

# SOCIOLOGY 101: INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL SOCIOLOGY

Spring Semester 2009

M/W/F 11:45-12:35

White Hall 102

*Professor:* Dr. Tracy Scott

*Office:* 230 Tarbutton Hall

*Office Hours:* Tuesdays 3pm-4pm

Wednesdays 4pm-5pm

*E-mail:* [tscott@emory.edu](mailto:tscott@emory.edu)

*Phone:* (404) 727-7515

*Teaching Assistant:* Christie Parris

*Office:* B03 Tarbutton Hall

*Office hours:* Mondays 1pm-2pm

*Email:* [christie.parris@emory.edu](mailto:christie.parris@emory.edu)

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will provide students with an overview of the sociological approach. Major theoretical concepts and methodologies will be examined and illustrated with a wide variety of classic as well as recent empirical studies. Some of the topics we'll look at include: the influence of society on love and death; causes and consequences of social inequality (race and ethnic relations; gender relations); and social definitions of deviant behavior.

**Blackboard site:** <https://classes.emory.edu>,

Log in, then click on: **Soc101: Intro to Sociology (Scott)**. This site will include all materials that we hand out in class (the syllabus, instructions for written assignments, etc.), as well as outlines of the lectures. Any important announcements will also be posted on this site.

## 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. We will also have discussion in class to help clarify all the material, so you need to show up so that you can participate in this. *As an incentive, regular attendance (missing 2 or fewer classes) will be used to "improve" on close grades.*

**2. Three written assignments** (percentages vary – see below; 40% total)

These assignments will involve either reflections about your own behavior or gathering some kind of information/data (e.g. brief survey), and writing about the data you gather. I will hand out instructions for these assignments during the semester.

**Assignment 1** (3-4 page paper) due Wednesday, Feb 11: 10%

**Assignment 2** (5-7 page paper) due Monday, March 30: 15%

**Assignment 3** (5-7 page paper) due Friday, April 24: 15%

**All written assignments must be given to me during class. I do not accept assignments through email.**

**3. Two exams** (percentages vary – see below; 60% total)

**Exam 1 (Midterm): Wednesday, March 4** (in class) 25%

**Exam 2 (Final): Monday, May 4, 4:30pm-7:00pm** 35%

The Midterm will be an in-class exam; the Final will be given during the University scheduled Final Exam period for this class (and cannot be rescheduled). The exams will consist of a combination of short answer and essay questions, and they will cover both the readings and lecture material. Note that the Final is **not** cumulative. More details later.

**4. Readings.**

We do not have a typical “textbook” for this class; rather the readings are comprised of original articles from different authors (many are contained in the Adler & Adler reader). Thus, much of what you will be reading is actual sociological research. Some of the readings are more difficult than others, and some weeks there is a heavier reading load than other weeks. I will give you guidance on “how” to read the articles, particularly the more difficult ones.

On the following pages is a schedule of the readings required for the course. You are expected to complete the readings **before** class each week. We will discuss some of the readings in class, so both the reading and class attendance are important. And, class lecture and discussion will be more interesting if you have completed the readings!

If you have trouble understanding any of the readings or the lecture material, please feel free to talk to me or to the teaching assistant for this class.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. Patricia Adler & Peter Adler. *Sociological Odyssey: Contemporary Readings in Introductory Sociology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. 2006. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

***Unless otherwise indicated, the selections listed below are located in the Adler & Adler book*** (abbreviated: A&A).

2. Reserve readings

There are also additional **required** readings, which will be on the LIBRARY’s ELECTRONIC RESERVE site. These will also be available as PDF files on our BLACKBOARD site.

***The Reserve Readings are marked with an asterisk (\*) below.***

These readings have been placed on reserve in electronic format. To access them on the LIBRARY site, simply check RESERVES DIRECT and look for our course (SOC 101, Dr. Scott). For the BLACKBOARD site, simply look for the button marked “Reserve Readings.” All you need to do is download the article. I recommend doing this from an on-campus location (library, dorm, cluster). Off-campus downloading efforts may be difficult or cumbersome.

## **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 (e.g., not the day of an exam) so that we may make the appropriate arrangements. Proper documentation from the Office of Disabilities Services will be required. Please contact their office to get more information on available services and accommodations, as well as documentation requirements. They can be reach at 404-727-6016 or via the web at <http://www.ods.emory.edu>.

