

SOCIOLOGY 1
Spring 2012
MW 2:00-3:00 155
Dwinelle

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Office Hours: Thursday 2:15-4:15; sign-up sheet on door of 446 Barrows

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 1 introduces major concepts, theories, scholars, subfields, and research results of this very rich and diverse social science discipline. We will learn what it means to “think sociologically,” and how this differs from other ways of seeing the world around us. We will adopt a “constructivist” approach to thinking about social things, and will emphasize the crucial importance of institutions in mediating the relations between the individual and the larger society.

The first three weeks are primarily conceptual: we will discuss what Sociology is as a discipline, what sociologists do, how they see the world, what you can do with a degree in Sociology, etc. To get through the course, it is crucial to understand what it means to say, as C. Wright Mills does, that the sociological imagination grasps the “interplay of biography and history,” and that it works with the distinction between the “personal troubles of milieu” and “the public issues of social structure.”

Armed with these insights, we move to substantive areas of Sociology where we apply somewhat abstract concepts to examples of empirical research. These substantive units build from the social construction of the self and small groups, to larger groups such as the family and organizations, and then to collectivities such as economic class, ethnicity and gender, all the way up to the nation-state and then global society. We will apply the same basic “ways of seeing” at all of these levels. Through frequent international comparisons, we will see how similar institutions such as the family, and social facts such as ethnic relations, are structured and function differently in different societies.

Everything we do in this course is immediately relevant to the Real World. Students are expected to follow current events. We will learn how to read the media as well as more academic publications critically, and how to write using social science concepts to explain social phenomena.

This is a fast-paced introductory survey course which condenses a huge amount of material into one term; depth is sacrificed to breadth. This can be very stimulating but also frustrating. There will be many suggestions for additional courses to take in our **No. 1 ranked Department**, as well as Cal professors to speak with and readings to do on your own on topics you wish to pursue more deeply.

Lecture and section complement each other. Attendance at both is required. Lecture introduces concepts, theories, controversies, different points of view, examples of research and influential scholars, provides context, background and interconnections for assigned readings, goes through some of the assigned readings and points out what is most important in them, shows how to apply seemingly abstract concepts to the world around us, and offers the chance to interact and debate with the professor and other classmates. A powerpoint outline will be provided for every topic. In section, Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) review the lecture and assigned readings and utilize a variety of other activities, including section-specific assignments, to help students understand the material and how to apply it. GSIs hold separate office hours. Students having problems comprehending the material or managing their time should speak with the GSI before things get out of hand. The Student Learning Center is another very valuable resource for assistance.

By registering for this course, you acknowledge and accept that you have read this syllabus and you know that attendance at lecture and section is required, and that everything in both lecture and section is fair game for examinations. This includes any videos shown in lecture or assigned for outside viewing, or guest speakers. Lecture will begin at 2:10 and end at 3:00. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of any assignments and changes to the syllabus which, along with announcements and additional required readings, will be posted on the course bspace site: soc1sp2012@bsp.berkeley.edu. Tardiness and absence are not acceptable excuses for not knowing about these. Some students have extremely heavy demands on their time due to extracurricular commitments. It is their responsibility to notify their GSI and the professor about this as soon as possible and to

discuss how best to ensure successful completion of all course requirements on time. Students with disabilities should also notify the professor and GSI as soon as possible about special needs so that arrangements can be made expeditiously. Students who miss the first lecture are still responsible for knowing all of the information conveyed here.

All lectures will be conducted topless, which means that laptops may not be open during class. Other electronic devices must also be turned off and put away.

The breakdown of the final grade is as follows: two class-wide written assignments at 10% each; in-class mid-term on March 7 (20%); cumulative final exam, May 8, 11:30-2:30, which covers the entire semester (40%); and section grade (which includes attendance participation, and all section assignments) (20%). Exams combine multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Plagiarism is a very serious offense and any suspected cases will be investigated quite seriously, and, if necessary, reported to the Office of Student Affairs for disposition.

There are two required books: Lisa J. McIntyre, *The Practical Skeptic: Readings in Sociology* (5th edition) and Wes Moore, *The Other Wes Moore*. McIntyre's *The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology* (5th edition) is recommended. There is also a reader available at Copy Central on Bancroft. All assigned readings below with an * are in the reader.

Students who have already taken Soc. 3 or 3AC cannot receive credit for Soc. 1.

