

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
SOCY 100, Section 0701
TuTh 2:00-3:15pm, Art-Soc 2309
Spring 2009

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Office: Art-Soc 3122C (enter thru 3122)

Office Hours: Thursday 12:45-1:45pm and by appointment (schedule via email)

Purpose of the Course (Why are we here?)

- To introduce you to sociological ways of thinking about the world
- To familiarize you with the methods sociologists use to study society
- To help you understand major areas and findings of sociological inquiry
- To develop your ability to apply sociological perspectives and strategies
- To refine your skills in critical thinking, reading, writing, and analysis

We will achieve these objectives through a semester of readings, discussions, films, writing assignments, and examinations.

So, what is sociology?

- From UMD Sociology website (<http://www.bsos.umd.edu/socy/>): “Sociology is the study of societies, institutions, organizations, groups, and individuals that is conducted at two different levels. At the societal level, study is focused on the components of society—biophysical environment, technology, population, social organization and culture—how they are interrelated, how they change, and how they come to shape our collective social existence. At the individual level, sociologists focus on how the behavior, thoughts, and emotions of individuals are created and modified by the social and cultural conditions in which they live. Thus, sociology studies society and social life from two different perspectives.”
- From the American Sociological Association website (<http://www.asanet.org>): “Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts. Since human behavior is shaped by social factors, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious cults; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of sports. In fact, few fields have such broad scope and relevance for research, theory, and application of knowledge.”

This is a CORE Course: You may be taking Socy100 to fulfill a Distributive Studies requirement of the CORE Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies Program, UMD’s general education program. CORE is “designed to acquaint you with a variety of academic disciplines, ideas, ways of thinking about the world, and ways of approaching problems” (see the CORE website at <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/core/>).

Required Texts (What are we reading?)

Mapping the Social Landscape: Readings in Sociology. 5th Edition (be sure to get the correct edition!). Susan J. Ferguson. McGraw Hill. ISBN #0-07-352807-2. Noted in course outline below as "MSL."

Sociology Matters. 3rd Edition (be sure to get the correct edition!). Richard T. Schaefer. McGraw Hill. ISBN # 0-07-352811-0. Noted in course outline below as "Schaefer."

The texts are available at the University Book Center and Maryland Book Exchange. They will also be on reserve at McKeldin Library. Additional readings will be posted online on the course website and through e-reserves (see below).

Course Blackboard/ELMS Website

Our course website will include course materials, announcements, additional readings, and grades. You can access it at <http://www.elms.umd.edu>.

Expectations (What do you need to do to succeed?)

Class meetings are a place for you to hear additional information, to discuss the readings and class topics with me and the other students, to clarify and explore arguments, to give and receive feedback on your ideas, and to figure out what sociology is all about. My job is to facilitate this conversation. Your job is to:

- **Treat others respectfully:** When I evaluate your work, I will treat you as a colleague by offering constructive criticism so that you will succeed in this course and beyond. I expect that you will treat each other in this way as well, even when you may not agree with the viewpoints of fellow students. We are learning collaboratively here. Also, please **turn off your cell phone** (or set it to silent) during class. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.
- **Prepare for class:** Bring your books/readings, your notes, and all assignments for the day. **Also, you must check your UMD email account regularly.** Complete all readings before class and be prepared to discuss them.
- **Arrive on time:** Tardiness requires an explanation and apology at the end of class. Repeat lateness will affect your attendance grade.
- **Turn in assignments:** they must be completed on time, thoroughly, and in hard copy. **I do not accept unexcused late work.** If you cannot make it to class, email me **BEFORE** the assignment is due to make arrangements for turning it in.
- **Get help when you need it:** Ask questions in class, come to my office hours, make an appointment to see me, or speak with me before or after class if you are having any problems at all in Socy 100. I'm here to help you, and I can direct you to other campus resources.

Coursework & Grading (How will we know what you've learned?)

I will grade all of your work in this course. Please see me if you have any concerns about your grades; I want you to understand the grading process and find it fair. Course grades are based on the following breakdown:

Writing Assignments/Quizzes: 25%
Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 35%
Attendance/Participation: 10%
TOTAL: 100%

(90% and up=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, below 60%=F)

There is no planned extra credit available (opportunities may arise, but don't count on them!). Expect this class to be challenging—but if you make a commitment to the course you should be able to earn the grade you want.

