

Introduction to General Sociology

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 3:00 – 3:50, White Hall 205

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Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to sociological approaches to the study of social life. The course draws on readings from classic and contemporary sociology and introduces major theoretical concepts and common methodologies, enabling students to develop their own 'sociological imagination'. Topics discussed include, but are not limited to, socialization into society, social norms and culture, deviant behavior, social structure and inequality (primarily race, class, and gender), and social institutions such as education and the family. The course is divided into three units. The first unit creates a foundation for the rest of the course. Students begin by discussing how sociology is similar to and different from other disciplines, and what it means to view the society with a sociological lens. We will then move on to research methods and theoretical frameworks commonly used within sociology. This basic understanding of methods and theory will enable students to think more critically about the research encountered in the rest of the course. Finally, the first unit concludes with readings that explore the social processes through which we come to have particular views, beliefs, tastes and habits.

The second unit explores how we, as individuals, both influence and are influenced by those to whom we are connected. We start with a discussion of role of norms in social life, and, relatedly, sociological perspectives on deviant (or non-normative) behavior. Next, we will explore the concept of social structure, with a particular focus on race, ethnicity, and social class. The second unit concludes with an examination of the core properties of social networks, and the ways in which they impact our lives. The third and final unit broadens our scope to examine how social structures, covered in Unit 2, intersect with major social institutions such as the economy, education, and the family. Here the concept of intersectionality, meaning that the effects of factors such as race and gender must be considered together rather than independently, will play an important role. The course concludes with an exploration of processes of social change and globalization.

Introduction to General Sociology has been designed to give students a broad understanding of key sociological concepts and introduce them to core areas of study. Student progress will be evaluated via

writing assignments or activities, three non-cumulative exams, and two short papers. At the end of the course students will be able to:

- discuss how sociology differs from other disciplines
- identify major methodologies used in sociological research as well as their advantages and limitation
- identify sociological arguments for the development and spread of beliefs, values, and behaviors
- define key concepts such as social structure and social institutions and describe how their intersection relates to outcomes such as inequality and social mobility
- apply their newly acquired sociological lens to contemporary social issues, problems, or matters of importance to them as student scholars and global citizens

Course Readings

All assigned readings should be completed *before* class to ensure active participation in class discussions and activities.

Main Text: James Henslin. Down To Earth Sociology: 14th Edition: Introductory Readings

Readings: Additional readings outside of the required text are available through the course Canvas site. These readings are indicated as (CANVAS) on the syllabus.

Power point slides: Available on course Canvas site, in chronological order

Assignments and Grading

Assignments and Evaluations

The assignments for this course have been designed with student's varying strengths and learning styles in mind.

- Challenge Readings: The readings for the course vary in terms of length and difficulty. Some of the more challenging readings have been marked as 'challenge readings'. For these readings students will complete a worksheet, *which will be due on Canvas prior to the start of class*. These worksheets will be used to guide discussion of the reading. Worksheets are available on Canvas. It is recommended that students review the worksheet before beginning the reading.
- Sociology in Everyday Life (SIEL) Papers: Learning to communicate clearly, persuasively, and efficiently through writing is important for success in college and beyond. The best way to learn how to write well is to write often. During this course you will complete two reflection essays which will ask you to reflect upon course material, lectures, and readings and how they relate to your everyday experiences. There will be four opportunities for students to choose from. Papers should

be 4 pages double spaced with 1" margins. Grading rubrics will be made available to students on the day the paper is assigned. Papers are due, on Canvas, at the start of class on the day they are due. Emailed papers will not be accepted without express permission from the instructor. Please staple your papers prior to handing them in.

- **Exams:** There are a total of three exams for this course. The exams will be comprised of two sections; the first section will include true/false and multiple choice questions, the second section will include short answer questions. Exams are non-cumulative.

No late assignments will be accepted
Exams will only be administered on the scheduled dates
*Exceptions will only be made with a documented official university
excuse*

Grading

Final grades will be determined by the total number of points earned on exams and assignments.

