

## SOC. 151: PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE — FALL, 2014

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**LECTURES:** MW(F), 9-10am, in 2 LeConte

**OFFICE HOURS:** Usual office hours will be:  
M. 10-11am; W., 11:30-12:30pm;  
Occasionally Thu, 3-4pm .... @ 460 Barrows

See slots and sign up at:  
<http://www.wejoinin.com/Fischer>

For different times, contact me at:  
[fischer1@berkeley.edu](mailto:fischer1@berkeley.edu)

### **Sections and GSIs:**

**Lindsay Berkowitz**  
[berkowitz.lindsay+gsi@gmail.com](mailto:berkowitz.lindsay+gsi@gmail.com)  
#102 MW 10-11am, 80 Barrows

**Daniel Kluttz**  
[kluttzgsi@gmail.com](mailto:kluttzgsi@gmail.com)  
#101 Tu-Th, 12-1pm, 224 Wheeler  
#104 Tu-Th 9-10am, 279 Dwinelle

The sociological field of “Personality and Social Structure” studies the intersection between the individual and society. We are going to look at how certain aspects of society – national culture, historical era, and social class position – shape certain aspects of individuals’ personalities, thinking, and feeling, and affect the way individuals *express* their personalities. Among the specific topics we will look at are: why this topic matters to sociology, theories of personality, types and measurements of personality, Asian versus Western habits of thinking, class differences in individuals’ sense that they control their lives, historical changes in “intelligence,” and cultural variations in individuals’ happiness and depression. (See the weekly outline below for a full list.)

The Department of Sociology has chosen this course to be one of a few upper-division classes to have GSIs and sections in order to encourage more student writing, so that will be part of the focus as well. There will be 1 midterm; 1 one-hour, in-class final; and 3 essays to be worked on in section. GSIs may modify the writing expectations. *Grading:* midterm – 25%; final exam – 30%; essay #1 – 5%; essay #2 – 10%; essay # 3 – 20%; other section work and participation – 10%.

This class will usually meet for lecture two times a week (and section two times a week.) Except for holidays and other disruptions (like the first day of class being a Friday), lectures will be Mon. and Weds., unless material runs over and we need to meet more. *Note* the variations in the weekly schedule below (e.g., .....).

### **READINGS**

#### *Book:*

Nisbett, *The Geography of Thought*

#### *Articles:*

The readings are available on-line at bCourses.... *and* for those who prefer to buy printed readers also at Copy Central on Bancroft Way.

**SCHEDULE** (subject to change).

*Note: The class is scheduled for three lectures a week. However, almost all weeks, we will only meet two times – usually Mon. and Weds. – but keep all three times open on your calendars. And look at schedule below variations.*

**Wk. 1 – F., Aug 29**    *Introduction to the Course; Overview*

*Reading:*            ● Carnahan and MacFarland, “Revisiting the Stanford Prison Experiment.”

*Viewing:*            ● Youtube: either [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_huJo9FOkI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_huJo9FOkI) (30 min)  
or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndBnlj0bMFA> (6 min.)

**Wk. 2 – W, Sep 3 & F., Sep 5:** *The Psychology and Methodology of Personality Research*

☛ *Mon., Sep. 1 – no lecture; class meets on Friday*

*Readings:*            ● Mitchell & Black, “Sigmund Freud and the Classic Psychoanalytic Tradition.”  
● Gosling, “Ocean’s Five,” from *Snoop*, pp. 31-54.  
● Caspi, et al., “Moving Against the World.”  
● Lehrer, “Don’t! The Secret of Self-Control.” (And Youtube:  
[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/business/jan-june11/makingsense\\_06-03.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/business/jan-june11/makingsense_06-03.html))

*Assignment:*        *Do Personality Quiz/Survey on bCourse*

**Wk. 3 – M., Sep 8 & W., Sep 10 –** *The Sociological Interest in Personality*

*Readings:*            ● Geertz, “Person, Time, and Conduct in Bali,” excerpt.  
● Simmel, “Metropolis and Mental Life.”  
● Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Chapter III.

**Wk. 4 – M., Sep 15 & W., Sep 17:** *What Sociologists Mean by Social Structure – and by Culture*

*Readings:*            ● Merton, “Social Structure and Anomie.”  
● Riesman, *The Lonely Crowd*, Ch. 1.  
● Haslam et al, “How Stereotyping Yourself...”  
● Markus and Schwartz, “Does Choice Mean Freedom....”

**Wk. 5 – M., Sep 22 & W., Sep 24 –** *Culture / Nation & Personality, with focus on individualism*

☛ *First essay (about 3 pp.) due.*

*Readings:*            ● Heine, “Self as Cultural Product.”  
● Fu and Markus, “My Mother and Me.”  
● Dorné, “Common Sense.”  
● Rosen, “Understanding Corruption.”

