

SOC 1: Introduction to Sociology

Professor: Robert Braun
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Office Hours: W 11AM-1:00PM

Sign up: <https://www.wejoinin.com/robert.braun>

Spring 2019
Dwinelle Hall 145
MWF 9-10 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 the history of mankind 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 Electronic Reserves section of the course web site. 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 2/12. You will submit a first draft on 3/20. Final due date: the first day of recitation week.

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.

PART I: THE BIRTH OF SOCIOLOGY

1/22: 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.

1/27: This is Sociology!

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

1/29: 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.

2/3: The Birth of the Modern Individual

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

2/5: Social Integration

- Durkheim, Emile. Religion and Ritual. Selection

2/10: The Birth of Capitalism

- Weber, Max. The Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism. Routledge, 2013. Selection.

2/12: The Birth of Class 1

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

2/17: President's Day

- No readings

2/19: The Birth of Class 2

- Read paper assignment.
- Finish up Marx, Weber and Simmel
- Start reading for next week!

2/24: The Birth of Race

- Harari, Yuval Noah. Sapiens: A brief history of humankind. Random House, 2014. 133-144.
- Gates, Henri Louis, Stoney the Road. Random House, 2019. Selection.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. Black reconstruction in America. The Free Press, 1935. Selection.
- Wilson, William Julius, More than just race. WW Norton, 2009. Selection.

2/26: The Birth of the Nation-State 1

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

3/2: 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.

3/4: Review

- Review material.

3/9: Midterm

- Prepare for short answer questions.

PART II: SOCIAL FORCES

3/11: Conformity

- Salganik, Matthew J., and Duncan J. Watts. "Leading the herd astray: An experimental study of self-fulfilling prophecies in an artificial cultural market." Social psychology quarterly 71.4 (2008): 338-355. **DO NOT GET BOGGED DOWN IN STATISTICS.**

3/16: Roles

- TED TALK Zimbardo, Philip. The psychology of evil. Available at this link.
- Zimbardo, Philip. The Lucifer effect: How good people turn evil. Random House, 2011. Chapter 14.

3/18: Institutions

- Weber, Max. The characteristics of bureaucracy.
- Merton, Robert. Latent and manifest functions.
- Sudnow, David. Dead on arrival. Society 5.1 (1967): 36-43.

DRAFT IS DUE ON FRIDAY 3/20 (BEFORE MIDNIGHT)

3/23 & 3/25: Spring Break

- Start reading for next week.

3/30: Socialization 1

- Schalet, Amy T. Raging hormones, regulated love: Adolescent sexuality and the constitution of the modern individual in the United States and the Netherlands. Body & Society 6.1 (2000): 75-105.

4/1: Socialization 2

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

4/6: Social Identities

- Mason, Lilliana. "Losing Common Ground: Social Sorting and Polarization." The Forum. Vol. 16. No. 1., 2018.

4/8: 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.

4/13: 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.

4/15: Interdependence and Critical Mass

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

4/20: 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.

4/22: 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.

4/27: Social Change

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

4/29: Review

- Review material.

**FINAL PAPER IS DUE THE FIRST DAY OF
RECITATION WEEK**

5/11: Final Exam

- **7pm-10pm**
- Room TBA.