<i>SIEL Papers (2 @20 pts ea)</i>	40
<i>Challenge Readings (3 @ 12pts ea)</i>	36
<i>Exams (3 @ 44 pts ea)</i>	132
Total	208

A >93%	C+ 77-79%
A- 90-92%	C 73-76%
B+ 87-89%	C- 70-72%
B 83-86%	D 60-69%
B- 80-82%	F <60

Expectations and Policies

Attendance

While I don't take attendance, attendance *does* factor into your grade as material presented in class will appear on exams and will aid in your completion of other graded assignments. If you miss class you are still responsible for the reading due on that day, and for getting notes from a classmate; I will not provide lecture notes to students. Additionally, office hours are not to be used as regular review sessions. Finally, missing class puts students at risk of missing graded in-class assignments and activities, which cannot be made up.

Participation

Students who participate in class not only enjoy their experience in the course more, but also tend to learn more and earn higher grades. Students benefit from others' participation as well; the student who is participating gets the answers they need and others in the class gain a better understanding of something

they might also need help with. I will not evaluate you directly on your participation, but I do strongly encourage you to find ways to stay tuned in. If you need me to slow down or to go over something again, please raise your hand and let me know. If you have a question, please ask. And if you have an example that may better illustrate something we are talking about, please share it- you and your classmates will benefit from the discussion.

Class Conduct

Please do your best to get to class on time. Coming in late, stepping out, and leaving early are distracting to your fellow classmates. Please don't read, talk with your friends, or pass notes during class. These activities are distracting to the learning environment, disrespectful to me and your classmates, and limit your ability to pay attention and stay engaged during class.

Canvas:

We will use the Canvas site for this course regularly. Please check the site regularly in order to ensure that you are aware of class announcements and so forth. Readings marked with (CANVAS) on the syllabus can be found on Canvas under files, then PowerPoints.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities are at the discretion of the instructor. No extra credit will be given on an individual basis. That is, all opportunities for extra credit will be made available to the entire class.

Honor Code:

The Honor Code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher's instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the instructor is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council.

The Emory University honor code applies fully to this course. When you sign an exam or submit your assignments, you are pledging to the honor code. For reference, please consult <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities must contact the Office of Accessibility Services (<http://www.equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/>; 727-1126) to obtain proper documentation if accommodations are needed. Please do this early in the semester in order to make sure that everything is in order. Students requiring accommodations for exams are required to receive approval for their accommodation *for each exam*. If the exam is to be taken at OAS it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the instructor is made aware of the date and time the student will be taking the exam.

Email:

Email is the best way to reach me. While I generally respond quickly, please allow at least 24 hours for replies to emails Monday – Friday, and longer over the weekends. It is helpful, though not required, if you put the

course name or number in the subject of the email. Please do not message me on Canvas because I do not check the Canvas messages. Email **should not** be used to submit assignments unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Course Outline

Modifications may occur as the course progresses

UNIT 1

- Thursday Getting to know you/ What is Sociology?
Jan. 18
- Friday What is Sociology Part II: A Brief History
Jan. 19
- Tuesday The Sociological Imagination
Jan. 23
- *The Promise* (pp.20-28)
 - *Body Ritual Among the Nacirema* (87-92)
- Thursday Research Methods in Sociology
Jan. 25
- *How Sociologists Do Research* (pp.35-47)
 - *Would You Hire an Ex-Convict?* (pp.63-72)
- Friday Research Methods in Sociology Con't
Jan. 26
- No reading due today
- Tuesday Social Construction
Jan. 30
- *Have You Ever Tried to Sell a Diamond?* (CANVAS)
- Thursday Intro to Major Theoretical Frameworks Part I
Feb. 1
- Short Reflection Paper Assigned
- Friday Intro to Major Theoretical Frameworks Part II
Feb. 2
- *Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology--an introduction to the primary theories used in sociology* by Hunter and McClelland (CANVAS)
- Tuesday Socialization Part I
Feb. 6
- *Becoming a Marihuana User* (CANVAS)
 - *Extreme Isolation* (pp. 151-160)
 - **SIEL Paper Opportunity 1 Assigned**
- Thursday Socialization Part II
Feb. 8
- *On Becoming Male...* (pp.161-172)
 - *On Becoming Female...* (pp. 173-179)