### **Academic Conduct:**

All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the policies of Emory College with respect to conduct and academic honesty. Anyone engaging in acts that violate these policies, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be referred to the Honors Council. For more information on the Emory Honor Code, see [http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor\\_code.html](http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html).

### **Make-Up Policy:**

My permission is needed to make-up exams and the short assignments. If you are going to miss an exam or assignment, please make every effort to notify me before the missed class and to gather appropriate material to justify your absence. If you are unable to notify me before the class/due date, please try to have a friend, roommate, etc. contact me via e-mail and inform me of your absence. A mutually convenient time will be arranged for you to make up the assignment. Makeup assignments will *only* be allowed in a situation of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency, etc.). A note from the Dean will be required to make up the final exam.

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

## **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

### **PART I: The Sociological Perspective**

#### **WEEK 1      What Is Sociology?**

*Jan 14 (W):*      Introductions

*Jan 16 (F):*      \*Sharon Begley, 2008, When DNA is Not Destiny. *Newsweek*; Dec. 1, 2008.  
\*Allan G. Johnson, 1997, *The Forest and the Trees*. (In Andersen, Logio, Taylor, eds., *Understanding Society: an Introductory Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Thomson Wadsworth.)

*Jan 19 (M):*      Holiday (MLK Day) – no class

*Jan 21 (W):*      C. Wright Mills, 1959, *The Promise of Sociology* (A&A, pp. 10-15).

*Jan 23 (F):*      Joel Charon, 2004, *Should We Generalize about People?* (A&A, pp. 16-23).

#### **WEEK 2      How Do We Do Sociology? (Sociological Research Methods)**

*Jan 26 (M):*      Howard Schumann, 2002, *Sense and Nonsense about Surveys* (A&A, pp. 42-47).

*Jan 28 (W):*      Patricia A. Adler and Peter Adler, 1985, *The Promise and Pitfalls of Going into the Field* (A&A, pp. 48-56).  
\*Philip Meyer, 1970, *If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger, Would You? Probably*. (In James Henslin, ed., *Down to Earth Sociology*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press.).

#### **WEEK 3      Basic Sociological Concepts Part I: Social Structure**

*Jan 30 (F):*      \*Erving Goffman, 1959, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. (In James Henslin, ed., *Down to Earth Sociology*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press.).

*Feb 2 (M):*      Spencer E. Cahill, et al., *Meanwhile Backstage: Behavior in Public Bathrooms* (A&A, pp. 127-137).

*Feb 4 (W):*      Film: *The Stanford Prison Experiment*.  
\* Philip Zimbardo, 1972, *Pathology of Imprisonment*. (In James Henslin, ed., *Down to Earth Sociology*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press.).

*Feb 6 (F):*      \* Philip Zimbardo, 1972, *Pathology of Imprisonment*. (In James Henslin, ed., *Down to Earth Sociology*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press.).

**WEEK 4      Basic Sociological Concepts Part II: Culture**

*Feb 9:*            \*Eviatar Zerubavel. 1985. *The Seven Day Circle: The History and Meaning of The Week*. Introduction (pp. 1-4); Chapter 7, “Culture, Not Nature” (pp. 130-141).

***Feb 11:*            PAPER ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE**

Ross Haenfler, *Core Values of the Straight Edge Movement* (A&A, pp. 86-96)

*Feb 13:*            Michael Kimmel, *Ritualized Homosexuality in a Nacirema Subculture* (A&A, pp. 65-73).

**WEEK 5      The Case of Love: Culture, Social Structure, and Sentiment**

*Feb 16:*            Erica Owens, *Constructing Visions of Ethnicity: Internet Dating Advertisements* (A&A, pp. 219-231)

*Feb 18:*            \* S. Sprecher & M. Toro-Morn. 2002. *A Study of Men and Women From Different Sides of Earth to Determine if Men are From Mars and Women are From Venus in Their Beliefs About Love and Romantic Relationships*. (Sex Roles 46: 131-147).

*Feb 20:*            \*T. Lambert, A. Kahn, K. Apple, 2003, *Pluralistic Ignorance and Hooking Up*. (In Andersen, Logio, Taylor, eds., *Understanding Society: an Introductory Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Thomson Wadsworth.)

