

Principles of Sociology: American Cultures

Sociology 3AC

Instructor: Fatmir Haskaj

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12-12:59pm

Location: Dwinelle 145

Office hours: Monday 1-2pm

bCourse: <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1511138>

Course Catalog Description

Comparing the experience of three out of five ethnic groups (e.g. African Americans, Asian Americans, Chicano/Latino, European Americans, and Native Americans) we shall examine historically how each people entered American society and built communities and transformed their cultures in the process. Students will be introduced to the sociological perspective, characteristic methods of research, and such key concepts as culture, community, class, race, social change, and social movements.

Course Description

This is general introduction to sociology oriented around a core set of themes and topics such as culture, socialization, deviance, groups, immigration, race, ethnicity and social change. This course emphasizes several key themes in sociology such as the sociological imagination, knowledge, power and social stratification and the principle of social *embeddedness* (human behavior and knowledge is shaped by social relations) that guides most sociological research. We will begin the semester by developing a strong foundation in sociological theory which will enable us to contextualize, organize and analyze our social worlds. From there we will explore how these categories of understanding overlap, impinge on one another and intersect. The semester will end with a mapping of group formation, contestation and transformation.

Classroom Policies:

Laptops: No laptops allowed in class unless you have a documented need. Your grade, and that of your fellow students, will improve according to the research found [here](#).

Cellphones: No cellphones. No pictures of notes or recording of the lecture allowed. No texting. This covers all electronic devices such as PDAs, etc...If you must receive or make a call kindly leave the classroom.

Slides: There is no substitute for attending lecture but I will (when available) post slides.

Lectures: Lectures are not recorded.

Required readings

- Articles will be available on bCourse for download. Check each weekly module and the syllabus.

Assignments and Grading:

Discussion Sections: Students are expected to regularly attend and complete all assignments in weekly discussion sections led by the GSI.

Quizzes: There will be occasional quizzes based on the readings and lectures. You will be granted one unexcused absence for the quizzes after which a missed quiz is an automatic zero on that assignment.

Term Paper: Each student is expected to write an 8-10 page paper (1800-2200 words) in 12 point times new roman font with 1" margins. The paper should be based on one of the topics or theorists covered in class. The paper is due on **Monday, April 25** and will be vetted by "Turnitin" which will check for plagiarism.

Exams: There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final. Both examinations will have essay-style questions and will require not only knowledge of the course material but also the capacity to analyze various paradigms and perspectives. **All students will take the exams on specified dates: exceptions will not be granted unless the requests conform with the accommodations policy of the campus.**

Grading Structure

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|---------------------------|-----|
| quizzes: | 10% |
| Midterm: | 30% |
| Paper: | 10% |
| Final: | 30% |
| Section (GSI determined): | 20% |

Academic honesty

Plagiarism and cheating will result in disciplinary proceeding. If you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism and what the consequences are read this: [Definitions & Examples of Academic Misconduct | UC Berkeley: Division of Student Affairs](#). The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be a grade of 0% on the assignment and reporting to Student Judicial Affairs which may result in a permanent mark on your record.

Class Schedule

**All readings and schedule subject to change due to Covid. Check bCourses regularly for developments.*

PART I Foundations of Sociology

Week 1: Introduction: Sociology as a Discipline 1/19

1. Mills, C Wright. The Sociological Imagination
2. Berger, Peter. (1963) "Sociology as an Individual Pastime" in *Invitation to Sociology*. Anchor Press. pp. 3-12

Suggested: Collins, Randall. (1994). "Prologue: The Rise of the Social Sciences" in *Four Sociological Traditions*, Oxford University Press. pp. 3-46.

Week 2: The Origins of Sociology 1/24

- No class Monday January 17, 2022 Academic & Administrative Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
1. "August Comte" in Zeitlin, Irving M. (1994). *Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory*, 6th ed. New York: Prentice-Hall, pp. 78-86.
 2. Durkheim, Emile. *Suicide* in Durkheim & Thompson, K. (2004). *Readings from Emile Durkheim*. London, Routledge, pp. 65-83.
 3. Weber, Max. (2008). *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* in *Max Weber: Readings*. Germany: Wiley, pp. 99-140.

Week 3: The Modern World: Reason to Revolution and Race 1/31

1. Marx, Karl. (2003). Original excerpts (German Ideology, Capital Vol 1&3, Bloch, Engels in *Marx and Modernity: Key Readings and Commentary*. United Kingdom: Wiley, pp. 53-73.
2. [Marx, Karl. Capital: Volume One. Chapter Thirty-Two: Historical Tendency of Capitalist Accumulation.](#)

3. DuBois, W.E.B. (1897). The Strivings of the Negro People.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1897/08/strivings-of-the-negro-people/305446/> or (podcast)
4. Giddens, A. (1996). The consequences of modernity. John Wiley & Sons, pp. 36-45.

Week 4: Culture 2/14

1. Miner, H. (1989). Body ritual among the Nacirema.
2. Bourdieu, Pierre. (1986). *The Forms of Capital* in Richardson, J., Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education. Westport, CT: Greenwood, pp. 241–58
3. Anderson, E. (1994). The Code of the Streets. *Atlantic Monthly*. 273 (5), pp. 81–94.
4. Kellner, D. (1995). Media Culture: Cultural Studies, Identity and Politics between the Modern and the Postmodern. London and NY: Routledge. Ch. 7 - Television, Advertising and the Construction of Postmodern Identities, pp. 231-262.

