

Fall 1999

Sociology 1
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Raka Ray
Office: 434 Barrows
Office hours: M 2:15-4:30

rakaray@uclink4.berkeley.edu
office phone: 642-9565

Learning sociology is about understanding how our society works, and about the influences that shape who we are and how we think. In this class you will journey through time, looking closely at each decade in America, beginning with the fifties. What were the main forces operating in each decade? Who were the main sociological thinkers? Why did people in each period fear what they did, act how they did, and write as they did? As you move through time and arrive at this decade, you will question the social patterns in your own time and society, and your own hopes and fears. You will, in the words of British sociologist, Anthony Giddens, learn to “think [y]ourselves away from the familiar routines of [y]our daily lives in order to look at them anew”. As your sociological imagination expands, you will find yourself questioning the very things that are considered commonsense, natural or inevitable. In this way, you will deepen your understanding of the society you live in and, indeed, of yourself.

All required readings are on reserve in the library. The following books are required reading and are available at ASUC bookstore:

1. Wini Breines, *Young, White, and Miserable*
2. Elliott Leibow, *Tally's Corner*
3. Todd Gitlin, *The Whole World is Watching*
4. Jay MacLeod, *Ain't No Making It*

Articles marked on the syllabus as (RDR) are available in a reader from Copy Central on Bancroft.

In addition to the readings, we will view four films. These films are **not** optional and you will be tested on them. They are all available at the Media and Resources Center (in the basement of Moffitt Library) and you can view them there if you happen to miss class.

Requirements for the course include:

- 1) A mid-term examination on Wednesday, October 6th (30%)
- 2) Five short papers (3-5 pages) based on the reading (25%)
- 3) A final examination on December 16th (30%)
- 4) Active participation in twice weekly sections (15%). The section timings are as follows: 101 (TT 8-9), 102 (MW 9-10), 103 (MW 2-3), 104 (TT 2-3), 105 (TT 11-12), 106 (TT 1-2), 107 (MW 11-12), 108 (MW 10-11), 109 (MW 12-1), 110 (TT 2-3).

Course Outline and Readings

- Week 1 (Aug 23-25)** THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION
- Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination* (RDR)
- Week 2 (Aug 30-Sept 1)** THE FIFTIES: The Way Things Should Be
- Talcott Parsons, “The Kinship System of the Contemporary United States” (RDR)
- Sept 6** **Labor Day holiday**
Start reading *Young, White and Miserable*
- Week 3 (Sept 8)** Growing Up In The Fifties
- Wini Breines, *Young White and Miserable*
- Week 4 (Sept 13-15)** The Production Of Ideology
Movie: *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*
- Reading Report I due
- Week 5 (Sept 20-22)** THE SIXTIES: Race and Conflict
- Elliott Leibow, *Tally's Corner*
- Week 6 (Sept 27-29)** The Civil Rights Movement
- Bob Blauner, *Black Lives, White Lives* (RDR)
- Movie: *Eyes on the Prize*
- Reading Report II due
- Week 7 (Oct 4-6)** MIDTERM WEEK
Monday, Oct 4:
Wednesday, Oct 6: REVIEW SESSION
MIDTERM EXAMINATION
- Week 8 (Oct 11-13)** THE SEVENTIES: Questioning Authority
- Todd Gitlin, *The Whole World is Watching*
- Week 9 (Oct 18-20)** Women's Liberation
- Shulamith Firestone, *The Dialectic of Sex* (RDR)
 - Combahee Collective, “A Black Feminist Statement” (RDR)
 - Rayna Rapp, “Family and Class in Contemporary America: Notes Towards an Understanding of Ideology” (RDR)

- Week 10 (Oct 25-27)** Fear and Loathing in San Francisco
 Movie: *The Times of Harvey Milk*
 Reading Report III due
 Start reading *Ain't No Makin' It*
- Week 11 (Nov 1-3)** THE EIGHTIES: The Reagan Years
 • Jay MacLeod, *Ain't No Making It*
- Week 12 (Nov 8-10)** Understanding Intersections: Race/Class/Gender
 • William Julius Wilson, *The Truly Disadvantaged* (RDR)
- Week 13 (Nov 15-17)** Unemployment and its Effects
 Movie: *Roger and Me*
 Reading Report IV due
- Week 14 (Nov 22-24)** THE NINETIES: The Age of Globalization and Multiculturalism
 • Anthony Giddens, the Reith Lectures. Available on reserve and on the Internet:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/events/reith_99/default.htm
- Week 15 (Nov 29)** Identity and Conflict
 • Nancy Abelman and John Lie, "Blue Dreams: Korean Americans and the Los Angeles Riots" (RDR)
 • Excerpts from *Making Face, Making Soul* (RDR)
 Canela Jaramillo, "Postscript"
 Elena Tajima Creef, "Notes From a Fragmented Daughter"
 Kristal Brent Zook, "Light Skinned-ded naps"
 Rosemary Cho Leyson, "The Visit Home"
- Dec 1 FINAL REVIEW SESSION
 Reading Report V due
- FINAL EXAM: December 16, 12:30-3:30pm**