

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

Professor Rick Rubinson  
Spring Semester 2008  
White Hall 103

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Teaching Assistant: Lesley Watson, email: [lwatso4@emory.edu](mailto:lwatso4@emory.edu). Office: 120C Tarbutton Hall.

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.

Randall Collins, Sociological Insight: An Introduction to Non-Obvious Sociology, 2nd Edition.

James Henslin, Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings, 14th Edition.

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.

Please feel free to come see me or the teaching assistant with any questions, problems, or thoughts you have concerning the course.

## Course Syllabus

### Part I: Basic Elements of Social Structure

Jan 17      Introduction

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

Jan 22      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*

Jan 24      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\*

Jan 29      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\*

Jan 31      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*

Feb 5      Norms, Statuses, and Roles: Identity

P. Zimbardo, The Pathology of Imprisonment\*  
Film: Quiet Rage

Feb 7            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*

Feb 12           Socialization: The Development of Self  
  
K. Davis, Extreme Isolation\*  
E. Goffman, The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life\*  
H. Gracey, Learning the Student Role\*

Feb 14           Socialization: Individuals and Institutions  
  
J. Henslin, On Becoming Male\*  
D. Eder, On Becoming Female\*

Feb 19           **First Examination**

Part II: Society and Economy

Feb 21           Society as Ritual: Religion  
  
R. Collins, Sociological Insight, Chapter One, *The Nonrational Foundations of Rationality*, and Chapter Two, *The Sociology of God*.

Feb 26           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*

Feb 28           Society as Ritual: Crime Waves  
  
Joel Best, *Threatened Children* (entire book)  
*Assignment #5 Due: Threatened Children*

Mar 4 -           The Great Transformation  
Mar 6  
  
K. Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (on reserve)

**Spring Break, March 10-March 14**

Mar 18           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

Mar 20- The Fundamental Principles of Inequality  
Mar 25

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*\*

Mar 27 The Pervasiveness of Inequality

Film: *A Class Divided*

Apr 1 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*

Apr 3 **Second Examination**

### Part IV: Selected Social Issues

Apr 8 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)

Apr 10 The Changing Family

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

Apr 15 Divorce and Social Change

S. Coontz, *The American Family*\*

Apr 17 Poverty

J. Macleod, *Ain't No Makin It*, Chapters 1-6

April 22      Social Mobility  
  
                 J. Macleod, Ain't No Makin' It, Chapters 7-11  
                 *Assignment #7 Due: Poverty*

Apr 24        Review and course evaluation

May 2         **Third Examination, 4:30-7:00**