**Wk. 6 – M., Sep 29 & F., Oct 3 – *Class & Personality, with focus on sense of control***

☛ *Weds, Oct. 1 – no lecture; class meets on Friday.*

- Readings:*
- Stephens & Markus, “It’s Your Choice.”
  - Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*, Ch. 1.
  - Lareau, “Invisible Inequality.”
  - Lareau, *Unequal Childhoods*, Ch. 12

**Wk. 7 – M., Oct 6 & W., Oct 8 – *History & Personality, with focus on self-fashioning***

- Readings:*
- Ryan, Excerpts from *The Cradle of the Middle Class: The Family in Oneida County, New York, 1790-1865*.
  - Arnett, “Learning How to Stand Alone.”
  - Buchmann and Eisner, “The Transition from the Utilitarian to the Expressive Self: 1900-1992.”
  - Twenge et al, “Egos Inflating Over Time.”

**Wk. 8 – M., Oct 13 & W., Oct 15 – *Stock-Taking / Review / Midterm***

☛ *Mid-Term on Oct. 15*

**Wk. 9 – M., Oct 20 & W., Oct 22 – *Culture / Nation & Thinking, with focus on part-whole***

- Readings:* Nisbet, *The Geography of Thought*: Intro; Ch’s 1-2 (skim); Ch’s 3-6; Ch. 8.

**Wk. 10 – M., Oct 27 & W., Oct 29 – *History & Thinking, with focus on intelligence***

- Readings:*
- Neisser, “Introduction: Rising Test Scores.”
  - Dickens and Flynn, “Great Leap Forward.”
  - Greenfield, “The Cultural Evolution of IQ.”

**Wk. 11 – M., Nov 3 & W., Nov 5 – *Class & Thinking, with focus on prejudice***

☛ *Nov. 4 is Election Day – If you don’t vote, don’t bitch*

☛ *Second essay (about 5 pp.) due.*

- Readings:*
- Allport, *The Nature of Prejudice*, Ch. 25: “The Prejudiced Personality.”
  - Schuman, “Changing Racial Norms in America.”
  - Rubin, *Busing & Backlash*, Ch. 3

**Wk. 12 – M., Nov 10 & W., Nov 12 – *Culture/Nation & Emotions, with focus on violence***

- Readings:*
- Hochschild, “Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure.”
  - Anderson, “Code of the Streets”
  - Cohen and Nisbett, “Field Experiments Examining the Culture of Honor.”

**Wk. 13 – M., Nov 17 & W., Nov 19 – *History & Emotions, with focus on love and sympathy***

- ☛ *Mon., Nov 11 – no lecture. Class meets on Fri., the 18th.*
- ☛ *Outline of third essay due .*

*Readings:*

- Kasson, *Rudeness and Civility*, Ch. 5
- Coontz, *Marriage: A History*, excerpts
- Haltunnen, “Humanitarianism and the Pornography of Pain In Anglo-American Culture.”

**Wk. 14 – M., Nov 24 & W., Nov 26 – *Class & Emotions, with focus on happiness***

*Readings:*

- Layard, *Happiness: A New Science*, Ch. 2
- Adler and Snibbe, “The Role of Psychosocial Processes in Explaining the Gradient Between Socioeconomic Status and Health.”
- Mydas, “Recalculating Happiness.”

**Wk. 15 – M., Dec 1 – *Class Choice*; W., Dec 3 – *Review*; F., Dec 5 – *Exam***

- ☛ *Dec 1: Lecture topic to have been chosen by students*
- ☛ *Dec 3: Review*
- ☛ *Dec 5: In-Class Final (covers only wks. 9-15)*

**Dec. 8 – Dec. 12 —> *Reading and Recitation Week***

- ☛ *Third paper due Dec. 15*

----- **OTHER COURSE INFORMATION** -----

***Use of materials:*** In this class, you may share any notes you take with other members of this class. You may also record the class, if you wish, as long as that recording is only for use by you and other members of this class. You may not post notes, recordings, class materials, etc., without permission. Any commercial use of materials from this class is forbidden by University policy and California state law.

***Plagiarism:*** Plagiarism is defined as use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source, for example:

- Copying of passages from works of others into your homework, essays, or exams without acknowledgment. (“Others” includes stuff on the Internet.)
- Use of the views, opinions, or insights of others without acknowledgment. (E.g.: Writing “The rise of the West was probably a result of the rise of Protestant theology and world views” without mentioning Weber.)
- Paraphrasing of others’ characteristic or original phraseology, metaphor, or other literary device without acknowledgment.
- If you aren’t sure, ask.

Plagiarism will be treated severely.