

SOCIOLOGY 221: CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Spring Semester 2015

M/W 1:00-2:15 Anthropology 105

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Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30-3:30pm

Office Hours: **My office hours will vary each week. ***Please use the Sign-Up Sheets on my Office Door.***** (All available times will be on my sheets.)

Office hours are for you! So please feel free to sign up for any open time, any week.

COURSE OVERVIEW

In this course, we survey major themes and questions in the sociology of culture. We do so in three broad sections:

- (1) We begin by developing a “vocabulary” that is drawn from a variety of approaches. This new vocabulary allows us to address such questions as “What is culture and what does it do?”
- (2) We then examine the classical treatments of culture found in the respective works of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim. Examples of current issues include the following: “How do media messages shape our view of reality?” “How do people in one group exclude those from another group?” “What holds groups together?”
- (3) In the final section of the course, we focus on the role that culture plays in production, by looking at two substantive areas: work and technology. Thus, we will deal with such issues as “How does culture influence the organization of work?” and “How do technology and culture shape each other?”

There is a **Blackboard** site devoted to this course (**Soc221: Culture and Society**). This site will include all materials that we hand out in class (the syllabus, instructions for the paper, etc.), as well as outlines of the lectures. Any important announcements will also be posted on this site.

COURSE MATERIALS

1. Wendy Griswold. 2012. *Cultures and Societies in a Changing World*. 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage (abbreviated *CSCW* in syllabus below). Available at the Emory University Bookstore.

2. Reserve readings

There are also additional **required** readings, which will be available as PDF files on our BLACKBOARD site.

This course offers an introductory survey of the sociology of culture; thus the readings cover a wide range of original sociological research. Some of the readings are more difficult than others. I will give you guidance on “how” to read the articles, particularly the more difficult ones.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance is strongly encouraged. I will use lectures to give you additional information not found in the readings, and I will also provide frameworks for understanding and integrating the readings with the lecture material. All assigned **readings** should be completed **before** class to ensure active participation in class discussions and activities.

As an incentive, regular attendance will be used to “improve” on **borderline** final grades.

2. Three exams. (Each exam is worth 20% of the final grade)

Each exam will be taken during class time (see following pages for scheduled dates). The exams will consist of a combination of short answer and essay questions, and they will cover both the readings and lecture material. (NONE of the exams is cumulative.)

3. Research Paper (40% of the final grade)

Detailed Instructions will be handed out in class!

The paper involves a research project that you will complete over the course of the semester. You may choose a paper topic from a list that we hand out, or you may propose a topic of your own choosing (subject to our approval by March 20).

- The **completed paper** is due on Wednesday **May 6th** by **5:00pm** in my box in the Sociology Office, 225 Tarbuton Hall (**Do NOT send me your paper by email**). For each day it is late, it will be marked down one half letter grade (e.g., from A to A- after first day late).

SOME GROUND RULES

General Communication

I provide very detailed information and instructions in all of the course documents. I will also send periodic BlackBoard announcements and/or emails about any further course information.

- **Please read all of the written Course communications thoroughly!**
- If you have questions after you have read everything in a particular course document (syllabus, paper instructions, study guide), then feel free to ask me.
- **Do NOT ask/email me questions that I have already answered** in a course document or via posted announcement/emails. I will not respond to these questions.

Email Communication:

I generally try to respond to emails within 24 hrs, but I do not guarantee a response within 24 hrs.

I do not answer emails after 8pm at night.

General Conduct:

Please be mindful of the general code of conduct that you would use in any classroom setting. I expect us all to be respectful of one another.

- Please do not arrive late to class.
- Once in class, please refrain from carrying on private conversations with your neighbor(s). This is distracting for everyone else in the room.
- Please refrain from texting, checking Facebook, or any other non-class activities during all class meetings. If you are found to be engaging in these activities, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class.

The use of cell phones is not permitted in this class. Please turn OFF your phones before entering the classroom.

Missed Classes: You are responsible for missed material. Please get notes from one of your classmates. After you have read all of the missed material, if you still have questions, please come to my office hours. (Do not email me to ask about missed class material.)

Video/Audio: You may not video or audiotape lectures without my express consent.

Extra Credit: There are no extra credit assignments available in this course.

Make-Up Policy:

Makeup exams will **only** be allowed in a situation of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency). If you are going to miss an exam, please make every effort to notify me before the missed class. A mutually convenient time will be arranged for you to make up the exam.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodating Disabilities:

If you have or acquire any sort of condition that may require special accommodation(s), please inform me as soon as possible so that we may make the appropriate arrangements. Proper documentation from the Office of Disabilities Services will be required. They can be reached at 404-727-1065 or via the web at <http://www.emory.edu/EEO/ODS/>.

Academic Conduct:

Emory College has established an Honor Code outlining an appropriate code of conduct with respect to academic honesty and plagiarism. Information on Emory's Honor code can be accessed at: http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html.

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the policies and procedures of the university, and violation of these policies will result in referral to the Honor Council. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. You must ensure that you cite references appropriately in your written work. When you paraphrase from others, cite their work in the text, and reference the citation in your bibliography. When you use direct quotes from others, be sure to insert quotation marks around the borrowed text and cite appropriately.

