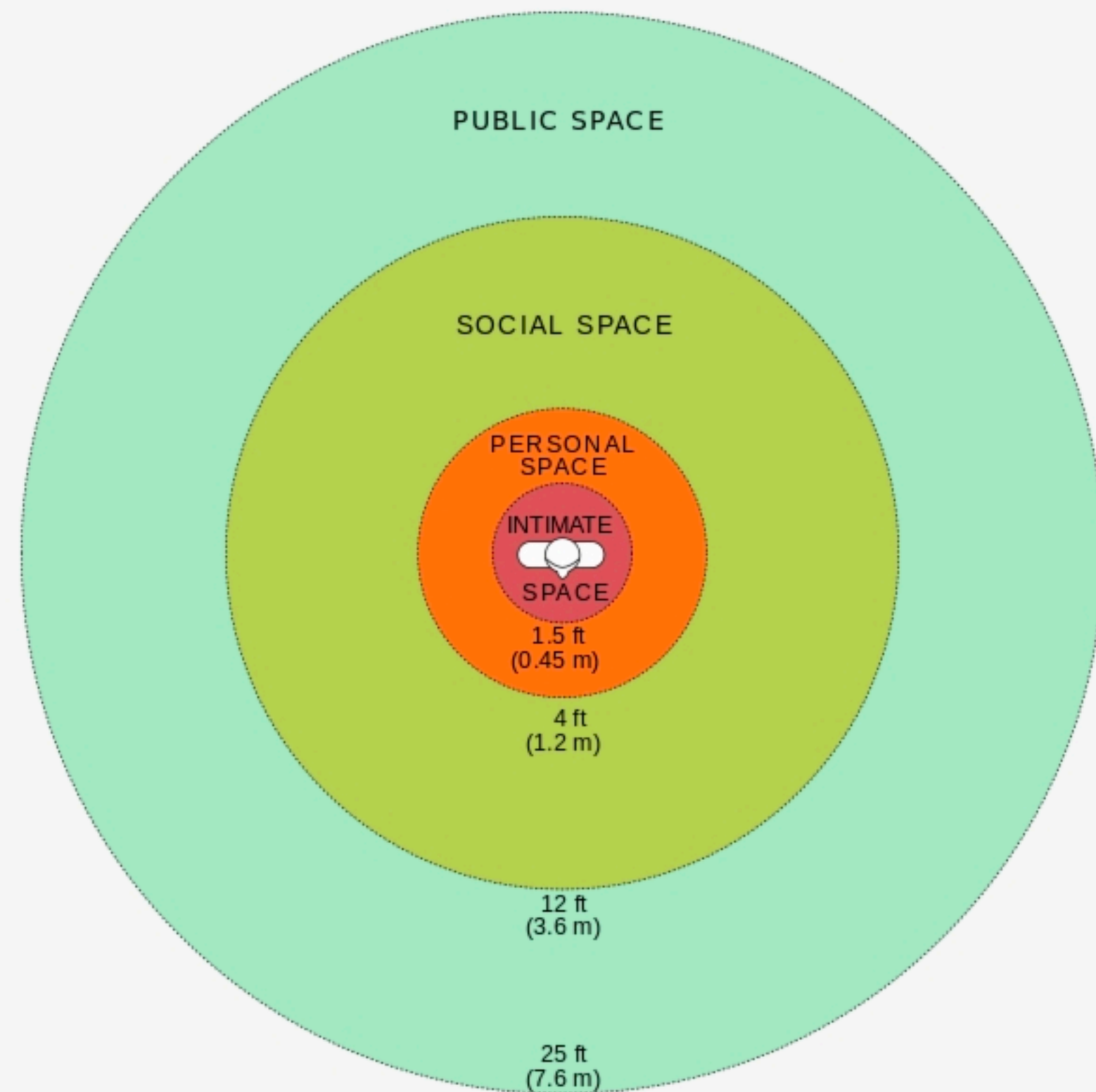


Small Scenario: First date

- Imagine this is your first date and your date...
 - Your dates wear sandals but you were gonna be at a \$\$\$\$ restaurant.
 - Your dates kept talking about his/her past failed relationships.
 - Your dates kept stalking you on IG before the date.

- Are the violations always verbal cues?
- What would you do after the meeting?

Proxemics: space as the elaboration of culture



- The Personal Space: “The invisible, variable volume of space surrounding an individual that defines that individual’s preferred distance from others.” (p. 71)
- The proxemics can be different for different people.

Thank you!
See you next week!