

Introduction to Sociology Summer 2013

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Office Location: 415-C BEH
Office Hours:

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of sociology including early sociological theory and methodology, as well as basic concepts such as culture, inequality, and social structure. The goal of this class is to provide you with the tools to critically analyze issues of class, race, gender, sexuality, the family, and globalization through a sociological perspective.

Course Goals

- 1). Students will be able to discuss the evolution of sociology as a science, and differentiate it from other social sciences.
- 2). Students will develop their own sociological imagination.
- 3). Students will think critically about how social forces shape individual lives.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Two exams | 200 points (2@100 points each) |
| 2) Four short assignments | 60 points (4@15 points each) |
| 3) Final Paper | 50 points |
| 3) Attendance | 40 points |

Total: **350 points**

Required Readings: There is no textbook required for this class. All the readings for this class will be made available to you via Canvas. I expect you to come to class having read the required readings for that day.

Exams: There are two multiple-choice exams, worth 100 points each, that will cover material from the readings and lectures. The final exam is not cumulative. Make-up exams will only be given in the case of documented illness or emergency.

Short Assignments: There are four written assignments designed to let you “do” sociology by applying sociological concepts discussed in class. Assignments must be *2 double-spaced pages in length with 12-point font, one-inch margins, and Times New Roman font*. They are worth 15 points each and are due **IN CLASS** on the dates listed on the syllabus. Late papers will not be accepted.

Final Paper: There is a final paper that will be due on the last day of class. It must be *4-5 double-spaced pages in length with 12-point font, one-inch margins, and Times New Roman font*.

Short Assignment #1) *Theorizing Today*: An analysis of a contemporary social problem or political debate through the eyes of an early foundational figure in sociology.

Short Assignment #2) *Conduct a Survey*: Conduct a brief survey of at least 10 people regarding

an issue or topic of your choice related to sociology. In a brief summary paper include the survey, summarize your findings, and draw conclusions regarding your research.

Short Assignment #3) Ethnography: Conduct a brief participant observation or ethnographic study wherein you study and/or participate in a particular group event or social organization. Samples of events could include a religious group other than the one you usually attend, hang out at a coffee shop, attend a sporting event, or a volunteer organization. Write down your observations, note any observations or patterns that particularly surprise you. (***)NOTE TO GET FULL CREDIT BE OBJECTIVE!!!!)

Short Assignment #4) Evaluate a book, movie, or TV show: Briefly summarize a book, movie, or TV show, and discuss how race, class, gender, or sexuality is represented. Use concepts from class and/or readings.

Final Paper) Biography: Write a short autobiography highlighting the themes, concepts, and/or theories we discuss in class that have influenced your life. (4-5 pages)

Attendance: Attendance is compulsory. You are allowed to miss up to 2 classes without it impacting your grade; beginning with your third absence points will be deducted. (If you must miss class for a documented emergency, you will be excused.)

I expect you to come to class ready to engage with the subject matter. To ensure a respectful and productive environment in the classroom, my expectations for you are:

- To arrive to class on time
- To complete the required written assignments on time
- To follow University of Utah code for student conduct (see below)
- NO CELL PHONES

Course Policies

Academic Conduct

In addition to these requirements, students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom as stipulated in the Student Code, which can be found here: <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code and know that they are responsible for its content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is faculty members' responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

I expect that all work you produce over the course of the semester will be your own. If you plagiarize any material from outside sources for your written work in the class, **IT WILL RESULT IN A FAILURE OF THE ENTIRE COURSE**. There are no exceptions to this, and no second chances. When in doubt, ask.

Accommodations Policy: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and me to make arrangements for accommodations.

Weekly Outline

***Note: This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.**

Week One:

Tuesday May 14

Introduction

Thursday May 16

Sociological Imagination

C. Wright Mills, "The Promise of the Sociological Imagination"

Dalton Conley, "Trajectories"

Week Two:

Tuesday May 21

Foundational Theories

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The Communist Manifesto"

Thursday May 23

Foundational Theories

Max Weber, selections from *The Protestant Ethic*

Emile Durkheim, "What Makes Sociology Different?"

Week Three:

Tuesday May 28

Research Methods

Howard Schuman, "Sense and Nonsense About Surveys"

Rockett and Smith, "Suicide Misclassification in an International Context"

Assignment #1 Due

Thursday May 30

Research Methods

Norma Gray, et al., "Explaining Rape Victim Blame: A Test of Attribution Theory"

Week Four:

Tuesday June 4

Research Ethics

Angelica Orb et al., "Ethics in Qualitative Research"

Trudi James and Hazel Platzer, "Ethical Considerations in Qualitative Research with Vulnerable Groups: Exploring Lesbians' and Gay Men's Experiences of Health Care—A Personal Perspective"

Thursday June 6

Privilege, Power and Class

William Domhoff, "The American Upper Class"

Barbara Ehrenreich, "Nickel and Dimed"

Assignment #2 Due

Week Five:

Tuesday June 11

Privilege, Power, and Class

Chuck Collins, *Economic Apartheid in America* (Chpt. 2)

Thursday June 13

EXAM 1

Week Six:

Tuesday June 18

Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

Susan Murray, “‘We All Love Charles’: Men in Child Care and the Social Construction of Gender”

Thursday June 20

Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

Sharon Bird, “Welcome to the Men’s Club: Homosociality and the Maintenance of Hegemonic Masculinity”

Week Seven:

Tuesday June 25

Race and Ethnicity

David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness* (Chpt. 7)

Thursday June 27

Race and Ethnicity

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, “Racism Without ‘Racists’”

Peggy McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”

Assignment #3 Due

Week Eight:

Tuesday July 2

Culture and Meaning

Horace Miner, “Body Ritual of the Nacirema”

Clifford Geertz, “Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight”

Thursday July 4

No Class Independence Day

Week Nine:

Tuesday July 9

Culture as a Social Construct

Michele Lamont, “Colliding Moralities Between Black and White Workers”

Assignment #4 Due

Thursday July 11

Marriage and Family

Stephanie Coontz, “The World Historical Transformation of Marriage”

Margaret Anderson and Howard Taylor, “Diversity Among American Families”

Week Ten:

Tuesday July 16

Globalization

Marilyn Carr, et al. "Globalization and Home-Based Workers"

Thursday July 18

Globalization

Pierette Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Domestica* (Chpt. 2)

Week Eleven:

Tuesday July 23

Society and the Environment

Johan Rockström, et al. "A Safe Operating Space for Humanity"

William R. Catton Jr. and Riley E. Dunlap, "Environmental Sociology: A New Paradigm"

Thursday July 25

Social Change

Saul Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals* (Chpt. 1)

Week 12:

Tuesday July 30

Final Exam

FINAL PAPER DUE!