

Sociology 1
Spring 2021
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Office Hours Sign up (NO DROP-IN HOURS): <http://www.wejoinin.com/swidler@berkeley.edu>
I will announce hours, which will vary from week to week. I'll also send a Zoom link at the time.

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Required Books:

Erving Goffman, *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*

David Harding, *Living the Drama: Community, Conflict, and Culture among Inner-City Boys*

Pei-Chia Lan, *Raising Global Families: Parenting, Immigration and Class in Taiwan and the US*

Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die: What History Reveals about Our Future*

Amy Schalet, *Not Under My Roof: Parents, Teens and the Culture of Sex*

Jennifer Silva, *Coming Up Short: Working-Class Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty*

Robert Vargas, *Wounded City: Violent Turf Wars in a Chicago Barrio*

Starred (*) readings—including all the readings for the first two weeks—are available on the bCourses web site.

All required books are available electronically through the library. I will provide the e-links in the final, updated version of the syllabus. Most of the electronic books are in a format that can't be downloaded or highlighted. If you will be reading the books electronically, you should plan a system for taking notes and for highlighting or copying important passages (including the occasional screenshot!). For those who can afford it, it would be useful to have hard copies of the books. You can see below the number of pages we are reading in each book and which week of the course we are reading it. All editions and formats are fine, and some of the books are widely available used. Check out Thriftbooks, which is usually cheaper than Amazon.

Books can also be ordered shipping or for pick-up (Cal Student Store, 2495 Bancroft Way) at this link: <https://calstudentstore.berkeley.edu/textbooks>.

The lectures will be recorded on Zoom and will be automatically posted to CalCentral, the student portal, on the Class Page for Sociology 1, 001 and in bCourses. The recordings are available only to users with an active CalNet account.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Two Short Papers (each max 5 pp, double spaced, due Friday, February 19 and Wednesday, May 3). Paper topics will be assigned. They ask you to apply material from course readings and lectures to an aspect of the real world. This must be your own, original work. You will have to explain concepts **in your own words**. Because you will not be able to rely on direct quotations of the material, you must focus on your own understanding and articulation of the readings. You will also be asked to make connections between the course materials and your experience of the social world.

Essay Exams: Requirements include a **Midterm Examination (Wednesday, March 3, 9 a.m. with 24 hours to complete it)** and a **Final Examination (Monday, May 10, 7:00-10:00 p.m., with 24 hours to complete it)**. The Final Exam is comprehensive, covering the entire course. You will be responsible for course readings, lectures, and films presented in the class. These exams will focus on your ability to apply theories and to synthesize and make connections between various readings and lectures. All work must be original (you cannot recycle work from other courses or use material from the web). You will have 24 hours to complete each exam, but that will *not* be enough time to learn and understand the material if you haven't been keeping up as we go along.

Section Participation: Your section is in many ways the most important part of the course. That is where you will explore the readings in depth; try to integrate what you have learned in lecture, from films, and from the readings; and get feedback about your ideas from your GSI and your fellow students. There is a wide range of section times, so wherever you are in the world and however complex your schedule conflicts, you should enroll in a section you can actually attend.

Homework: You can earn full points by completing homework and other section assignments, and contributing to online discussions. These assignments are designed to keep you motivated and engaged with the course, to provide opportunities for you to check your comprehension, and to receive feedback in preparation for your graded assignments.

Quizzes: Weekly short quizzes designed to motivate you to stay on top of the readings and lecture.

Structure of the course:

Two lectures per week, normally Monday and Wednesday; Film or video every other Friday; open discussion (with me) every other Friday; and (maybe) a requirement to attend office hours with me at least once during the semester, depending on how daunting the logistics turn out to be.

GRADING:

Grade Breakdown	Grading Scale
Short Papers (30% [15% each])	98-100 A+
Midterm (10%)	93-97 A
Final Exam (30%)	90-92 A-
Section and Homework Assignments (25%)	87-89 B+
Quizzes (5%)	83-86 B
	80-82 B-
	77-79 C+
	73-76 C
	70-72 C-
	67-69 D+
	63-66 D
	60-62 D-
	Below 60 F

Grading Policies All assignments will be checked by TurnItIn for plagiarism. Keep in mind, this program keeps a database of previously turned in papers as well as searching the internet. Be sure to carefully consider assignment feedback; it is provided to help you improve on future assignments. For in-text feedback, **click on the link “View Feedback”** which may not be visible if you are not in full-screen mode.

Academic Dishonesty The University defines academic misconduct as “any action or attempted action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other member or members of the academic community” (UC Berkeley Code of Student Conduct). Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. Cheating is collaboration with other students on papers and exams. Plagiarism includes turning in any work that is not your own. As a student of the University of California, you are bound by the Code of Academic Conduct. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will result in a referral to The Center for Student Conduct and a failing grade for that assignment and the course. Plagiarism is most likely to occur because students are unaware of how to cite sources or because they feel desperate. If you get to this point in your writing, contact us ASAP rather than doing something you'll very likely regret.

Office Hours Please see Page 1 for information about office hours. If you are having any difficulties with the material or assignments for the course or if you are having any personal problems that are affecting your ability to complete assignments on time, please take advantage of office hours—we are here to help. Remember that office hours are an important resource if for no other reason than getting to know your instructors could help you in the future when you may need letters of recommendation. You do not need to be struggling or have course-specific questions to go to office hours.

Course Outline and Readings

Week 1 (Jan 19-22) SOCIAL ORIGINS OF THE SELF

- * Emile Durkheim, *Suicide*, edited selections from Ch. 2, pp. 105-125; Ch. 3. pp. 167-174; Ch. 4, pp. 175-181; and Ch. 5, pp. pp. 201-209; 212-215, plus note p. 239.
- * Durkheim, *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, edited selections from pp. 154-167.

