

SOCIOLOGY 1 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Instructor: Professor Smith

Email: sandra_smith@berkeley.edu

Office Hours: Mondays, 4:00-6:00pm, 468 Barrows

Online office hours sign-up: <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/vjrco>

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Sociology is the study of the social — social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human thinking and behavior. The primary objective of this course is to awaken students' sociological imagination — to get students *beyond the individual* when trying to understand and explain human behavior — by helping them to see how social forces affect human thinking and behaviors in multiple and complex ways. Because sociology is a social *science*, we will also consider the diverse set of research methods that yield important sociological insights.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Final grades will be determined as follows:

30% TWO ANALYTIC PAPERS (worth 15% each). *In 750-1000 words (roughly 3-4 pages in length), students will be expected to respond to prompts about key concepts and theories. Prompts will give students an opportunity to both showcase the depth of their understanding of concepts and theoretical arguments but also to apply their new-found knowledge to real world situations. Important note: Please organize your time wisely as late papers will not be accepted under any circumstances.*

Plagiarism is a very serious offense and will be treated as such. Any student suspected of passing someone else's work off as their own will be investigated thoroughly and, if necessary, will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs for disposition. For more information about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, please visit the following website:
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html#Plagiarism>

25% MIDTERM EXAMINATION. The midterm exam will cover material reviewed from the beginning of the semester until week six. The midterm will be administered over two class meetings — October 9th and October 11th. The exam will combine multiple choice, short, and long answer essay questions. One week before the midterm, students will be given a study guide to aid the process of preparing for the midterm.

30% FINAL EXAMINATION. The final exam, which will cover material reviewed from the midterm forward, will be held on Friday, December 20th, 7-10pm. The exam will combine multiple choice, short, and long answer essay questions. Two weeks before the final, students will be given a study guide to aid the process of preparing for the final exam.

15% ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION. Attendance and participation in discussion sections are mandatory. Students' final grades will reflect the extent and nature of their engagement in twice-weekly discussion section meetings. During discussion sections, GSIs will

review lectures and assigned readings and use a variety of other activities, including section-specific assignments, to help students understand the materials from the course as well as how to apply related concepts and theories. GSIs also hold their own office hours. If students are having difficulty understanding the material and/or completing assignments for any reason, they should seek help from their GSI immediately.

READING MATERIALS:

Students will find *all* of the assigned readings on the course's *bCourses* page. Five books, however, are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. Because assignments from these texts are significantly longer, students might prefer to purchase them instead of accessing electronic copies on *bCourses*.

Emile Durkheim, *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*, edited by George Simpson. New York: Free Press, 1951 [1997].

Erving Goffman, *Asylum: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*. New York: Anchor Books, first edition 1961.

Tey Meadow, *Trans Kids: Being Gendered in the Twenty-First Century*. Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 2018.

Alexandra Ravenelle, *Hustle and Gig: Struggling and Surviving in the Sharing Economy*. Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 2019.

Paul Tough, *Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co, 2008.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS: THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

WEEK 1: AUGUST 28TH & 30TH

INTRODUCTION

C. Wright Mills, "The Promise," pp. 3-24 in *The Sociological Imagination*. London: Oxford UP, 1959.

THE INDIVIDUAL & SOCIETY

WEEK 2: SEPTEMBER 4TH & 6TH

SEEING AND THINKING SOCIOLOGICALLY

Emile Durkheim, *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*, edited by George Simpson. New York: Free Press, 1951. Read the following:

- Introduction: pp. 41-53

- Book 2: pp. 145-151; 152-170; 208-216; 217-228; 241-258
- Book 3: pp. 297-300

WEEK 3: SEPTEMBER 9TH (NO CLASS MEETINGS ON 9/11 & 9/13)
SEEING AND THINKING SOCIOLOGICALLY

Durkheim, cont'd.

First paper prompt distributed: 9/9

WEEK 4: SEPTEMBER 16TH, 18TH & 20TH
THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL STRUCTURE ON OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

Erving Goffman, *Asylum: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*. New York: Anchor Books. Read pp. 3-92 and 304-320.

First paper due: 9/16

WEEK 5: SEPTEMBER 23RD, 25TH & 27TH
HOW INDIVIDUALS STRUCTURE SOCIETY

Paul Tough, *Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008. Read Chapters 1, 3, 5, 9 & 10.

INEQUALITY: CLASS, RACE, & GENDER

WEEK 6: SEPTEMBER 30TH, OCTOBER 2ND & 4TH
THEORIES OF STRATIFICATION

Karl Marx, "Classes in Capitalism and Pre-Capitalism."
Max Weber, "Class, Status, Party."

WEEK 7: OCTOBER 9TH & 11TH
IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION

WEEK 8: OCTOBER 14TH, 16TH & 18TH
FUNCTIONALIST AND CONFLICT THEORIES OF STRATIFICATION

Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore, "Some Principles of Stratification." *American Sociological Review* 10(2):242-49, 1945.

Melvin Tumin. "Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis," *American Sociological Review* 18(4):387-394, 1953.

WEEK 9: OCTOBER 21ST, 23RD & 25TH
STRUCTURING INEQUALITY

Alexandra Ravenelle, *Hustle and Gig: Struggling and Surviving in the Sharing Economy*. Read Chapters 1-4, 7-8.

WEEK 10: OCTOBER 28TH, 30TH & NOV 1ST
THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF RACE & ETHNICITY

WATCH: *RACE: THE POWER OF AN ILLUSION* (DVD 3046)
READ: Ann Morning, "Race," pp. 44-46, *Contexts*, Fall 2005.

AND READ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (YOU CHOOSE):

- James Barrett and David Roediger, "How White People Became White," *White Privilege: Essential Readings for the Other Side of Racism*, 2002.
- James Davis, "The Nation's Rule," pp. 1-16 in *Who is Black? One Nation's Definition*, 1991.
- Yen Espiritu and Michael Omi, "'Who are you calling Asian?' Shifting Identity Claims, Racial Classification and the Census," pp. 43-101 in *The State of Asian Pacific. America: Transforming Race Relations*, 2000.
- Neil Foley, "Becoming Hispanic: Mexican Americans and Whiteness," *White Privilege: Essential Readings for the Other Side of Racism*, 2002.

WEEK 11: NOV 4TH, 6TH & 8TH
THE CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE OF RACE

Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Case for Reparations," *The Atlantic*, June 2014.

Second paper prompt distributed: 11/8

WEEK 12: NOV 13TH & 15TH (NO CLASS 11/11: VETERAN'S DAY)
THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER

Tey Meadow, *Trans Kids: Being Gendered in the Twenty-First Century*. Read Chapters 1-2, 5-7.

Second paper due: 11/13

WEEK 13: NOV 18TH, 20TH & 22ND
THE CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE OF GENDER

Kristen Schilt, "Just One of the Guys?: How Transmen Make Gender Visible at Work," *Gender & Society* 20:465-491, 2006.

WEEK 14: NOV 25TH (NO CLASSES ON 11/27 & 11/29: THANKSGIVING BREAK)

THE CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE OF GENDER

Wrap-up Lecture on Gender

ON BEING A SOCIOLOGIST

WEEK 15: DEC 2ND, 4TH & 6TH

SOCIOLOGY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD

Michael Burawoy, "Public Sociologies: Contradictions, Dilemmas, and Possibilities," *Social Forces* 82(4):1603-18, 2004.

WEEK 16: DEC 9TH, 11TH & 13TH

READING, REVIEW, AND RECITATION

WEEK 17: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 7PM-10PM

SOCIOLOGY 1 FINAL EXAM