

MW(F) 1-2  
Fall 2016  
2050 VLSB

## Sociology 1 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Professor Raka Ray

Office: 472 Barrows

Office hours: Monday 4-6 pm

(To come to my office hours, you must sign up for one slot on wejoinin:

<https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/hvoeb>). I will also hold special office hours before mid-term and final exams.

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In this course you will be introduced to the discipline of sociology. This means two things. First, and most important, you will learn how to think “sociologically” about the world. Second, you will learn about substantive areas within sociology. What does it mean to think sociologically about the world? Broadly it means that we see others and ourselves as shaped by the cultures and social forces of our time, not as free-floating individuals. We learn to look for social patterns and to question phenomena taken for granted or assumed to be natural. Thinking sociologically means, in the words of British sociologist Anthony Giddens, to “think ourselves away from the familiar routines of 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.

While there are many substantive areas we could explore, since sociology deals with all aspects of social life from socialization to education to penal systems, in this class we will focus on one of the central questions within sociology -- Inequality. Why does inequality exist in society? What is the nature of inequality in the United States? How does it manifest globally? What are the institutions through which inequality is created and maintained? What are its effects on our daily lives? While there are all sorts of inequalities, we focus here on race, class, gender and global inequalities.

Students will find most of the assigned readings on the course’s bCourses page. These readings are labeled ® on this syllabus.

The following books are required reading and are available at Cal Student bookstore:

- Annette Lareau, *Unequal Childhoods*
- Arlie Hochschild, *Strangers in their Own Land*

Classes will meet every Monday and Wednesday, and on some Fridays (the weeks with Friday classes are noted on the syllabus).

Requirements for the course include:

- 1) An in-class mid-term examination on Wednesday, **October 5** (25%)
- 2) **One** short paper (5 pages) due **November 11**, which should combine your analysis of contemporary events with class readings. The topic will be handed out in Week 4 (15%)
- 3) **5** short quizzes to be administered within discussion sections (15%)
- 4) A take home final examination due Monday, **December 12** (30%)
- 5) Active participation in **twice weekly** sections (15%).

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|--|------------------|
| DIS 101 MW 8:00A-8:59A   41 Evans        | Josh Seim        |
| DIS 102 MW 9:00A-9:59A   41 Evans        | Josh Seim        |
| DIS 103 MW 12:00P-12:59P   61 Evans      | Carmen Brick     |
| DIS 104 MW 10:00A-10:59A   80 Barrows    | Carmen Brick     |
| DIS 105 MW 2:00P-2:59P   55 Evans        | Seth Leibson     |
| DIS 106 MW 3:00P-3:59P   72 Evans        | Seth Leibson     |
| DIS 107 MW 4:00P-4:59P   35 Evans        | Margo Mahan      |
| DIS 108 MW 5:00P-5:59P   45 Evans        | Margo Mahan      |
| DIS 109 TuTh 8:00A-8:59A   31 Evans      | Jesus Camacho    |
| DIS 110 TuTh 9:00A-9:59A   31 Evans      | Jesus Camacho    |
| DIS 111 TuTh 10:00A 10:59A   55 Evans    | Carter Koppelman |
| DIS 112; TuTh 11:00A-11:59A   55 Evans   | Carter Koppelman |
| DIS 113 TuTh 12:00P-12:59P   55 Evans    | Mark Quinn       |
| DIS 114 TuTh 1:00P-1:59P   31 Evans      | Mark Quinn       |
| DIS 115; TuTh 2:00P-2:59P   134 Dwinelle | Paula Uniacke    |
| DIS 116 TuTh 3:00P-3:59P   89 Dwinelle   | Paula Uniacke    |

You are expected to do the reading before coming to class. While there will be some classes in which I will lecture for most of the time, in most others, I will expect participation from you. I want this to be a collective learning experience where you share your understanding of the readings and of lectures with your peers. This is a large class, and it can be very intimidating to speak out in such an environment. I will try and make it as comfortable for you to speak, but I also urge you to make the effort to do so. If you make yourself speak out in class just once, it will be much easier the second time around.

*A Note on Writing:* Written assignments are your opportunity to develop, apply, and demonstrate your mastery of the knowledge and skills you are gaining in this course. They are, in effect, your chance to learn -- and apply what you have learned -- by practicing sociology. Therefore, be sure to use the concepts, categories, and theories from the course in your short papers and exams. The short papers and the final examination should be typed (computer-printed) double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in 12-inch fonts. Spell-check and proofread your work. Strunck and White's *Elements of Style* is a very handy little guide to writing well.