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION

Week 1: January 18: Introduction to the course

Required reading: Lisa J. McIntyre, *The Practical Skeptic: Readings in Sociology* (5th ed.), Ch. 9, Miner, ("Body Ritual Among the Nacirema")

Week 2: January 23, 25: Sociology as a Way of Seeing

McIntyre, Ch. 1 (Mills, "The Promise"), Ch. 2 (Coontz, "How History and Sociology Can Help Today's Families

Week 3: January 30, February 1: Seeing Society

McIntyre, Ch. 4 (Davis, "Men as Success Objects and Women as Sex Objects"), Ch. 5 (Gallagher, "Miscounting Race"), Ch. Ch. 6 (McIntyre, "Doing the Right Thing")

*Howard Schuman, "Sense and Nonsense About Surveys"

*Emile Durkheim, "Social Order and Control Via Close Ties; The Example of Suicide"

UNIT II: SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL

Week 4: February 6,8: The Individual and Society

McIntyre: Ch. 8 (Kluckhohn "Queer Customs"), Ch. 10 (Laz, "Act Your Age"), Ch 11 (Quinn, "The Power and Meaning of 'Girl Watching'"), Ch. 12 (Anderson, "The Code of the Streets"), Ch. 14 (Goffman, "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life")

*Emile Durkheim, "The Dualism of Human Nature and its Social Conditions"

Week 5: February 13, 15: Socialization and Deviance

McIntyre, Ch. 7 (Meyer, "If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger, Would You? Probably"), Ch. 16 (Zimbardo, "The Pathology of Imprisonment"), Ch. 23 (Schmid and Jones, "Suspended Identity"), Ch. 28 (Rosenhan, "On Being Sane in Insane Places")

*Michel Foucault, "Panopticism"

Week 6: February 22: Life Course

Wes Moore, *The Other Wes Moore*, entire

*****FIRST TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE IN YOUR GSI'S BOX IN 410 BARROWS BY 4:00 ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24*****

Week 7: February 27, 29: Family

*Arlie Russell Hochschild, "The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work"

*Judith Stacey, "Gay and Lesbian Families Are Here"

*Kathleen E. Hull, Ann Meier, and Timothy Ortyl, "The Changing Landscape of Love and Marriage"

Week 8: March 5, 7: Finish Up, Review, Mid-term

*******IN-CLASS MID-TERM MARCH 9*******

UNIT III: INEQUALITY

Week 9: March 12, 14: Stratification

McIntyre, Ch. 32 (Loewen, "The Land of Opportunity"), Ch. 33 (Ehrenreich, "Nickel and Dimed"), Ch. 34 (Newman and Lennon, "The Job Ghetto")

*Davis and Moore, "Some Principles of Stratification"

*Marx and Engels, "The Communist Manifesto"

Week 10: March 19, 21: Race and Ethnicity

McIntyre, Ch. 35 (Feagin, "Racism"), Ch. 36 (Harlow, "Race Doesn't Matter, But..."), Ch. 37 (Kelley, "Confessions of a Nice Negro"), Ch. 38 (Leung, "The Model Minority Myth")

*Edward E. Telles, "Mexican Americans and Immigrant Incorporation"

Week 11: March 26, 28: SPRING BREAK

Week 12: April 2, 4: Gender and Sexuality

McIntyre, Ch. 19 (Molotch, "The Rest Room and Equal Opportunity"), Ch. 25 (Zimmer, "How Women Reshape the Prison Guard Role"), Ch. 29 (Armstrong, Hamilton and Sweeney, "Sexual Assault on Campus")

*Douglas Hartmann, "The Sanctity of Sunday Football: Why Men Love Sports"

*****SECOND TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE IN YOUR GSI'S BOX IN 410 BARROWS BY 4:00, FRIDAY APRIL 27*****

UNIT IV: INSTITUTIONS

Week 13: April 9, 11: Political Institutions

*Alexis DeTocqueville, "Democracy in America"

*Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation"

*Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital"

Week 14: April 16, 18: Development and Globalization

*Benjamin Barber, "Jihad Vs. McWorld"

*Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations"

*Sangmeek Bak, "McDonald's in Seoul: Food Choices, Identity, and Nationalism"

*Christia Freeland, "The Rise of the New Global Elite"

Week 15: April 23, 25: Wrap Up, Review

*****FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY MAY 8, 11:30-2:30*****