Writing Assignments: Almost every week, there will be a short (I promise!) written assignment to complete. We will use these assignments to facilitate discussion and keep up with the readings, and I will collect them as part of your grade. Some weeks, we may substitute an in-class writing assignment or quiz.

Exams: The midterm and final exams will be similar in format and will include short-answer sections and essays. Exams will cover all assigned readings, films, and lectures. The midterm will be held in class on **Thursday, March 12** and the final will be held on **Monday, May 18**. The class will develop a final exam review guide collaboratively.

Attendance Policy

Attendance and participation are required as part of your grade (see above). To earn full credit in this area, you must contribute to discussions by reading, preparing, and speaking in class. Simply showing up is not enough—but it is the first step.

Excused absences: Per University policy, absences due to the following reasons are excused: illness, religious observances, participation in University activities at the request of University authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond student control. You must request the excuse in writing and supply documentation—**beforehand**, if at all possible. Students with religious observances that conflict with the course calendar should inform me by e-mail by the end of the second week of classes.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams are very rare and should be arranged in advance. If you miss an exam without prior notice, email me as soon as possible. There will be **no make-up exams** unless you have a university-approved excuse and appropriate documentation.

Inclement Weather & Other Campus Closures: If campus is closed, we will not have class, and we will reschedule any activities for the next class day. For information about campus closures due to weather or other emergencies, call 301/405-SNOW or check online: <http://www.umd.edu/emergencypreparedness/index.html>.

Academic Integrity

“Academic dishonesty is a corrosive force in the academic life of a university. It jeopardizes the quality of education and depreciates the genuine achievements of others”—UMD’s Code of Academic Integrity. I expect you to adhere to the code (please review it at <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html>). All violations (including cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, submission of duplicate assignments to multiple courses, etc.) will be reported to the Student Honor Council—and may result in a grade of “XF” for the course (failure

due to academic dishonesty). If you have any questions about what constitutes a violation, please contact me.

University of Maryland has an Honor Pledge: “I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.” This statement should be handwritten and signed on the front of all exams submitted for this course. You can learn more about the Honor Pledge here: <http://www.studentconduct.umd.edu/aca/honorpledge.html>.

Students with Disabilities

I am happy to make all necessary accommodations for students who are registered with Disability Support Service (DSS) and have documented physical or learning disabilities. Please let me know in writing or by email at the beginning of the course, or at least one week prior to each exam for which you will need accommodation. Contact DSS at 301/314-7682 (<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/>) if you need to register and acquire documentation.

Copyright Notice

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Welcome to SOCY 100!

Course Outline & Assignment Schedule

Week 1: Introduction—What is Sociology?

Tuesday January 27: Intro to the class

Thursday January 29

C. Wright Mills, “The Promise” (MSL), pp 1-7

Kathryn Edin & Maria Kefalas, “Promises I Can Keep” (MSL), pp 7-18

Schaefer, pp 1-14

Week 2: Major Theoretical Perspectives & Research Methods

Tuesday February 3

Schaefer, pp 14-33

Thursday February 5

Michael Schwalbe, “Finding Out How the Social World Works” (MSL), pp 32-42

Craig Haney, W. Curtis Banks, Philip G. Zimbardo, “Interpersonal Dynamics in a Simulated Prison” (MSL), pp 43-52

Mitchell Duneier, “Sidewalk” (MSL), pp 53-61

*NOTE: ***Friday, February 6: End of schedule adjustment. Last day to drop course without a "W" or change grading option****

Week 3: Culture

Tuesday February 10

Schaefer, pp 36-51

Horace Miner, "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" (posted online)

Anne M. Velliquette & Jeff B. Murray, "The New Tattoo Subculture" (MSL), pp 70-82

Thursday February 12

Schaefer, pp 52-67

Week 4: Socialization, Groups & Social Structure

Tuesday February 17

Robert Granfield, "Making It by Faking It" (MSL), pp 114-127

Jacqueline Lewis, "Learning to Strip" (MSL), pp 127-143

Thursday February 19

Patricia A. Adler & Peter Adler, "Peer Power" (MSL), pp 155-170

Schaefer, pp 71-87

Week 5: Deviance & Social Control

Tuesday February 24

Schaefer, pp 96-111

Thursday February 26

David L. Rosenhan, "On Being Sane in Insane Places" (MSL), pp 209-219

Martin Sanchez Jankowski, "Gang Business" (MSL), pp 170-180

Week 6: Inequality/Social Class

Tuesday March 3

Schaefer, pp 122-144

Thursday March 5

G. William Domhoff, "Who Rules America?" (MSL), pp 266-279

Thomas M. Shapiro, "The Hidden Cost of Being African American" (MSL), pp 280-291

Barbara Ehrenreich, "Nickel-and-Dimed" (MSL), pp 292-305

Week 7: Putting it all Together/Midterm

Tuesday March 10: Midterm review discussion.

