

Soc. 151: Personality and Social Structure, Fall 2012

Claude S. Fischer, Professor

(fischer1@berkeley.edu)

Lectures: MWF 9-10, in 141 McCone

Office hours for Prof. Fischer:

Usually: M. 1-2; Tu. 1:30-2:30; 460 Barrows

Sign on for office hours at:

<http://www.wejoinin.com/Fischer>

For different times, contact me at:

fischer1@berkeley.edu

Note: Don't hesitate to e-mail me with questions or to schedule a meeting!

Sections and GSI's:

Paul Hathazy

bathazygsi@gmail.com

#101 MW 12-1pm, 475 Barrows

#102 MW 1-2pm, 475 Barrows

Daniel Kluttz

kluttzgsi@gmail.com

#103 TTh 9-10am, 2032 Valley Life Sciences

#104 TTh 10-11am, 106 Wheeler

The field of "Personality and Social Structure" studies the intersection between the individual and society. We are going to look at how certain aspects of society – national culture, historical era, and social class position – shape certain aspects of individuals' personalities, thinking, and feeling, and affect the way individuals *express* their personalities. Among the specific topics we will look at are: why this topic matters to sociology, theories of personality, types and measurements of personality, Asian versus Western habits of thinking, class differences in individuals' sense that they control their lives, historical changes in "intelligence," and cultural variations in individuals' happiness and depression. (See the weekly outline below for a full list.)

The Department of Sociology has chosen this course to be one of a few upper-division classes to have GSIs and sections in order to encourage more student writing, so that will be part of the focus as well. I expect that there will be 1 midterm; a one-hour final; and 3 essays to be worked on in section. GSIs may modify the writing expectations. *Grading:* midterm – 25%; final exam – 30%; essay #1 – 5%; essay #2 – 10%; essay # 3 – 20%; other section work and participation – 10%.

This class will usually meet for lecture two times a week (and section two times a week.) Except for holidays of various sorts, lecture will be Mon. and Weds. – unless material runs over and we need to meet more. *Be sure to note* the variations in the weekly schedule below (3 Friday sessions in September).

READINGS

Book:

Nisbett, *The Geography of Thought*

Articles:

The readings are available on-line at b-space..... *and* for those who prefer printed readers also at Copy Central on Bancroft Way for about \$65.

SCHEDULE (subject to change).

Note: The class is scheduled for three lectures a week. However, almost all weeks, we will only meet two times – usually Mon. and Weds. – but keep all three times open on your calendars. And look at schedule below for planned Friday sessions. Note that there are three Friday lectures in September.

Wk. 1 – F., Aug 24 *Introduction to the Course; Overview*

Reading: ● Carnahan and MacFarland, “Revisiting the Stanford Prison Experiment.”

Viewing: ● Youtube: either <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkmQZjZSjk4> (30 min) or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndBnlj0bMFA> (6 min.)

Wk. 2 – M., Aug 27 & W., Aug 29: *The Psychology and Methodology of Personality Research*

Readings: ● Mitchell & Black, “Sigmund Freud and the Classic Psychoanalytic Tradition.”
● Gosling, “Ocean’s Five,” from *Snoop*, pp. 31-54.
● Caspi, et al., “Moving Against the World.”
● Lehrer, “Don’t! The Secret of Self-Control.” (And Youtube: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/business/jan-june11/makingsense_06-03.html)

Assignment: *Do Personality Quiz/Survey on b-space*

Wk. 3 – W., Sep 5 & F., Sep 7 – *The Sociological Interest in Personality*

☛ *Mon., Sep. 3 – no lecture; class meets on Friday*

Readings: ● Geertz, “Person, Time, and Conduct in Bali,” excerpt.
● Simmel, “Metropolis and Mental Life.”
● Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Chapter III.

Wk. 4 – M., Sep 10 & W., Sep 12: *What Sociologists Mean by Social Structure – and by Culture*

Readings: ● Merton, “Social Structure and Anomie.”
● Riesman, *The Lonely Crowd*, Ch. 1.
● Haslam et al, “How Stereotyping Yourself...”
● Markus and Schwartz, “Does Choice Mean Freedom....”

Wk. 5 – W., Sep 19 & F., Sep 21 – *Culture / Nation & Personality, with focus on individualism*

☛ *Mon., Sep. 17 – no lecture; class meets on Friday*

☛ *First essay (about 3 pp.) due.*

Readings: ● Heine, “Self as Cultural Product.”
● Kitayama, et al, “Individual and Collective Processes...”
● Dorné, “Common Sense.”
● Rosen, “Understanding Corruption.”