Week 5: Socialization and Social Interaction 2/21

- No class, Monday 2/21. Academic & Administrative Holiday (Presidents' Day)
1. [Scheff, T. J. \(2003\). Shame in self and society. *Symbolic interaction*, 26\(2\), 239-262.](#)
 2. Mortimer, J. T., & Simmons, R. G. (1978). Adult socialization. *Annual review of sociology*, 4(1), 421-454.
 3. Granfield, R. (1991). Making it by faking it: Working-class students in an elite academic environment. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 20(3), 331-351.
 4. Khan, S. R. (2011). Privilege: The making of an adolescent elite at St. Paul's School. Princeton University Press. Chapter 3, pp. 77-113.
 5. Morris, Joan M. Grimes, Michael D. (2020) "Moving Up from the Working Class" in Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings, pp. 318-326

Week 6: Groups, Organizations and Conflict 2/28

1. Dyer, G. (2002). Anybody's son will do. *Mapping the social landscape: readings in sociology*. pp. 144-154.

2. Jankowski, M. S. (1991). *Islands in the street: Gangs and American urban society*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Excerpt.
3. Brubaker, R. (2002). Ethnicity without groups. *European Journal of Sociology*, 43(2), 163-189.

- Asch Conformity Experiment
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyDDyT1IDhA>
- Stanley Milgram Experiment
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOUEC5YXV8U>
- Edgewood Experiments <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/manufacturing-madness>

Week 7: Deviance and Social Control 3/7

1. Becker, Howard. (1963) *The Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance*, Free Press. pp. 1–18. (reprint)
2. Spitzer, S. (1975). Toward a Marxian theory of deviance. *Social problems*, 22(5), 638-651.
3. Alexander, Michelle. (2010). *The new Jim Crow: mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness*. New York: New Press. pp. 20-58.
4. Pfaff, Jon. (2017). *Locked In: The True Causes of Mass Incarceration-and How to Achieve Real Reform*. Basic Books: New York. Introduction and Chapter 5.

Week 8: Exam week 3/14

- Film:
- Review Tuesday March 16
- Exam Thursday March 18

Week 9: Break 3/21

Spring Recess

Monday, March 21–Friday, March 25, 2022

PART II Class, Status, Race and Ethnicity

Week 10: Class and Stratification 3/28

1. Max Weber, "Class, Status, and Party" (excerpts)

2. Gans, H. J. (1972). *The positive functions of poverty*. *American journal of Sociology*, 78(2), 275-289.
3. Alba, R., Lutz, A., & Vesselinov, E. (2001). How Enduring Were the Inequalities among European Immigrant Groups in the United States? *Demography*, 38(3), 349-356.
4. Romero, M. (2002). *Maid in the USA*. Ch. 4
5. Khan, S. R. (2021). *Privilege: The making of an adolescent elite at St. Paul's School*. Princeton University Press. Excerpts.
6. Watch Inequality for All
<https://video-alexanderstreet-com.libproxy.berkeley.edu/watch/inequality-for-all-2>

Week 11: Race and Ethnicity 4/4

1. Omi, Michael, and Howard Winant. (1994). *Racial Formation in the United States: from the 1960s to the 1990s*. New York, NY: Routledge. Introduction. pp. 21-96.
2. Wirth, L. (1927). The ghetto. *American Journal of Sociology*, 33(1), 57–71. <https://doi.org/10.1086/214333>
3. Lenski, G. (1966). *Power and Privilege: A Theory of Social Stratification*. United Kingdom: McGraw-Hill. Excerpt.
4. Noel, Donald L. (1968). A Theory of the Origin of Ethnic Stratification, *Social Problems*, 16 (2), 157–172. <https://doi.org/10.2307/800001>
5. Blauner, R. (1969). Internal Colonialism and Ghetto Revolt. *Social Problems*, 16(4), 393–408. <https://doi.org/10.2307/799949>

Week 12: Race and Ethnicity 4/11

1. Massey, D. S. (2011). Epilogue: The past and future of Mexico–U.S. migration. In O.-V. Mark (Ed.), *Beyond la frontera: The history of Mexico–U.S. migration* (pp. 241–265). New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Ignatiev, N. (2012). *How the Irish became white*. Routledge. pp. 34-62.
3. Tolnay, Stewart. (2003). The African American ‘Great Migration’ and Beyond. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 29:209-232.
4. Hirschman, Charles. (1983). America’s Melting Pot Reconsidered. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 9: 397-423.
5. Sampson, Robert J. (2015). [Immigration and America's Urban Revival](#). *American Prospect*, 20-24.

- Gans, Herbert J. (1979). Symbolic Ethnicity: The future of ethnic groups and cultures in America. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*: 2: 1-20.
- Videos: "[Way Out Here](#)" (2010, with Josh Thompson) and "[The House I Live In](#)" (1945, with Frank Sinatra).

Week 13: Race and Ethnicity 4/18

- Smith, Sherry L. (2012). *Hippies, Indians, and the Fight for Red Power*. New York: Oxford University Press,. pp. 3-17, 78-112
- Krech, S. (1999). *The ecological Indian: Myth and history*. WW Norton & Company. Intro & Epilogue.

Week 14: Race and Ethnicity 4/25

- Takaki, R. (1989). Breaking Silences in *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*. Ch. 12, pp. 472-491
- Zhou, M. (2004). Are asian americans becoming "white?". *Contexts*, 3(1), 29-37.
- Mora, Christina G. (2014). *Making Hispanics: How Activists, Bureaucrats, and Media Constructed a New American*. Introduction. pp. 1-16.

Week 15: Social Movements and change form the local to the global 5/2

- Walder, A. G. (2009). Political sociology and social movements. *Annual review of sociology*, 35, 393-412.
- Levitt, Peggy. (2001). *The Transnational Villagers*. Introduction. pp. 1-28, 97-124.

Reading/Review/Recitation Week

Mon., May 2–Fri., May 6, 2022

Week 16 Final Exam Week 5/9

- **Final Exam Wed, May 11, 2022, 3:00P - 6:00P**