*A Note on Honesty:* The Berkeley student community has adopted the following code of honor: **“As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others.”** The hope and expectation is that you will adhere to this code. Plagiarism and cheating are both serious offenses – and will be treated as such – and it is my hope that you will not even think of doing either. Should you have any questions about what plagiarism is, and how to avoid it, please consult the following website: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html#Plagiarism>

## Course Outline and Readings

### **Week 1 (Aug 24-26)**

#### **Introduction: What can Sociology do for us?**

- Malcolm Gladwell, *Outliers* Chapter 1 & 2 ®

Class will meet on Friday this week.

### **Week 2 (Aug 29-31)**

#### **Thinking About Sociology**

- C. Wright Mills, “The Sociological Imagination” ®

*Quiz 1 (Mon/Tue)*

### **Week 3 (Sept 7-9)**

#### **Doing Sociology**

- Hoang, “She’s Not a Low-Class Dirty Girl!”: Sex Work in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam” ®
- Ruth Milkman, Ana Luz González and Peter Ikeler, “Wage and hour violations in urban labour markets: a comparison of Los Angeles, New York and Chicago” ®

Note: class will meet on Friday, Sept 9, since there will be no class on Monday (Labor Day)

### **Week 4 (Sep 12-14)**

#### **Class Inequality**

- Max Weber, “The Distribution of Power Within the Political Community: Class, Status, Party” ®
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party” ®

*Quiz 2 (Mon/Tue)*

### **Week 5 (Sep 19-21)**

#### **Class Inequality and Socialization**

Annette Lareau, *Unequal Childhoods*

Chps 1-4, 8, 10-12

### **Week 6 (Sep 26-28)**

#### **Racial And Ethnic Inequalities**

- William Julius Wilson, *The Truly Disadvantaged* ®
- Roberto G. Gonzales, “Learning to Be Illegal: Undocumented Youth and Shifting Legal Contexts in the Transition to Adulthood”®
- Abelmann and Lie, “Blue Dreams: Korean Americans and the Los Angeles Riots” ®

**Week 7 (Oct 3-5)**

**Mid-Term Week**

Review Oct 10

**MID-TERM Oct 12**

**Week 8 (Oct 10-12)**

**Challenging Race And Class Inequality**

*Occupy Oakland*

Guest Speaker: Laleh Behbehanian

- (optional) Wendy Brown, "Occupy Wall Street: Return of a Repressed *Res-publica*"

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/459205>

*Black Lives Matter*

Guest Speaker: Adam Jordan Wills

- (optional) Murch, Donna. "Ferguson's Inheritance." <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/08/ferguson-police-black-lives-matter/>

**Week 09 (Oct 17-19)**

**Gender Inequality**

- Christine Williams, "The Glass Escalator" ®
- Shelley Correll et al., "Getting a job: Is there a motherhood penalty?" ®
- Candace West and Don Zimmerman, "Doing Gender" ®

*Quiz 3 (Mon/Tue)*

**Week 10 (Oct 24-26)**

**Shaking up Gender**

**Film:** *Growing up Trans*

- Judith Butler, "Doing Justice to Someone: Sex Reassignment and Allegories of Transsexuality" ®

**Week 11 (Oct 31-Nov 2)**

**Thinking Politically**

- Arlie Hochschild, *Strangers in their Own Land*

Guest Speaker: Arlie Hochschild

*Quiz 4 (Mon/Tue)*

**Week 12 (Nov 7-9)**

**Acting Politically**

- Francesca Polletta and Beth Gharrity Gardner, "Narrative and Social Movements" ®
- Aldon Morris, "Black Southern Student Sit-in Movement: An Analysis of Internal Organization" ®

*Short Paper due Nov 11. Topic will be handed out in class in Week 4*

**Week 13 (Nov 14-16)**

**Thinking Globally**

- Amy Schalet, “Raging Hormones, Regulated Love: Adolescent Sexuality and the Constitution of the Modern Individual in the United States and the Netherlands” ®
- Peter Evans, Fighting Marginalization with Transnational Networks: Counter-Hegemonic Globalization”®
- Paul Farmer, “The Consumption Of The Poor: Tuberculosis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century” ®

**Week 14 (Nov 21)**

**On Being A Sociologist**

- Michael Burawoy: “Public Sociologies: Contradictions, Dilemmas, and Possibilities” ®

*Quiz 5 (Mon/Tue)*

No class on Wednesday the 23 (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

**Week 15 (Nov 28-30)**

**Last Class/Catch Up/Sum Up  
Review**

Take home final exam will be handed out on the last day of class. Completed exams are due by **DECEMBER 12 AT 5PM AT 454 BARROWS**