Wk. 6 – M., Sep 24 & F., Sep 28 – *Class & Personality, with focus on sense of control*

☛ *Weds, Sep. 26 – no lecture; class meets on Friday.*

- Readings:
- Sastry & Ross, “Asian Ethnicity and the Sense of Personal Control.”
 - Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*, Ch. 1.
 - Lareau, “Invisible Inequality.”
 - Lareau, *Unequal Childhoods*, Ch. 12

Wk. 7 – M., Oct 1 & W., Oct 3 – *History & Personality, with focus on self-fashioning*

- Readings:
- Ryan, Excerpts from *The Cradle of the Middle Class: The Family in Oneida County, New York, 1790-1865*.
 - Arnett, “Learning How to Stand Alone.”
 - Buchmann and Eisner, “The Transition from the Utilitarian to the Expressive Self: 1900-1992.”
 - Twenge et al, “Egos Inflating Over Time.”

Wk. 8 – M., Oct 8 & W., Oct 10 – *Stock-Taking / Review / Midterm*

☛ *Mid-Term on Oct. 10*

Wk. 9 – M., Oct 15 & W., Oct 17 – *Culture / Nation & Thinking, with focus on part-whole*

Readings: Nisbet, *The Geography of Thought*: Intro; Ch’s 1-2 (skim); Ch’s 3-6; Ch. 8.

Wk. 10 – M., Oct 22 & W., Oct 24 – *History & Thinking, with focus on intelligence*

- Readings:
- Kohn, “The Benefits of Bureaucracy.”
 - Neisser, “Introduction: Rising Test Scores.”
 - Dickens and Flynn, “Great Leap Forward.”
 - Greenfield, “The Cultural Evolution of IQ.”

Wk. 11 – M., Oct 29 & W., Oct 31 – *Class & Thinking, with focus on prejudice*

☛ *Second essay (about 5 pp.) due.*

- Readings:
- Allport, *The Nature of Prejudice*, Ch. 25: “The Prejudiced Personality.”
 - Schuman, “Changing Racial Norms in America.”
 - Rubin, *Busing & Backlash*, Ch. 3

Wk. 12 – M., Nov 5 & W., Nov 7 – *Culture / Nation & Emotions, with focus on violence*

☛ *Nov. 6 is Election Day – If you don’t vote, don’t bitch*

- Readings:
- Hochschild, "Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure."
 - Anderson, "Code of the Streets"
 - Cohen and Nisbett, "Field Experiments Examining the Culture of Honor."

Wk. 13 – W., Nov 14 & F., Nov 16 – *History & Emotions, with focus on love and sympathy*

- ☛ Mon., Nov 11 – no lecture. Class meets on Fri., the 18th.
- ☛ Outline of third essay due .

- Readings:
- Kasson, *Rudeness and Civility*, Ch. 5
 - Coontz, *Marriage: A History*, excerpts
 - Haltunnen, "Humanitarianism and the Pornography of Pain In Anglo-American Culture."

Wk. 14 – M., Nov 19 & W., Nov 21 – *Class & Emotions, with focus on happiness*

- ☛ Friday, Nov. 25, Thanksgiving.

- Readings:
- Layard, *Happiness: A New Science*, Ch. 2
 - Adler and Snibbe, "The Role of Psychosocial Processes in Explaining the Gradient Between Socioeconomic Status and Health."
 - Mydas, "Recalculating Happiness."

Wk. 15 – M., Nov 26 – *Class Choice*; W., Nov 28 – *Review*; F., Nov 30 – *Exam*

- ☛ Nov 26: *Lecture topic to have been chosen by students*
- ☛ Nov 28: *Review*
- ☛ Nov 30: *In-Class Final (covers wks. 9-15)*

Dec. 3 – Dec. 7 ----> Reading and Recitation Week

- ☛ *Third paper due Dec. 10*

----- **OTHER COURSE INFORMATION** -----

Use of materials: In this class, you may share any notes you take with other members of this class. You may also record the class, if you wish, as long as that recording is only for use by you and other members of this class. You may not post notes, recordings, class materials, etc., without permission. Any commercial use of materials from this class is forbidden by University policy and California state law.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source, for example:

Wholesale copying of passages from works of others into your homework, essay, term paper, or dissertation without acknowledgment.

Use of the views, opinions, or insights of another without acknowledgment.

Paraphrasing of another person's characteristic or original phraseology, metaphor, or other literary device without acknowledgment.