Sociology of Film  
Sociology 3042-001  
Fall Semester, 2009  
University of Utah

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday  1:00 PM - 5:00 PM and by appointment.

Class Requirements

This class will utilize commercial full-length films, documentaries, and docudramas to illuminate and demonstrate sociological concepts, phenomena and important social issues. The students will watch and discuss videos presented in class each week and some videos that students will be required to watch at home. Assigned videos to be watched at home can rented at local video stores or checked out at the Marriott library at the reserve desk. There is no textbook for the class. Students will discuss and analyze all the videos and movies in terms of basic sociological concepts, phenomena and social issues that will be presented and discussed in class. Because the lectures, discussions, and in class videos will only be presented in class, success in the class will depend upon attendance.

There will be one midterm, a final exam, and paper for this class. The exams will be six to seven-page take home exams in which the students will analyze the videos in terms of relevant social theories, concepts, and issues. There will also be one assigned paper on a video from the suggested video list. The paper should be double-spaced and six to seven pages in length. Exams and papers will be graded in terms of the student's ability to define and apply relevant sociological concepts, principles, research, and theories addressed in this class. Each exam is worth 35 points and the paper is also worth 35 points, making a total of 105 points, five of which will be considered bonus points.

Assigned Videos: Videos to be rented or checked out from the Marriott Library

Blade Runner, (Harrison Ford)  
Frances, (Jessica Lange, Sam Shepard)  
Lord of the Flies, (New color version)  
Boyz in the Hood, (Ice Cube, Angela Bassett)  
Mississippi Burning, (Gene Hackman)  
Heat, (Robert Dinero, Al Pacino)  
Grapes of Wrath, (Henry Fonda)
Students with Disabilities

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need academic accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. With prior notification to the Center for Disability Services, all written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format.

Course Outline

Week One: (August 24, 26, 28) Introduction to Sociology: Core Concepts in Sociology, The Basic Sociological Model, Theoretical Schools

Lecture: Sociological Perspective
Lecture: Theoretical Schools,
Lecture: Basic sociological Model

Week Two: (August 31, September 2, 4) Culture and Socialization

Lecture: Culture and Socialization.
In class Video: Every Man for Himself (Werner Herzog)
Assigned Video: Frances (Jessica Lange, Sam Shepard)

Week Three: (September 9, 11,) Social Control and Deviance

No Class Monday: Labor Day
Lecture: Theories of Deviance
In class Video: Medley: Bar Fly (Mickey Rouke), Thelonious Monk, The Blues According to Lightnin Hopkins
In class Video: Bound with the Wind. (Elite Deviance)

Week Four: (September 14, 16, 18) Roles, Role Playing, Impression Management,

In class Video: Inside the CIA.
Lecture, Role Theory
In class Video Medley: Abbot and Costello, Diner, Army, Who’s on First Double Talk
Who’s Afraid of Virginia Wolf
Assigned Video: Lord of the Flies
Week Five:  (September 21, 23, 25) Institutions And The Social Order

Lecture:  Institutions
Lecture:  The Social Order
In class video:  Wolves at the Door
Midterm handed out
Assigned Video:  Boyz in the Hood (Ice Cube, Angela Bassett)

Week Six:  (September 28, 29, October 2) Family

Lecture On Family.
In class Video:  Changing Family
In class Video:  Barry Brazelton on Family

Week Seven:  (October 5, 7 9) Economic Institutions and Political Institutions / Social Class

Lecture:  Economics and Politics
Assigned Video:  Grapes of Wrath
Midterm due

Week Eight:  (October 12, 14, 16) Religious Institutions

Lecture:  Religion, Religious Beliefs, and Organizations
In class Video:  Crisis of Faith
In class Video:  Jesus Camp

Week Nine:  (October 19, 21, 23) Fall Break

No Class
Assigned Video:  Mississippi Burning, ( Gene Hackman)

Week Eleven.  (November 2, 4, 6) Racism

Lecture:  Racism, Sexism, Speciesm
In class Video:  Ethnic Notions
Discussion;

Week Ten:  (October 26, 28, 30) Stratification

Lecture:  Stratification
Lecture:  Globalization
In class Video:  Race to the Bottom
Week Twelve:  (November 9, 11, 13) War, Conflict, and Terrorism

Lecture:  Conflict and War
Lecture:  On Terrorism
In class Video:  Inside the Mind of Suicide Bomber

Assigned Video:  Heat, (Robert Deniro, Al Pacino)

Week Thirteen: (November 16, 18, 20) Crime and Criminal Justice System

Lecture.  Inequities of the Criminal Justice System
In class Video:  Angola Prison
Discussion

