

INTRODUCTION to SOCIOLOGY
SOCY 100-401
Spring 2008
Mon. / Wed. 2:00-3:15 pm Art-Sociology 1213

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Course Description

What is society and how does it shape individuals' lives? Sociology is one of several "social sciences" which attempt to understand the relationship between individuals and groups, societies, institutions and systems. Many other disciplines also study this relationship, but with the focus on specific domains within society such as politics, economics or culture. Sociology attempts to understand the ways that groups of individuals and society relate to one another in all domains of life. In studying this relationship, the main objective of this course is to help you develop what sociologist C. Wright Mills called a "sociological imagination". We will examine several problems of society and areas of social life: inequality, crime and deviance, gender, race and ethnicity, the family, education, work, politics, and others, understanding each of these using the *concepts, methods, and theories* of sociology. Developing a "sociological imagination" will hopefully also allow us to understand our own experiences and everyday lives in a new perspective.

Course Texts

- ❖ Sociology: a Brief Introduction (7th Edition) by Richard Schaefer
- ❖ The Practical Skeptic (3rd Edition or later) edited by Lisa J. McIntyre

Available at campus bookstores.

- ❖ Additional articles posted to Blackboard.

Course Structure

Class time will be divided between lectures, discussions and in-class films. Most class time will consist of lecture, with more in-class discussion for the days for which reader articles are

* My office is notoriously difficult to find. From the main entrance of the Art-Socy building (on the plaza), go up the stairs to where the 3xxx classrooms are, follow the hall around to the right, you will see another small set of stairs. Walk up these stairs, go through the doors to the right, pass the bathrooms on your left, and go into the area that says "Electronic Media Center", in that hallway of offices is my office—3311C.

assigned. Films or parts of films will mostly be shown in class; in some cases they will be available for viewing in the Nonprint Media Center at Hornbake Library.

Course Blackboard

Blackboard will be used for 1) posting of lecture notes, and 2) to allow you to keep track of your grades and academic progress. As a registered student in the class, you will have automatic access to Blackboard for this course. Lecture notes will be posted by the end of Friday afternoon each week. You can estimate your final grade over the course of the semester as grades are added.

Assignments

Quizzes. 6 over course of semester (10%). There will be **six** quizzes over the course of the semester as indicated in the syllabus. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes will always be on reading from the textbook. They will usually have two to four questions which will be multiple-choice or true-false.

Examinations (60%). There will be **three** exams as indicated in the schedule below. Exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer questions. Exams will cover assigned readings, lectures, and films. Exams are not cumulative, so there will be **NO FINAL EXAM.** Instead, the third exam will be given at the scheduled final exam time.

Response Papers (10%). Each student must write two response papers based on assigned articles from The Practical Skeptic or posted on Blackboard. **Papers are due on the date of the class for which they are to be read.** You cannot write two papers for two articles assigned on the same day. Papers should be **at least two, no more than four, full, double-spaced pages, with 12-point font.** They should have your *name, date, this course's number or name, and the article title* about which you are writing in the top right or left hand corner, as well as be *stapled* and *page numbered*. If they do not conform to these requirements, you will lose points.

Each paper must do the following:

1. ***Summarize the article.*** Focus on the main thrust or argument of the piece; no need to review all the details, but include enough to show you read it.
2. ***Link events and ideas in the article to concepts or ideas in the related chapter of the textbook.*** How does the reading relate to ideas in the textbook? Include page numbers for the specific text material to which you link material from the assigned reader article.
3. ***Link the events and ideas in the article to some aspect of your personal experience, or that of someone you know.***
4. ***Give your personal reaction or assessment of the reading***—both its content and how well it is written or makes its point.

Short Paper (15%). Each student will write a short paper (5-8 pages) on a topic either from the course or of your choosing in consultation with the instructor. The paper will use three sources: an article from class, a major newspaper or magazine; an additional outside academic source (academic journal); a visual media source such as a documentary film, feature film, or other

media from Nonprint media center at Hornbake library. Short papers are due on the last day of class. More details TBA.

Attendance/Participation (5%). Someone once said “90% of life is just showing up.” Going to class is a good habit. It will actually save you time and energy. You will spend less time cramming for exams and catching up. On average, just showing up for class moves up students’ final grades up by 10%. Seriously. Attendance at all classes is mandatory, and will be taken periodically over the course of the semester. Your participation (as far as it is possible, i.e. on days when we have more discussion) will be counted into the final grade as well. ***Note on In-Class Conduct:*** All cell phones must be silenced and “inactive” (i.e. no text messaging) during class. Laptops may only be used for taking notes in class, not for Instant messaging, surfing Internet, etc.

