

Sociology 160
Sociology of Culture – Spring 2018

Professor G. Cristina Mora
T, TH Northgate 105; 5-6:30

This is a Lecture-Only Course. There are no Discussion Sections

Office Hours – Thursdays 1:30-3:30pm
498 Barrows Hall
Signup at: <https://wejoinin.com/sheets/vbjif>
Or by appointment – cmora@berkeley.edu

This class will introduce students to the sociology of culture. We will begin by examining the theoretical debates on what culture is, where it comes from, and how it works. We will then move on to examine empirical sites of cultural transmission – schools, immigrant communities, and religious institutions. We will end by examining the production of culture perspective and considering how mass media is produced and connected to social change.

Some of the questions this course will answer:

Why do some ideas seem timeless and inherently “true”?
How is action influenced by culture?
How does culture reinforce inequality?
How do ideas travel and become global?
How is media produced?
How can culture effect social change?

bCourses

Please make sure you have access to the bCourses website for this course. All of the readings for this course will be posted on bCourses. I will post also PowerPoint slides twice a week on the course website, usually shortly after class.

Grading

Midterm #1 – 30%
Midterm #2 – 30%
Midterm #3 – 30%
2 Pop Quizzes – 10%

Grievances

If you wish to contest a grade, you must first submit a one-page statement explaining why you think the grading is unfair. Please note that I will not change any grade without first discussing it with your reader. Also consider that your grade may move upwards or downwards should I decide to re-grade.

Academic honesty

It is your responsibility to check the code of academic integrity at <http://students.berkeley.edu/sas/conduct.shtml>. The standard penalty for violations of this

code will be an F grade for the course

VIDEO/RECORDING AND LAPTOP POLICY

Students are not allowed to video or voice record lectures or class discussion. It is prohibited to do so for any reason.

LAPTOPS AND SMART PHONE DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED. For an overview of the research on student learning and laptop use in class see:

Mueller, Pam and Daniel Oppenheimer 2014. "The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard; Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking" *Psychological Science* 25(6)

Key Findings:

1. Laptops distract students *and* nearby peers
2. Students who took notes on laptops performed worse on conceptual learning than those who took notes longhand
3. Laptop note-taking seems to inhibit information processing (while encouraging transcription).

Readings

There are no required books for the course. All readings are available on BCourses. Note that **you are required to bring the readings for the week to class in print.** This means you can either print them beforehand or you can purchase the course reader.

Week 1 and 2. COURSE INTRODUCTION

January 16 Introduction

January 18 What is Culture?

Williams, Raymond. "Culture" in *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. London: Fontana 1988.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels "The German Ideology" P. 172-174 in Robert Tucker's *The Marx Engels Reader* New York: W.W.Norton

Miner, Horace. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema." *American Anthropologist* 1956. 58(3): 503-507.

January 23 & 25 Meaning Systems

Berger, Peter 1967. *The Sacred Canopy*. New York: Anchor Books p. 3-25

Schalet, Amy 2000. "Raging Hormones, Regulated Love: Adolescent Sexuality and the Construction of Modern Personhood in the United States and the Netherlands." *Body and Society* 1-3

Week 3. CATEGORIES AND INSTITUTIONS

January 30. The Social Construction of Categories

Bowker, Geoffrey and Susan Leigh Star *Sorting Things Out* Ch. 1

Bourdieu, Pierre “Naming as Power.” (Cultural Sociology by Wray)

February 1. Categories and Institutions (Race)

Mora, G. Cristina. 2014 “Cross Field Effects and Ethnic Categorization: Hispanic Panethnicity 1960-1990” *American Sociological Review*

Week 4. CULTURE AND ACTION

February 6 Tool Kits

Swidler, Ann. 1986 “Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies” *American Sociological Review* Vol. 51(2):273-286

Ng, Kwai 2002. “Seeking the Christian Tutelage: Agency and Culture in Chinese Immigrants’ Conversion to Christianity” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 63(2): 195-214

February 8 Cultural Tool Kits and Cultural Change

Patillo, McCoy “Church Culture as Strategy of Action in the Black Community.”