- Friday Socialization In Everyday Life
Feb. 9
- No reading due
- Tuesday Impression Management: The Def. of the Situation
Feb. 13
- *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (pp. 135-144)
 - **Challenge Reading Worksheet 1 Due**
- Thursday Impression Management: Tactics
Feb. 15
- *Handling the Stigma of Handling the Dead* (pp.249 – 263)
- Friday Impression Management Wrap Up
Feb. 16
- No reading due
 - **SIEL Paper Opportunity 1 Due**
- Tuesday Wrap up and review for Exam 1
Feb. 20
- No reading due
- Thursday **Exam 1**
Feb. 22

UNIT 2

- Friday An Introduction to Norms and Values
Feb. 23
- *Eating Your Friends is the Hardest* (pp.277-286)
 - *The Argument for Eating Dog* (CANVAS)
 - **Second SIEL Paper Assigned**
- Tuesday Deviance and Labeling
Feb. 27
- *The Saints and the Roughnecks* (299-315)
 - *On Being Sane in Insane Places* (322-334)
- Thursday Deviance and Social Control
Mar. 1
- *The Pathology of Imprisonment* (315-221)
 - *If Hitler Asked you to Electrocute a Stranger...* (269-278)
 - **Second SIEL Paper Due**
- Friday In Class Viewing of The Devil's Playground
Mar. 2
- No Reading
- Tuesday Complete viewing of The Devil's Playground, Introduction to Social Structure
Mar. 6
- No Reading
 - **Third SIEL Paper Assigned**
- Thursday Social Structure: Race and Ethnicity
Mar. 8
- *Racial Measurement in the US Census* (CANVAS)
 - **Challenge Reading Worksheet 2 due**

- Friday Social Structure: Race and Ethnicity
Mar. 9
- *Showing My Color* (360-68)
 - *The Racist Mind* (369-375)
- Tuesday Social Structure: Introduction to Social Class
Mar. 20
- No Reading
 - **Third SIEL Paper Due**
- Thursday Social Structure: Social Class
Mar. 22
- *The Uses of Poverty* (376-382)
 - *Wealth, Power, Privilege* (395-406)
- Friday Social Structure: Social Structure and Culture
Mar. 23
- *Moving Up from the Working Class* (383-394)
 - *Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing...* (CANVAS)
- Tuesday Social Structure: Social Structure and Culture
Mar. 27
- No Reading
- Thursday Wrap up and review for Exam 2
Mar. 29
- No reading due
- Friday **Exam 2**
Mar. 30

UNIT 3

- Tuesday Social Institutions: Education
Apr. 3
- *School Rules* (CANVAS)
 - **Challenge Reading Worksheet 3 due**
- Thursday Social Institutions: Education
Apr. 5
- *The (Mis)education of Monica and Karen* (CANVAS)
- Friday Social Institutions: The Economy
Apr. 6
- No Reading
- Tuesday Social Institutions: The Economy
Apr. 10
- *Social Institutions & Nickel and Dimed* (407-424)
 - **Fourth SIEL Paper Assigned**
- Thursday Social Institutions: Marriage and Family
Apr. 12
- *The American Family* (425-431)

- Friday Social Institutions: Religion
Apr. 13
- *India's Sacred Cow* (pp. 461-69)
 - *Social Change Among the Amish* (pp. 508-517)
- Tuesday Social Change: An Introduction
Apr. 17
- *Social Change* (493-496)
 - *The McDonaldization of Society* (497-507)
- Thursday Social Change: Globalization
Apr. 19
- *Globalization and McDonaldization* (CANVAS)
 - **Fourth SIEL Paper Due**
- Friday Social Change: Impacts of Globalization
Apr. 20
- *Leasing the Rain* (CANVAS)
- Tuesday In Class Film: FLOW The Movie
Apr. 24
- No reading due
- Thursday In Class Film: FLOW The Movie
Apr. 26
- No reading due
- Friday Debrief & Review
Apr. 27
- Thursday **Final Exam: 11:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M**
May 3