CORE Course

You may have chosen this course as part of your CORE Liberal Arts and Sciences Program, the general education portion of your degree program. CORE Distributive Studies courses are designed to ensure that you will take a look at several different academic disciplines and the way they create and analyze knowledge about the world. A faculty and student committee approved this CORE Distributive Studies course because it will introduce you to ideas and issues that are central to a major intellectual discipline and because it promises to involve you actively in the learning process. These objectives will be achieved through a program of text and article readings, lecture, discussions, films, short writing assignments and examinations.

Academic Integrity Expectations

Students and instructors in this course are both responsible for upholding academic integrity and are expected to adhere to the University Honor Code. ***Violations such as cheating, plagiarism, forged documents, forged signatures, submission of the same documents to different courses are all serious violations and will be reported to the Student Honor Council and the Office of Judicial Programs.*** For more information on such violations, reporting procedures, and attached penalties, students are strongly encouraged to review the relevant sections in the “Schedule of Classes.”

Students With Disabilities

If you have a documented physical or learning disability, necessary accommodations will be made. A written request should be made one week prior to each exam for which accommodation is appropriate. University of Maryland documentation of disability needs to be obtained from Disability Support Services (301-314-7682).

Religious Observance Holidays

Students with religious holidays that conflict with the course calendar should inform me of those dates by e-mail at least one week prior to the holiday.

Make-Up Work/Exams

Make-ups for exams should be arranged before you miss an exam or assignment. No make-ups on quizzes will be given, except in extraordinary circumstances such as prolonged documented illness.

Incompletes

Incompletes will only be given when you are otherwise passing the course, but cannot complete it due to some unforeseen circumstances beyond your control.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

R = reading from The Practical Skeptic

Article = article posted on Blackboard

* = article which cannot be used for response paper

DATE	TOPIC/ READING ASSIGNMENT	NOTES
Jan 28	Introduction to Course	
Jan 30	Ch. 1: Understanding Sociology, p. 1-27	
Feb 4	Quiz 1 Ch. 2: Sociological Research, p. 28-52 R: "Men as Success Objects and Women as Sex Objects", p. 28-34	
Feb 6	Ch. 3: Culture, p. 53-76	
Feb 11	Ch. 4: Socialization, 77-98	
Feb 13	R: "The Young, the Rich and the Famous", p. 79-84 R: "Anybody's Son Will Do", p. 212-223	
Feb 18	Quiz 2 Ch. 5: Social Interaction, Groups and Social Structure, p. 99-131	
Feb 20	* Article: "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life", p. 75-77 R: "The Code of the Street", p. 94-102 R: "Not Just Bodies: Strategies for Desexualizing the Physical Examination of Patients", p. 236-252	
Feb 25	Ch. 7: Deviance and Social Control, p. 156-183	
Feb 27	R: "The Saints and the Roughnecks", p. 255-266 Exam 1 Review	
Mar 3	Exam 1	Exam 1
Mar 5	Video: <u>Obedience</u>	
Mar 10	Quiz 3 Ch. 8: Stratification and Social Mobility in the	

	United States, p. 184-208	
Mar 12	R: “Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America”, p. 321-338 Article: “Wealth Matters”, p. 143-148 Video: <u><i>People Like Us</i></u>	
March 17-19	Spring Break – No Class	NO CLASS – Spring Break
Mar 24	Ch. 9: Global Inequality, p. 209-231	
Mar 26	Article: “The Nanny Chain”, p. 162-170 Video: <u><i>Danger: Children at Work / Maria Full of Grace</i></u>	
Mar 31	Quiz 4 Ch. 10: Racial and Ethnic Inequality, p. 232-259	
Apr 2	Article: “Seeing More than Black and White”, p. 178-183 Article: “Black, Brown, Red and Poisoned”, p. 373-379 Video: <u><i>America Beyond the Color Line</i></u>	
Apr 7	Ch. 11: Gender and Age Inequality, p. 260-288	
Apr 9	R: “Marked: Women in the Workplace”, p. 131-137 Article: “Masculinity as Homophobia”, p. 230-234 Video: <u><i>Killing Us Softly 3 / Tough Guise</i></u> Exam 2 Review	
Apr 14	Exam 2	Exam 2
Apr 16	Violence Readings TBA	
Apr 21	Quiz 5 Ch. 14: Government and the Economy, p. 347-372	
Apr 23	Article: “When Work Disappears”, p. 25-50	
Apr 28	Ch. 12: The Family and Intimate Relationships, p.289-313	
Apr 30	Article: “Pluralistic Ignorance and Hooking Up”, p. 225-229 *Article: “The Long Goodbye”, p. 234-238	
May 5	Quiz 6 Ch. 13: Religion and Education, p. 314-346	
May 7	Article: TBA	
May 12	Short Paper Due Exam 3 Review	
May 19 1:30-3:30	EXAM 3	Exam 3