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 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” 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section (GSI determined)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
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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


Week 2: The Origins of Sociology 1/24
• No class Monday January 17, 2022 Academic & Administrative Holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)


Week 3: The Modern World: Reason to Revolution and Race 1/31
   https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1897/08/strivings-of-the-
   negro-people/305446/ or (podcast)

**Week 4: Culture 2/14**


**Week 5: Socialization and Social Interaction 2/21**

- No class, Monday 2/21. Academic & Administrative Holiday (Presidents' Day)

**Week 6: Groups, Organizations and Conflict 2/28**


- Asch Conformity Experiment [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyDDyT1IDhA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyDDyT1IDhA)
- Stanley Milgram Experiment [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOUEC5YXV8U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOUEC5YXV8U)

### Week 7: Deviance and Social Control 3/7


### 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)


6. Watch Inequality for All
https://video-alexanderstreet-com.libproxy.berkeley.edu/watch/inequality-for-all-2

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### Week 11: Race and Ethnicity 4/4


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### Week 12: Race and Ethnicity 4/11


7. Videos: "Way Out Here" (2010, with Josh Thompson) and "The House I Live In" (1945, with Frank Sinatra).

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**Week 13: Race and Ethnicity 4/18**


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**Week 14: Race and Ethnicity 4/25**


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


Reading/Review/Recitation Week Mon., May 2–Fri., May 6, 2022

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**Week 16 Final Exam Week 5/9**

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