Barnes, Sandra “Black Church Culture and Community Action.”

WEEK 5. NATIONAL COMPARISONS

February 13

Tobin, Joseph et. al *Preschool in Three Cultures*. Ch. 1-3

February 15.

Tobin et. al. Conclusion

Midterm Review

WEEK 6. MIDTERM 1 and Cultural Capital

FEB 20 – Midterm One

FEB 22 – **Habitus**

Bourdieu, Pierre. “Artistic Taste and Cultural Capital” p. 205-215 in Jeffrey Alexander and Seidman’s *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

WEEK 7. CULTURAL CAPITAL AND PRIVILEGE

February 27 Privilege

Khan, Shamus R. 2010. *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St Paul’s School* Princeton: Princeton University Press Ch. 3 & Chapter 5

March 1 – NO CLASS (Catch up on Readings)

WEEK 8. CULTURE and IMMIGRATION.

March 6 Ethnicity and Adaptation

Gans, Herbert 1979 “Symbolic Ethnicity: The Future of Ethnic Groups and Cultures” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* v. 2

Jimenez, Tomas 2008 “Mexican Immigrant Replenishment and the Continuing Significance of Race and Ethnicity” *American Journal of Sociology* 113:6 pg. 1527-56

March 8 – Ethnicity/Race Across Generations

Kibria, Nazil 1997. “The Construction of Asian American”

WEEK 9 GLOBALIZATION OF CULTURE – RELIGION

March 13 – How does culture become global?

Appadurai, Arjun “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy” pp.216-226 in Simon During *The Cultural Studies Reader* New York: Routledge

March 15 - The Case of Global Pentecostalism

Chesnut, Andrew 1997. *Born Again in Brazil: the Pentecostal Boom and the Pathogens of Poverty* New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press Ch. 1, 3 pp (25-50, 73-91).

Week 10. GLOBALIZATION OF CULTURE AND MIDTERM 2

March 20 – Global Pentecostalism Continued

Chesnut, Andrew 1997. *Born Again in Brazil: the Pentecostal Boom and the Pathogens of Poverty* New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press Ch. 5 pp (108-128).

March 22 – Midterm 2

Week 11 – Spring Break 27, 29

Week 12. PRODUCTION OF CULTURE

April 3. Media and Hegemony

Horkheimer, Max and Theodor Adorno. “The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception” in Lynn Spillman *Cultural Sociology* Oxford: Blackwell Publishing p. 39-47

Peterson, Richard “The Production of Culture Perspective”

April 5 Reality TV

Grindstaff, Linda “The Money Shot”

WEEK 13 MARKETING AND CONSUMPTION

April 10 & 12. Targets and Markets

Turow, Joseph 1997. *Breaking Up America: Advertisers and the New Media World* Chicago: University of Chicago Press p. 55-90

Turow, Joseph 2005 “Audience Construction” AAPS

Week 14. MAKING NEWS

April 17- Ritual and Constraint in News

Tuchman, Gaye 1972. “Objectivity as Strategic Ritual: An Examination of Newsmen’s Notions of Objectivity” *American Journal of Sociology* 70(4): 660-679

Christin, Angele 2018. “Counting Clicks: Quantification and Variation in Web Journalism”

April 19- News and Race

Entman, Robert and Andrew Rojecki 2000 *The Black Image in the White Mind: Media and Race in America* Chicago: University of Chicago Press p. 60-78

WEEK 15 - MEDIA AND SOCIAL CHANGE

April 24. Music and Social Movements

Danaher “Music and Social Movements” *Sociological Compass*

Roscigno, Vincent and William F. Danaher 2001. “Media and Mobilization: the Case of Radio and Southern Textile Worker Insurgency 1929-1934” *American Sociological Review* 66(1):21-48

April 26- Social Media and Change

Harlow, Summer “Social Media and Social Change: Facebook and Online Guatemalan Justice Movement that Moved Off Line” *New Media and Society*.

Final Exam – May 11, 2018 11:30-2:30pm