

# SOC 1: Introduction to Sociology

Professor: Robert Braun  
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440 Social Sciences Building

Office Hours:  
TH 3-5:00PM

Sign up: <https://www.wejoinin.com/robert.braun>  
Zoom: <https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/92931177736>

Spring 2022  
Dwinelle Hall 155  
MWF 8-9 AM

## Course description

Sociology studies how forces beyond our control and outside the realm of nature shape what we feel, perceive, want and get. Behaviors that may at first seem like deeply personal choices or determined by nature -suicide, academic achievement, college major- are shown by sociologist to be clearly affected by how we are raised and who we interact with. Sociologist apply this distinct approach to three interrelated sets of questions:

- *Identity*: To which groups do we belong and how does this affect our behavior?
- *Inequality*: Which group gets what, when and most importantly why?
- *Integration*: How do groups produce social order and solidarity?

Sociologists believe that answering these questions lies at the heart of understanding both world history and the world we live in today. In this class you will learn how to answer these questions yourself by investigating differences within and across societies, studying how sociologists have made sense of these differences and exploring how all of this matters for you and your surroundings. Students will improve their analytical skills by drawing connections between social science theory, popular non-fiction, historical monographs and journalistic accounts. Upon completing the course, students will not only be acquainted

with the main types of sociological explanation, but they will also be able to evaluate the evidence supporting the various explanations. In turn, this will help students to see society more clearly and, hopefully, with greater empathy for those who are different.

## Readings

All required readings are available on the the course web site (Files->Readings). To avoid confusion, readings are ordered by week.

## Requirements and Grades

The formal requirements and grade calculation are as follows:

- Midterm 30% of grade.
- Final: 30% of grade.
- Draft paper: 5% of grade.
- Final paper: 25% of grade.
- Section participation: 10% of grade.

## Paper

Students have to write one paper (8 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins). Paper assignment will be handed out on Wednesday 2/9. You will submit a first draft on 3/18. Final due date: the first day of recitation week (5/2).

## Plagiarism

We will use software and other techniques to detect plagiarism and fraud. Even the most minor case of plagiarism or fraud can result in a F for the entire course. We will discuss plagiarism in section and lecture. Contact your instructor or GSI if you are still unsure about what plagiarism is after these discussions.

## Office Hours

My office hours will be held weekly on Thursdays between 3 and 5 pm. Please sign up for office hours in advance via <https://www.wejoinin.com/robert.braun>. You can come to my office (440 Social Sciences Building) or meet me via zoom (<https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/92931177736>).

## Contingency

We intend for this class to take place in person. However, in case of emergency (forrest fires, pandemics etc.) we will switch over to zoom. A zoom link for this class will be provided during the first week of class. Lectures will be recorded using course capture.

## PART I: THE BIRTH OF SOCIOLOGY

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### 1/19: What is Sociology?

- Answer online survey question.
- Mills, C. Wright. The sociological imagination. Oxford University Press, 1959. Selection.
- Malcolm Gladwell. Getting in. The social logic of Ivy League admission. The New Yorker, 2005.

### 1/24: This is Sociology!

- Durkheim, Emile Suicide, pp. 152-170; 208-215; 217-222; 241-254; 276.

### 1/26: The Invention of the Modern World

- Harari, Yuval Noah. Sapiens: A brief history of humankind. Random House, 2014. Chapter 2, 247-254, 264-266, 302-315, 336-342, 347-349, 352-364.

### 1/31: The Birth of the Modern Individual

- Simmel, Georg. The metropolis and mental life. Selection.

### 2/2: Social Integration

- Durkheim, Emile. Religion and Ritual. Selection

### 2/7: The Birth of Capitalism

- Weber, Max. The Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism. Routledge, 2013. Selection.
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## **2/9: The Birth of Class I**

- Hand out paper assignment.
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party. Selection.

## **2/14: The Birth of Class II**

- Read paper assignment.
- Start watching video for next week.

## **2/16: The Birth of Race**

- Du Bois, W. E. B. Black reconstruction in America. The Free Press, 1935. Selection.
- Video: Race the Power of an Illusion: available at <https://berkeley.kanopy.com/race>

## **2/21: President's Day**

- No readings.

## **2/23: The Birth of the Nation-State 1**

- Ann Hironaka, Never-ending Wars, Chapter 1.

## **2/28: The Birth of the Nation-State 2**

- Rueschemeyer and Stevens, Capitalism and Democracy. Selection.
- Lieberman, Evan, National Political Community and the Politics of Income Taxation in Brazil and South Africa in the Twentieth Century. Politics and Society 29.4 (2001): 515-555.

## **3/2: Review**

- Review material.

## **3/7: Take-Home Exam (Open Book)**

- Prepare exam questions.

## PART II: SOCIAL FORCES

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### 3/9: Conformity

- Watts, Duncan. Everything is obvious. How common sense fails. New York: Atlantic Books: Chapter 3 [Skim part on Granovetter's Riot Models].
- Frank, Robert. "In praise of the herd mentality." The Atlantic 325.2 (2020): 9-12.

### 3/14: Roles

- TED TALK Zimbardo, Philip. The psychology of evil. Available at this link.
- Rosenhan, David. "On Being Sane in Insane Places". Science (1973).

### 3/16: Institutions & Bureaucracy

- Weber, Max. The characteristics of bureaucracy.
- Bauman, Zygmunt. Modernity and the Holocaust. Selection.

**DRAFT IS DUE ON FRIDAY 3/18 (BEFORE MIDNIGHT)**

### 3/21 & 3/23: Spring Break

- Start reading for next week.

### 3/28: Socialization I

- Pascoe, CJ. "Dude you are a Fag". Sexualities 8.3 (2005).

### 3/30: Socialization II

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- Lareau, Annette. Unequal childhoods. Selection.
- Billig, Michael. Banal nationalism. Selection.

## **4/4: Social Identities**

- Mason, Lilliana. "Losing Common Ground: Social Sorting and Polarization." *The Forum*. 16.1 (2018).

## **4/6: Interaction and Identity 1**

- Goffman, Erving. *The representation of self in everyday life*. Selection.
- Tolentino, Jia. *Trick Mirror: Reflections on Self-delusion*. Random House, 2019. Selection.

## **4/11: Interaction and Identity 2**

- Du Bois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folk*. Selection.
- Anderson, Elijah. *Code of the street: Decency, violence, and the moral life of the inner city*. WW Norton & Company, 2000. Selection.

## **4/13: Interdependence and Critical Mass**

- Schelling, Thomas. *Dynamic models of segregation*. *Journal of mathematical sociology* 1.2 (1971): 143-186.

## **4/15: Social Networks 1**

- Christakis, Nicholas A., and James H. Fowler. *Connected: The surprising power of our social networks and how they shape our lives*. Little, Brown, 2009. Chapter 1.

## **4/20: Social Networks 2**

- Christakis, Nicholas A., and James H. Fowler. *Connected: The surprising power of our social networks and how they shape our lives*. Little, Brown, 2009. p. 156-158.
- Gladwell, Malcolm, *Small Change*. *Why the Revolution will not be tweeted*. *The New Yorker*.

## **4/22: Social Change**

- Kurzban, Charles. *The unthinkable revolution in Iran*. Harvard University Press, 2009. Chapter 7.

## 4/27: Review

- Review material.

**FINAL PAPER IS DUE THE FIRST DAY OF  
RECITATION WEEK (5/2)**

## 5/9 Take-Home Exam (Open Book)

- 8:00-11:00!!