Week 2 (January 25-29) INSTITUTIONS AND WHY THEY MATTER

- * Robert Bellah, et al., *The Good Society*, pp. 4, 10-12, and 38-42.
- * Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (New York: Random House, 2012), pp. 7-9, 40-44; 70-87.

Week 3 (February 1-5) THE POWER OF SOCIAL FORCES

Erving Goffman, *Asylums*, pp. 3-70, 188-193; 207-262; and 304-320.
<https://libproxy.berkeley.edu/login?qurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.taylorfrancis.com%2Fbooks%2F9781351327763>

Week 4 (February 8-12) INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES AND SOCIAL FORCES

Jennifer Silva, *Coming Up Short: Working-Class Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty* (Oxford University Press, 2013), Chs. 1-4 (pp. 3-111).
<https://oxford-universitypressscholarship-com.libproxy.berkeley.edu/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199931460.001.0001/acprof-9780199931460>

- * Robb Willer, et al. "Overdoing Gender: A Test of the Masculine Overcompensation Thesis," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 118, No. 4 (2013), pp. 980-1022.

Friday, February 19 FIRST PAPER DUE (by 5pm Pacific Standard Time)

Week 5 (February 15-19) CLASS, CULTURE, AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

Pei-Chia Lan, *Raising Global Families: Parenting, Immigration and Class in Taiwan and the US*. Introduction, and Chs. 2-5 [selections]: pp. 1-21, 45-133; 141-159; plus the table, p. 173, which will help keep track of the argument as you read.
<https://libproxy.berkeley.edu/login?qurl=https%3A%2F%2Febookcentral-proquest->

com.libproxy.berkeley.edu%2Flib%2Fberkeley-ebooks%2Fdetail.action%3FdocID%3D5406364

Week 6 (February 22-26) SEX AND SOCIETY: CULTURE AND INSTITUTIONS

Amy Schalet, *Not Under My Roof: Parents, Teens and the Culture of Sex* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011), Chs. 1-4 and part of Ch. 8 (pp. 1-106 and 190-201 [start with paragraph before “The Politics of Accommodation and Integration”]).

<https://libproxy.berkeley.edu/login?qurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.degruyter.com%2Fisbn%2F9780226736204>

Week 7 (March 1-5) **MIDTERM Wednesday, March 3 [24 hours to complete]** (No sections this week)

Review Session, Monday March 1

Week 8 (March 8-12) THEORIES OF CLASS I

* Max Weber, "The Distribution of Power Within the Political Community: Class, Status, Party," pp. 926-940 in *Economy and Society*, Vol. 2.

Week 9 (March 15-19) THEORIES OF CLASS II

* Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party" (pp. 473-491) and selections from *The German Ideology* (pp. 155-163 and 172-174), in Robert Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader* (2nd edition).

SPRING BREAK March 22-26

Week 10 (March 29-April 2) INEQUALITY: LIFE CHANCES, NEIGHBORHOOD, AND CULTURE

David J. Harding, *Living the Drama*, parts of Chs. 1-3, and 5-6 (pp. 1-8, 20-43, 54-107, and 141-161).

[link will be provided later]

Week 11 (April 5-9) INEQUALITY: RACE, CATEGORIES AND CULTURE

* Harris, Alexes, Heather Evans, and Katherine Beckett, “Courtesy Stigma and Monetary Sanctions: Toward a Socio-Cultural Theory of Punishment,” *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 76, No. 2 (2011), 234-264. [Feel free to skip or skim the technical parts of the article—the statistics and detailed quantitative findings—but be sure you understand the

theory, the hypotheses, and the results.]

* Monk, Ellis P. Jr. 2015. "The Cost of Color: Skin Color, Discrimination, and Health among African-Americans." *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 121, No. 2 (2015):396-444. [Ditto on skipping the technical discussion and the detailed quantitative findings]

* "Pulse Oximeter Devices Have Higher Error Rate in Black Patients," by Roni Caryn Rabin. *New York Times*, Dec. 22, 2020.

Week 12 (April 12-16) POWER AND POLITICS: ACTORS, DECISIONS AND OUTCOMES

* J. Allen Whitt, *Urban Elites and Mass Transportation: The Dialectics of Power*, Ch. 1 (pp. 8-39).

Robert Vargas, *Wounded City: Violent Turf Wars in a Chicago Barrio* (Oxford University Press, 2016), Chapters 1-3 (pp. 3-92).

<https://oxford-universitypressscholarship-com.libproxy.berkeley.edu/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190245900.001.0001/acprof-9780190245900>

Week 13 (April 19-23) WHY POLITICS MATTER: INSTITUTIONS AND OUTCOMES

Robert Vargas, *Wounded City: Violent Turf Wars in a Chicago Barrio*, Chapters 4-7, (pp. 93-184).

<https://oxford-universitypressscholarship-com.libproxy.berkeley.edu/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190245900.001.0001/acprof-9780190245900>

* Clem Brooks and Jeff Manza, "A Broken Public? Americans' Responses to the Great Recession," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 78, No. 5 (2013), pp. 727-748.

Week 14 (April 26-30) INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICS

Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die: What History Reveals about Our Future*, pp. 33-96; 143-144; 167-175; and 204-231.

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/102799801>

Log in by clicking the yellow "LOG IN" button in the upper-right corner. Select UC Berkeley and continue with your CalNet login. Under Viewability, click on any of the Temporary access links. Then click on "Check Out." Item can be borrowed for one hour at a time, renewable.

May 3-7 READING AND RECITATION WEEK

Wednesday, May 3, **SECOND PAPER DUE**

Review session for final: Friday, May 7, 9am.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Exam Group 4, Monday, May 10, 7:00-10:00 pm (24 hours to complete)