

Sociology 280: Culture (Fall 2021)
Wednesday, 4-6 pm, 186 Social Sciences Building
John Lie, 486 Social Sciences Building, johnlie@berkeley.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays 2:30-4 pm, and by appointment

The course will consider the concept of culture and how we might use it and study it. The first part will survey regnant paradigms. The second part will explore their limitations, and possible paths forward (or backward).

Requirements

Participation (1/3)
Project and presentation (2/3)

Schedule

25 August: Introduction

Raymond Williams, Keywords, 1976, pp.76-82, available at:
https://www.d.umn.edu/~cstroupe/handouts/general/culture_williams_keywords.pdf

See also <https://www.asanet.org/asa-communities/asa-sections/current-sections/culture/sociology-culture-award-recipient-history>

Supplementary:

Adam Kuper, Culture, 1999

Lyn Spillman, What Is Cultural Sociology?, 2020

1 September: Durkheimian Currents

Mary Douglas, Purity and Danger, 1966

Supplementary:

Mary Douglas and Aaron Wildavsky, Risk and Culture, 1982

8 September: Weberian Currents

Clifford Geertz, The Interpretation of Culture, 1973, chaps. 1, 15, available at:
[http://staff.uny.ac.id/sites/default/files/pendidikan/poerwanti-hadi-pratiwi-spd-
msi/cliffordgeertztheinterpretationofculturesbookfiorg.pdf](http://staff.uny.ac.id/sites/default/files/pendidikan/poerwanti-hadi-pratiwi-spd-msi/cliffordgeertztheinterpretationofculturesbookfiorg.pdf)

Clifford Geertz, Local Knowledge, 1983, chap. 4, available at:
<http://faculty.washington.edu/cbehler/teaching/coursenotes/Texts/geertzcomsense.html>

Supplementary:

William H. Sewell, Jr., “Geertz, Cultural Systems, and History,” Representations, 1997,
available at:
[http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/2155934?uid=3739560&uid=2&uid=4&uid=37392
56&sid=21103366342583](http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/2155934?uid=3739560&uid=2&uid=4&uid=3739256&sid=21103366342583)

John Sidel, “Dark Play,” Indonesia 1997, available at:
<http://personal.lse.ac.uk/SIDEL/images/Dark%20Play.pdf> (Review of Geoffrey Robinson,
The Dark Side of Paradise, 1995)

15 September: Marxian Currents

Paul Willis, Learning to Labor, 1977

Supplementary:

Antonio Gramsci, The Gramsci Reader, ed. David Forgacs, 2000, esp. chaps. 2, 6, 11, 12

Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, Dialectic of Enlightenment, ed. Gunzelin Schmid
Noerr, tr. Edmund Jephcott, 2002 [1944], esp. pp. 94-136

Stuart Hall, Essential Essays, 2 vols., 2019

Vivek Chibber, The Class Matrix, 2022

22 September: A Contemporary Synthesis?

Pierre Bourdieu, Distinction, trans. Richard Nice, 1984 [1977], chaps. 1, 3, 4, 5, conclusion,
available at:
[https://archive.org/details/Ebooksclub.orgDistinctionASocialCritiqueOfTheJudgementOf
Taste](https://archive.org/details/Ebooksclub.orgDistinctionASocialCritiqueOfTheJudgementOfTaste)

Supplementary:

Pierre Bourdieu, The Rules of Art, trans. Susan Emanuel, 1996 [1992], available at: <http://bildfilosofi.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/therulesofart.pdf>

Jacques Rancière, The Philosopher and His Poor, ed. Andrew Parker, trans. John Drury, Corinne Oster, and Andrew Parker, 2004 [1983], part 3, available at: <http://anarchistwithoutcontent.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/jacques-ranciere-the-philosopher-and-his-poor.pdf>

“Too Much Sociology,” n+1 2013, available at: <http://nplusonemag.com/too-much-sociology>

29 September: The Once and the Future Science: Numbers and Measurements

Jean-Baptiste Michel et al., “Quantitative Analysis of Culture Using Millions of Digitized Books,” Science, 2014, available at: <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/331/6014/176.short>

Franco Moretti, “Graphs, Maps, Trees,” New Left Review 2003, available at: http://www.mat.ucsb.edu/~g.legrady/academic/courses/09w259/Moretti_graphs.pdf

Supplementary:

Theodore Kroeber, Configurations of Culture Growth, 1947, available at: <http://www.download-genius.com/download-k:Configurations+of+Culture+Growth+by+A.L.+Kroeber.html?aff.id=3637>

John W. Mohr et al., Measuring Culture, 2020

6 October: Interregnum: Pandemics, for instance

Alex de Waal, New Pandemics, Old Politics, 2021, chap. 2

David A. Freedman, “Statistical Models and Shoe Leather,” Sociological Methodology, 1991, available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/270939?origin=JSTOR-pdf>

Supplementary:

Steven Johnson, The Ghost Map, 2006

François Delaporte, Disease and Civilization, trans. Arthur Goldhammer, 1986

13 October: Nature / Culture

Bruno Latour, We Have Never Been Modern, trans. Catherine Porter, 1993 [19891], available at:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=bruno+latour+we+have+never+been+modern+pdf&oq=bruno+latour&aqs=chrome.69i5912j69i57j0l2j69i6013.11344j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Supplementary:

Bruno Latour, Reassembling the Social, 2005

Philippe Descola, Beyond Nature and Culture, trans. Janet Lloyd, 2014 [2005]

20 October: Rethinking the Place of Culture (and Values)

Immanuel Wallerstein et al. Open the Social Sciences, 1996

Supplementary:

Andrew Abbott, Chaos of Disciplines, 2001

27 October: Culture = Nation?

Benedict O’G Anderson, Imagined Communities, rev. ed., 1991 [1983], chaps. 1-2, available at:

http://www.personal.psu.edu/sam50/readings521/BA_Imagined-Communities.pdf

http://art.yale.edu/file_columns/0000/8647/anderson.pdf

Supplementary:

John Lie, Modern Peoplehood, 2004, chaps.1, 3

3 November: Postcolonial Culture?

Vivek Chibber, Postcolonial Theory and the Specter of Capital, 2013

Supplementary:

Edward Said, Orientalism, 1978

Dipesh Chakravarty, Provincializing Europe, 2007

10 November: Culture and Reification

Carolyn Kay Steedman, Landscape for a Good Woman, 1987

Supplementary:

C.W. Mills, The Sociological Imagination, 1959

17 November: Another Take?

Karl Mannheim, Ideology and Utopia, trans. Louis Wirth and Edward Shils, 1954 [1922],
chaps. 2-4, available at:

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL17967775M/Ideology_and_utopia

24 November: Holiday

1 December: **PRESENTATION**

3 December: **PROJECT DUE**