Honor Code Statement: I pledge to pursue all academic endeavors with honor and integrity. I understand the principles of the Emory College Honor System, and I promise to uphold these standards by adhering to the Honor Code in order to preserve the integrity of Emory College and its individual members.

COURSE SCHEDULE (*subject to revision*)

SECTION ONE: DEVELOPING A VOCABULARY

- Jan 14:* Introductions
- Jan 21:* Wendy Griswold. 2012. CSCW, Chapter 1.
Film: *Barbie Nation*
- Jan 26:* Anne E. Lincoln and Michael Patrick Allen. 2004. "Double Jeopardy in Hollywood: Age and Gender in the Career of Film Actors, 1926-1999." *Sociological Forum* 19: 611-631.
- Jan 28:* Kristen Luker. 1984. Chapter 7, "Worldview of the Activists," in *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

SECTION TWO: CLASSICAL TREATMENTS AND THEIR CONTEMPORARY COUNTERPARTS

I. Marxian Approaches: Ideology, Domination, and Resistance

Introduction to Marx

- Feb 2:* Wendy Griswold. 2012. CSCW, Chapter 2, pages 19-32.
- Feb 4:* Sharon Hays. 1997. "The Ideology of Intensive Mothering: A Cultural Analysis of the Bestselling 'Gurus' of Appropriate Childbearing," in *From Sociology to Cultural Studies*, edited by E. Long. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Current Notions of Ideology: Focus on Media

- Feb 9:* Wendy Griswold. 2012. CSCW, Chapter 4.
- Feb 9 (cont.):* Ashley Mears. 2010. "Size Zero High-End Ethnic: Cultural Production and the Reproduction of Culture in Fashion Modeling." *Poetics* 38:21-46.
- Feb 11:* Sut Jhally and Justin Lewis. 1992. Chapter 3, "The Success of Cosby," in *Enlightened Racism: The Cosby Show, Audiences, and the Myth of the American Dream*. Boulder, CO: Westview.
- Feb 16:* JoEllen Shively. 1992. "Cowboys and Indians: Perceptions of Western Films among American Indians and Anglos." *American Sociological Review* 57:725-734.
- Feb 18:* EXAM #1**

II. Weberian Approaches: Status and Exclusion

Introduction to Weber

Feb 23: Wendy Griswold. 2012. *CSCW*, Chapter 2, pages 35-44.

Feb 23 (cont): Tracy Scott. 2002. "Choices and Constraints: Protestantism, Gender, and the Meaning of Work." *Internatl Journal of Sociology & Social Policy* 22: 1-38.

Work, Status, and Exclusion

Feb 25: Aversa, Alfred. 1990. When Blue Collars and White Collars Meet at Play: The Case Of The Yacht Club. *Qualitative Sociology* 13(1):63-83.

Mar 2: Film: *Spellbound*

Mar 4: *Spellbound* Discussion; Cultural Capital Theories

March 9 & 11: SPRING BREAK!

Mar 16: Karen Aschaffenburg and Ineke Maas. 1997. "Cultural and Educational Careers: The Dynamics of Social Reproduction." *American Sociological Review* 62:573-587.

III. Durkheimian Approaches: Solidarity, Community, and Boundaries

Introduction to Durkheim

Mar 18: Wendy Griswold. 2012. *CSCW*, Chapter 3, pages 47-62.

Mar 23: Robin Wagner-Pacifici and Barry Schwartz. 1991. "The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial: Commemorating a Difficult Past." *American Journal of Sociology* 97:376-382, 385-389, 392-410.

Solidarity and Modern Times

Mar 25: Mark Mizruchi. 1985. "Local Sports Teams and Celebration of Community: A Comparative Analysis of the Home Advantage." *Sociological Quarterly* 26(4):507-518.

Mar 30: Wesley Shrum and John Kilburn. 1996. "Ritual Disrobement at Mardi Gras: Ceremonial Exchange and Moral Order." *Social Forces* 75: 423-458.

April 1: EXAM #2

SECTION THREE: CULTURE AND SOCIETY

I. Culture in Organizations

- Apr 6:* Wendy Griswold. 2012. *CSCW*, Chapter 6, Pages 117-128.
- Apr 6 (cont.)* Gary Alan Fine. 2006. "Shopfloor Cultures: The Idioculture of Production in Operational Meteorology." *The Sociological Quarterly* 47:1-19.
- Apr 8:* Paper Outline Due**
Leslie Perlow. 1998. "Boundary Control: The Social Ordering of Work and Family Time in a High-Tech Corporation." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 43:328-357.
- Apr 13:* Michael Lewis. 1989. *Liar's Poker (Rising through the Wreckage on Wall Street)*. Selections TBA.

II. Culture, Technology, and Community

- Apr 15:* Wendy Griswold. 2012. *CSCW*, Pages 141-155
- Apr 15 (cont)* Noelle Chesley. 2005. "Blurring Boundaries? Linking Technology Use, Spillover, Individual Distress, and Family Satisfaction." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67:1237-1248.
- Apr 20* READING TBA
- Apr 22* READING TBA
- Apr 27* READING TBA

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULED time: Friday, May 1, 3:00pm - 5:30pm

May 6 (W): FINAL PAPER DUE by 5pm in Dr. Scott's box, Tarbutton 225