Week Fourteen:  (November 23, 25) Progress, Alienation, Anomie

Lecture:  Marx, Industrialization, Alienation
Video: Medley:
Clock Work
Metropolis (Fritz Lang)
Modern Times (Charlie Chaplin)

No class Friday, Thanksgiving Break

Assigned Video:  Blade Runner  (Harrison Ford)

Week Fifteen:  (November 30, December 2, 4) Social Change

Lecture:  Social Change and Social Movements
In class Video: Razors Edge (Bill Murray)

Week Sixteen:  (December 7, 9, 11) Social Movements

In class Video:  History of Rock and Roll
Discussion
In class Video:  Dolphins (Robin Williams)
Discussion.
Paper due.
Final take home exam handed out.

Week Seventeen:  (December 14 –18) Final Exam Period

Final Exam turned in.
Papers turned back.
SUGGESTED MOVIES

Never Cry Wolf, (speciesism, ecology)
Straight Time, Dustin Hoffman (deviance, crime, stigma)
Elmer Gantry, Burt Lancaster (Religion, fundamentalism)
Gabi, (stigma, life among the physically disadvantaged)
Night Mother, Sissy Spachek (suicide)
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, (discrimination against the hearing impaired)
Lonely are the Brave, Kirk Douglas (society change, post modernism)
Lord of the Flies, modern version, (social disorganization)
Metropolis, 1920's classic film (industrialization, class warfare)
Modern Times, 1920's classic film (Chaplin on industrialization, modernization)
Black Like Me, (racism)
The Pawn Broker, Rod Steiger (alienation)
Blade Runner, (simulacrum, alienation, technology, mass society)
Gorillas in the Mist, (speciesism)
The Mission, Robert De Niro (racism, imperialism)
Swimming to Cambodia, Spalding Grey (alienation, post modernism)
The Arrangement, Kirk Douglas Faye Dunaway (alienation)
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, (total institutions, deviance)
Tucker, A Man and his Dream, Jeff Bridges (bureaucracy, power, elitism)
Native Son, (racism)
Of Mice & Men, (sentiments, class, deviance)
Matewan, (racism, class warfare)
King of Hearts, (society as an insane asylum run by the inmates)
Elephant Man, (deviance, labeling)
Lady Chatterley's Lover, (sexism, industrialization)
The Bear, (speciesism)
Roger and Me, (capitalism / exploitation)
Apocalypse Now, Marlon Brando, (war, alienation)
Paths of Glory, Kirk Douglas, (war, authority, Injustice)
Boyz in the Hood, (class/race/poverty)
El Norte, (stratification, ethnocentrism, exploitation)
Seize the Day, Robin Williams (capitalism, alienation)
A Thousand Clowns, Jason Robards, (bureaucracy, alienation, coping)
The Last of His Tribe, (imperialism, scientific exploitation)
Taxi Driver, Robert Dinero, (anomie, powerlessness)
A Light in the Jungle, (bio of Albert Schweitzer, globalization)
The Black Robe, (religious/cultural imperialism)
Network, Faye Dunaway, Peter Finch (globalization, alienation)
The Insider, Al Pacino (Elite deviance)
Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift (Early Social Criticism)
Tuesdays with Morrie, Jack Lemmon
Falling Down, Michael Douglas (alienation, anomie)
Malcolm X, (racism, social movements)
Frances, Jessica Lange (sexism)
Mississippi Burning, (racism)
The Razors Edge, (social change, ideology, class)
Bicentennial Man, (sentiment, happiness, death)
Everyman for Himself, and God Against All, (socialization, deviance)
The Straight Story, (family)
Me Familia, (Latino family)
Lust for Life, Kirk Douglas (symbolic interaction in art and life)
The Remains of the Day, Anthony Hopkins & Emma thompson (authority)
The Gods Must be Crazy, (progress, globalization)
The Doll Maker, Jane Fonda (family)
Uncle Tom's Cabin, (racism, racist ideology)
Shawshank Redemption, Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman, (institutionalized behavior)
Birdman of Alcatraz, (institutionalized behavior, penology)
Shadrack, (sociology of death, racism, class)
Native Son, (race, racism, black experience)
Grapes of Wrath, Henry Fonda, (class conflict)
Bound for Glory, (class conflict, labor movement, depression)
Born on the Forth of July, Tom Cruise (war, ideology, socialization)
Bojangles, (racism) Gregory Hines
The Office, (modern white collar alienation)
Who's Life is This, Anyway, Richard Dryfeus (suicide)
All Quiet on the Western Front, (realities and seduction of war)
In Cold Blood, Robert Blake (deviance, murder)
