

Syllabus Introduction to Sociology

Mo-Thurs: 1:10 pm – 2:25 pm, HW 404

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Overview

This introductory course in sociology has been designed to provide you to with a basic understanding of the questions sociologists ask. Over the course of the semester we will be covering major fields of the discipline such as social theory, inequality, the family, deviance and social movements. Taking this class will prepare you for more advanced work in these various sociological subfields. The readings furthermore introduce you to the different methods sociologists use to answer their questions.

Grades

Assignments: 10 %

Participation: 10 %

Midterm: 40 %

Final exam: 40 %

Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+	97.5 - 100%
A	92.5 - 97.4%
A-	90.0 - 92.4%
B+	87.5 - 89.9%
B	82.5 - 87.4%
B-	80.0 - 82.4%
C+	77.5 - 79.9%
C	70.0 - 77.4%
D	60.0 - 69.9%
F	0.0 - 59.9%

Accessibility

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E 1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772-4857 or (212) 650-3230

Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures

Requirements

Participation

Participation in this class is mandatory. I am going to take attendance at the beginning of every class. If you have a serious illness (e.g., requiring hospitalization) or have a death in the family (or an equally serious personal problem) and you cannot attend class or finish an assignment, you have to notify me in advance.

Assignments

You will be asked to write three brief response papers that will cover a topic we have discussed in class. You will be required to consult the readings to respond to the question. The questions will be announced Thursdays in class. The response needs to be handed in as a hard copy the following Monday at the beginning of class. The responses have to be a minimum of 500 words. The assignments will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

Partially completed assignments will not count towards your final grade. Only if you have completed all aspects of the assignment it will count as passed.

You will not be allowed to make up any missed assignments.

MIDTERM: will be held in class

FINAL: will be a take home exam held online

There is no extra credit option in this course.

Readings

Week 1 August 27th – August 31st

Session 1: Monday

Introduction: Sociology – So What?

Introductory Lecture: Definitions, Topics and Practical Relevance of Sociological Research

Session 2: Tuesday

Lieberson, Stanley. *A Matter of Taste: How Names, Fashions, and Culture Change*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2000. Pp. 31 -68.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/02/upshot/frozen-and-the-rise-of-elsa.html?action=click&pgtype=Homepage&version=Mothers-Visible&module=inside-nyt-region®ion=inside-nyt-region&WT.nav=inside-nyt-region&abt=0002&abg=0>

Week 2 September 3rd – September 7

Session 3: Monday

Theoretical Foundations

Marx Karl and Friedrich Engels. Manifesto of the Communist Party. Pp. 14 – 27

Labor Day – NO CLASSES SCHEDULED

Instead Class will be held on Wednesday September 5th

Session 4: Thursday

Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* Penguin, 2002. Pp. 1- 36.

Week 3 September 10th – September 14th

Session 5: NO CLASSES SCHEDULED

Session 6: Thursday

Inequality, Race and Class in the United States

Khan, Shamus. 2012. *Privilege*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Introduction.

Week 4 September 17th – September 21st

Session 7: Monday

Lareau, Annette. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*.

University of California Press, 2003. Pp. 108 – 160

Session 8: Thursday

Pattillo-McCoy, Mary. *Black Picket Fences: Privilege and Peril Among the Black Middle Class*. University of Chicago Press, 2000. Pp. 13 - 43

Week 5 Sept 24th – September 28th

Session 10: Monday

Massey, Douglas S. "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass." *American Journal of Sociology* 96, no. 2 (1990): 329-357.

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/03/19/upshot/race-class-white-and-black-men.html?em_pos=small&emc=edit_up_20180319&nl=upshot&nl_art=0&nid=29618410emc%3Dedit_up_20180319&ref=headline&te=1

1st ASSIGNMENT DUE

Session 11: Thursday

Hannah-Jones, Nikole Choosing a School for my daughter in a segregated city. NYT Magazine, June 2016.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/12/magazine/choosing-a-school-for-my-daughter-in-a-segregated-city.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=photo-spot-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>

Week 6 Oct 1st – Oct 5th

Session 12: Monday

Methodology

Research Design: Survey, In-depth Interviews, Ethnography

Session 13: Thursday

Ethics of Research: IRB and beyond

Week 7 Oct 8th – Oct 12th

Session 14: Monday

Columbus Day - NO CLASSES SCHEDULED

Session 15: Thursday

Family, Marriage, and Gender Roles

Waite, Linda, and Maggie Gallagher. *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People Are Happier, Healthier, and Better Off Financially*. Broadway, 2001 Pp. 65 – 77; 110 – 123

REVIEW MIDTERM

Week 8 Oct 15th – Oct 19th

Session 16: Monday MIDTERM EXAM

Session 17: Thursday

Hochschild, Arlie. *The Second Shift*. Viking, 2003. Pp. 33-58

Week 9 Oct 22nd – Oct 26th

Session 18: Monday

Slaughter, Anne-Marie. *Why Women Still Can't Have it All*. The Atlantic July/August 2012
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/07/why-women-still-cant-have-it-all/>

Session 19: Thursday

Edin, Kathryn, and Maria Kefalas. *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage*. University of California Press, 2007. Pp. 138 -183.

Week 10 Oct 29th – Nov 2nd

Session 20: Monday

Urban Sociology

Burgess, Ernest. "Growth of the City. Introduction to a Research Project". In: *The City*, Edited by: Moris Jannowitz. Chicago IL: University of Chicago Press. Pp. 47 – 62.

Session 21: Thursday

Jacobs, Jane. "The Uses of Sidewalks." Pp. 111-129. In: *Metropolis: Center and Symbol of Our Times*. 1995, edited by Philip Kasinitz. New York, NY.: New York University

2nd ASSIGNMENT DUE

Week 11 Nov 5th – 9th

Session 23: Monday

Social Networks

Travers Jeffrey, Milgram Stanley. 1969 An Experimental Study of the Small World Phenomena. *Sociometry* 32 (4). Pp. 425 – 443.

Session 24: Thursday

Granovetter, M S. 1973. The Strength of Weak Ties. *American Journal of Sociology* 78 (6) 1360-1380

Week 11 Nov 12th -Nov 16th

Session 25

CLASS CANCELLED

Session 26

CLASS CANCELLED

Week 11 Nov 19th -Nov 23

Session 27

Punishment and Inequality

Introduction and Chapter 1 Soyer, Michaela. *Lost Childhoods*. Forthcoming UC Press

Sufrin, Carolyn. 2017. Jailcare. Finding a Safety Net for Women Behind Bars. Berkley CA: UC Press, Chapter 1: Pp. 41 – 61.

Session 28

NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 12 Nov 26th – Nov 30th

Session 30:

Alexander, Michelle. 2010. *The New Jim Crow*. Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. New York NY: New Press. Introduction

Session 31

Social Movements

McAdam, Doug. 1986. Recruitment to High-Risk Activism: The case of freedom summer. *The American Journal of Sociology* 92 (1): 64-90

Week 13 Dec 3rd – Dec 7th

Session 32

Scott, James C. 1987. *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Pp. 48 – 85.

Session 33

Luft, Alicia. 2015. Genocide as Contentious Politics. *Sociology Compass* 9 (10), 897-909

3rd ASSIGNMENT DUE

Week 14 Dec 10th – Dec 14th

Session 34
Review of Class Odds and Ends

Session 35
NO CLASS Reading Day