Introduction to General Sociology
Sociology 101, Section 000
TTh 8:30 – 9:45

Office: 217D Tarbutton Hall, 727-7531, email: rubin@emory.edu.

Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:00 – 11:00 or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Tressie Cottom, email: tcottom@emory.edu, office: TBA.

The course will use Blackboard for announcements, course materials, online readings and grades.

The following books are required for the course:

  Joel Best, Threatened Children: Rhetoric and Concern about Child-Victims.


  Jay MacLeod, Ain’t No Makin’ It: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood.

All the readings for the course, except those marked on reserve, are from these books, which are available at the Emory Bookstore. Selections marked with an asterisk (*) are in the Henslin reader, Down to Earth Sociology. The readings marked on reserve are available online at the Blackboard site for the course.

The objective of this course is to provide you with a general survey of the field of sociology; but more importantly, to provide you with a way to think about and understand the social world and your place in it. Therefore the focus of the lectures, readings, and assignments will be to understand basic social processes and how you can apply them to everyday events, both small and large, both personal and political.

The course grade will be based on: (1) three examinations and (2) a set of seven short written assignments. The nature of the examinations, the writing assignments, and the grading will be discussed in class. Each examination will count for 25% of the grade and the assignments will count for 25% of the grade.

It is very important that you have each day's assigned readings done before class. Assignments are due when noted; late assignments will not be accepted except under unusual circumstances. Assignments must be handed in during class; emailed assignments will not be accepted.
Course Syllabus

Part I: Basic Elements of Social Structure

Aug. 30: Understanding Social Behavior

P. Berger, Invitation to Sociology*
C. Wright Mills, The Sociological Imagination*

Sept. 04: Understanding Social Behavior

J. Hunt, Police Accounts of Normal Force*
D. Scully and J. Marolla, Riding the Bull at Gilley’s*

Assignment #1 Due: Rules and Meanings: The Beating of Rodney King

Sept. 06: The Social Construction of Reality

H. Miner, Body Ritual Among the Nacirema*
K. Levi, Becoming a Hit Man*
M. Harris, India’s Sacred Cow*
P. Meyer, If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger, Would You?*
R. Davis-Floyd, Giving Birth the American Way*

Sept. 11: The Social Construction of Reality

N. Chagnon, Doing Fieldwork Among the Yanomamo*
E. Hall and M. Hall, The Sounds of Silence*
J. Henslin and M. Biggs, The Sociology of the Vaginal Examination*
C. Clark, Sympathy in Everyday Life*

Sept. 13: Norms, Statuses, and Roles: Behavior

W. Chambliss, The Saints and the Roughnecks*
J. Henslin, The Survivors of F-227*
P. Martin and R. Hummer, Fraternities and Rape on Campus*
W. Thompson, Handling the Stigma of Handling the Dead*

Assignment #2 Due: The Violation of Norms

Sept. 18: Norms, Statuses, and Roles: Identity

P. Zimbardo, The Pathology of Imprisonment*
Film: Quiet Rage (alternative showing to be arranged)
Sept. 20: Norms, Statuses, and Roles: Identity

D. Rosenhan, On Being Sane in Insane Places*
G. Dyer, Anybody’s Son Will Do*

Assignment #3 Due: Quiet Rage

Sept. 25: Socialization: The Development of Self

K. Davis, Extreme Isolation*
E. Goffman, The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*
H. Gracey, Learning the Student Role*

Sept. 27: Socialization: Individuals and Institutions

J. Henslin, On Becoming Male*
D. Eder, On Becoming Female*

Oct. 02: First Examination

Part II: Society and Economy

Oct 04: Society as Ritual: Religion


Oct. 09: Society as Ritual: Deviance

R. Collins, Sociological Insight, Chapter Four, *The Normalcy of Crime*
D. Pager, Would You Hire an Ex-Convict?*
K. Stinson, Religion and Morality in Weight Loss Groups*

Assignment #4 Due: Criminal Activities

Oct. 11: Society as Ritual: Crime Waves

Joel Best, Threatened Children (entire book)

Assignment #5 Due: Threatened Children

Oct. 16: Fall Break

Oct. 18: The Great Transformation

Oct. 23

K. Polanyi, The Great Transformation (on reserve)
M. Sandel, What Isn’t for Sale (on reserve)
Oct. 25: The Rise of Capitalism

R. Collins, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (on reserve)
R. Leidner, Over the Counter at McDonald’s*

Part III: Inequality

Oct. 30: The Fundamental Principles of Inequality
Nov. 01
S. Katz, The Importance of Being Beautiful*
C. Page, Showing My Color*
R. Granfield, Making It by Faking It (on reserve)
J. Morris and M. Grimes, Moving Up from the Working Class*

Nov. 06: The Pervasiveness of Inequality

Film: A Class Divided

Nov. 08: The Inequality of Class

H. Gans, The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All*
B. Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed*
S. Higley, The U.S. Upper Class
Assignment #6 Due: Principles of Inequality: A Class Divided

Nov. 13 Second Examination

Part IV: Selected Social Issues

Nov. 15: Understanding Gender

B. Thorne and Z. Luria, Sexuality and Gender in Children's Daily Worlds*
D. Tannen, But What Do You Mean? Women and Men in Conversation*
C. Johnson, Gender, Power, and Conversation Patterns (on reserve)

Nov. 20: The Changing Family

R. Collins, Sociological Insight, Chapter 5, Love and Property

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving

Nov. 27: Divorce and Social Change

Nov. 29
S. Coontz, The American Family*
Dec. 04:  Poverty
           J. Macleod, Ain’t No Makin It, Chapters 1-6

Dec. 06:  Social Mobility
Dec. 11:  J. Macleod, Ain’t No Makin’ It, Chapters 7-11
           Assignment #7 Due: Poverty

Dec. 17:  Third Examination, 8:30-11:00