Dead Man Aalking, Sean Penn (deviance, capital punishment)
Paradise Lost, (deviance, crime, rape, murder, criminal justice system)
The Selling of a Murderer, (deviance, criminal justice system)
City of God, (Poverty and crime in South American, drugs, culture of poverty)
Bowling for Columbine, Michael Moore, (guns, gun control, violence)
Amistad, Morgan Freeman, Anthony Hopkins (Racism)
Monster, (Crime, Criminal Justice System, Deviance)
Winged Migration, (Deep Ecology, family)
The Accused, Jodi Foster (Rape)
Mind Walk, Liv Ullman (understanding modern times)
The Corporation, (social organization, alienation, imperialism)
Inherit the Wind, George C. Scott & Jack Lemon (evolution vs. creationism)
Save the Tiger, (alienation) Jack Lemon
Hotel Rwanda, Racism, Genocide
March of the Penguins* (sociobiology family)
Nine Angry Men, (witness testimony, prejudice)
Thirteen Days, Kevin Costner (decision making processes)
Maria Full of Grace, (drugs and the drug war)
An Inconvenient Truth, (Global Warming)
Soylent Green, (future) Charlton Heston
Galileo's Daughter, (Knowledge and the conflict between religion and science)
Crash, (alienation, racism, class)
Sicko, Michael Moore (health care in America)
What the Bleep Do I Know?, (human nature, epistemology)
End of Suburbia, Social Change in the U.S.
Blood Diamond (Racism, Social disorganization, conflict)
Religulous, (religion and atheism) Bill Mahr
Fight Club, (alienation) Brad Pitt
The Arrangement, Kirk Douglas Faye Dunaway (family and alienation)
Kinsey, Liam Neeson (American investigation into human sexuality)
God Father, Part One, Al Pacino, Robert De Niro,
El Norte, (international stratification, Immigration and family)
A Thousand Clowns, Jason Robart, (bureaucracy, alienation and family)
Frances, Jessica Lange (sexism, exploitation and family)
The Razors Edge, (social change, class and relationships)
Bicentennial Man, (family and artificial intelligence)
Me Familia, (Latino family)
The Doll Maker, Jane Fonda (traditional family, and the strength of mothers)
Long Days Journey into Night, Jason Robards (dark side of family)
Shadrack, Harvey Keitel (family, class, old age and death)
Friendly Persuasion, Gary Cooper (Idealized traditional family)
Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf, Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton (family, deviance)
Ordinary People, (Dysfunctional family)
Iron and Silk, (Modern Chinese Family)
The Namesake, (modern eastern Indian marriage and family in America)
My Big Fat Greek Wedding, (mixed Greek American marriage)
Salt of the Earth, (Mexican American families fighting exploitation, black-listed in 50's)
American Beauty, Kevin Spacey (dark side of modern family)
Monsoon Wedding, (arranged eastern Indian wedding)
Four Seasons, Alan Alda (marriage and adultery),
The Beautiful Country, (orphans, mixed marriage and family in Vietnam and the U.S.)
Sometimes a Great Notion, written by Ken Kesey, Paul Newman (social change) "Family Upside
Down, Fred Astaire (family, aging and human dignity and choice)
Hedda Gabler, Jane Fonda, (patriarchy and sexism in family)
Oh Pioneer, written by Willa Cather, (Jessica Lange matriarchy, family on the frontier)
The Yearling, Gregory Peck (traditional frontier family)
The War, Kevin Costner (family and war)
Seize the Day, Robin Williams, (post-modern family and alienation)
The Silent One, (childhood mental illness) Instructor's copy
The Enchanted Forest, 1946, black and white, (family in nature) Instructors copy
Cloud, (family among horses) Instructors copy
Kramer vs. Kramer, (Divorce) Meryl Streep, Dustin Hoffman
Off the Map, Sam Eliot (love, loss, unconventional family)
When Nietzsche Wept, (bio on Nietzsche & Freud) Armand Assante, Ben Cross
Moloki, The Story of Father Damien, (Christianity in practice with lepers)
Martin Luther, (biography) Stacy Keach
Jesus Camp, (documentary on aggressive evangelicals)
Doubt, Meryl Streep (Religious Deviance)
The Apostle, Robert Duval
Jonestown, The Life and Death of the Peoples Temple, (Documentary)
Slumdog Millionaire, Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor, Saurabh Shukla
The Wrestler, Mickey Rourke
Bar Fly, Mickey Rourke
A Boy and His Dog, Don Johnson Jason Robards
The Deer Hunter, Robert De Niro