Thursday March 12: **Midterm Exam** (bring your student IDs)

March 16-20: SPRING BREAK

Week 8: Inequality/Gender & Sexuality

Tuesday March 24

Schaefer, pp 176-191

Judith Lorber, "Night to His Day" (MSL), pp 102-114

Thursday March 26

Betsy Lucal, "What It Means to be Gendered Me" (MSL), pp 315-330

Meika Loe, "Working at Bazooms" (MSL), pp 342-359

In-class Film: "Tough Guise" (1999, dir. Sut Jhally)

Week 9: Inequality/Race & Ethnicity

Tuesday March 31: No class

Instead watch Episodes 1 and 3 of "Race: The Power of an Illusion" (California Newsreel, 2003). The episodes (totaling about 110 minutes) will be playing on an hourly schedule at the Nonprint Media Services Library (on the ground floor of Hornbake Library) on Dial Access from March 30-April 5. You must go to Nonprint Media to view the film, but can go at a time/date of your choosing. Please view the film at some point BEFORE class on Thursday April 2.

Thursday April 2:

Schaefer, 154-173

Jennifer Lee, Frank D. Bean & Kathy Sloane, "Beyond Black and White" (MSL), pp 375-382

Week 10: Social Institutions: Power/Politics & the Media

Tuesday April 7

Schaefer, pp 194-199 and 229-234

C. Wright Mills "The Power Elite" (MSL), pp 407-414

Thursday April 9

Gregory Mantsios, "Media Magic" (MSL), pp 450-458

Karen Sternheimer, "It's Not the Media" (MSL), pp 459-471

In-class Film: "The Merchants of Cool: The Giant Feedback Loop" (2001, dir. Barak Goodman)

NOTE: ***Friday, April 10: Last day to drop course with a "W"***

Week 11: Social Institutions: Families, Religion

Tuesday April 14

Schaefer, pp 199-206

Arlie Russell Hochschild, "The Time Bind" (MSL), pp 494-504

Annette Lareau, "Invisible Inequality" (MSL), pp 630-649

Thursday April 16

Schaefer, pp 206-214

Mark Chaves "Abiding Faith" (MSL), pp 511-516

In-class Film: "Jesus Camp" (2006, dir. Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady)

Week 12: Social Institutions: Education, Health/Medicine

Tuesday April 21

Schaefer, pp 217-226

Jonathan Kozol, "Still Separate, Still Unequal" (MSL), pp 578-595

Thursday April 23

Schaefer, pp 258-268

Eric Klinenberg, "Dying Alone" (MSL), pp 540-556

In-class Films: "Selling Sickness" (2005, dir. Catherine Scott), "The Business of Being Born" (2008, dir. Abby Epstein)

Week 13: Social Change

Tuesday April 28

George Ritzer, "The McDonaldization of Society" (MSL), pp 662-672

Thursday April 30

D. Stanley Eitzen, "The Atrophy of Social Life" (MSL), pp 672-680

Week 14: Social Movements

Tuesday May 5

Schaefer, pp 277-283

Jo Freeman and Victoria Johnson, "Preface" and "Introduction" to *Waves of Protest*, pp ix-xi and pp 1-4 (posted online through e-reserves)

Thursday May 7

Jeremy Brecher, Tim Costello, & Brendan Smith, "Globalization and Social Movements" (MSL), pp 680-696

Allan G. Johnson, "What Can We Do?" (MSL), pp 697-708

Week 15: Conclusion/Review

Tuesday May 12: Last class. Final Review discussion.

Final Exam: Monday, May 18 from 10:30am-12:30pm (bring your student IDs)

Note: Online course evaluations will be open for you to complete at <https://www.courseevalum.umd.edu/> from Tuesday, April 28 to Wednesday, May 13.