**WEEK 6      The Case of Death: Culture, Social Structure, and Fear**

*Feb 23:*            \*Daniel F. Chambliss, 1996, *The World of the Hospital*. (In James Henslin, ed., *Down to Earth Sociology*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press.)

*Feb 25, 27:*        \*Kate Chopin, 1894, *The Story of an Hour*

\*Viviana Zelizer, 1985. *Pricing the Priceless Child*, Chapter 2, “From Useful to Useless: Moral Conflict over Child Labor” (pp. 56-72)

**WEEK: Midterm**

*Mar 2:*            Review

*Mar 4:*            **Exam 1**

*Mar 6:*            Class cancelled – enjoy spring break!

**Mar 9-13:      Spring Break!**

## **PART II: Individuals and Social Interaction**

### **WEEK 7 Socialization: Development of the Self**

*Mar 16:* \*Kingsley Davis, 1949, *Extreme Isolation*. (In James Henslin, ed., *Down to Earth Sociology*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press.)

\*Sharon Begley, 2008, Math is Hard, Barbie Said. *Newsweek*; Oct. 27. 2008.

*Mar 18* Spencer E. Cahill, 1989, *Fashioning Gender Identity* (A&A, pp. 97-106)

*Mar 20:* Patricia A. Adler and Peter Adler, *Girls' and Boys' Popularity* (A&A, pp. 261-272)  
Film: *Killing Us Softly*

### **WEEK 8 Deviance**

*Mar 23:* Devah Pager, 2003, *The Mark of a Criminal Record* (A&A, pp. 159-170)

*Mar 25:* Elijah Anderson, 1999, *The Code of the Street* (A&A, pp. 74-85)

*Mar 27:* \*William Chambliss, 1973, *The Saints and the Roughnecks*. (In James Henslin, ed., *Down to Earth Sociology*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press.)

\*David L. Rosenhan, 1973, *On Being Sane in Insane Places*. (In James Henslin, ed., *Down to Earth Sociology*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press.)

## **PART III: Groups and Society**

### **WEEK 9 Organizations**

*Mar 30:* **PAPER ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE**

\*Robin Leidner, 1993, *Over the Counter at McDonald's*. (In James Henslin, ed., *Down to Earth Sociology*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press.)

*Apr 1, 3:* \*Nicole Woolsey Biggart, 1990. *Charismatic Capitalism: Direct Selling Organizations in America*. Chapter 6, "Charisma and Control" (pp. 126-159).

### **WEEK 10 Social Class**

*Apr 6:* G. William Domhoff, *Who Rules America? The Corporate Community and the Upper Class*. (A&A, pp. 195-200)

*Apr 8:* \*Barbara Ehrenreich, 1999, *Nickel and Dimed*. (In James Henslin, ed., *Down to Earth Sociology*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Free Press.)

*Apr 10:* \*Annette Lareau. 2002. *Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families*. (American Sociological Review 67: 747-776).

**WEEK 11 Race and Ethnicity**

- Apr 13:* \*Joe R. Feagin. 1991. *The Continuing Significance of Race: Antiracial Discrimination in Public Places*. (*American Sociological Review* 56:101-116).  
\*Barack Obama. March 18, 2008. *A More Perfect Union*. Philadelphia, PA.  
<http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/hisownwords>
- Apr 15:* Karyn R. Lacy, 2004, *Black Spaces, Black Places: Strategic Assimilation and Identity Construction in Middle Class Suburbia*. (A&A, pp. 201-210)
- Apr 17:* Melissa Milkie, 1999, *The Impact of Pervasive Beauty Images on Black and White Girls' Self-Concepts*. (A&A, pp. 118-126)

**WEEK 12 Gender and Work**

- Apr 20:* Irene Padavic and Barbara Reskin, Gender Differences in Moving Up and Taking Charge. (A&A, pp. 281-290)
- Apr 22:* \*Martin Tolich & Celia Briar. 1999. *Just Checking it Out: Exploring the Significance of Informal Gender Divisions among American Supermarket Employees*. (*Gender, Work, and Organization* 6:129-133).
- Apr 24:* **PAPER ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE**  
\*Christine Williams. 1989. *Masculinity in Nursing*, (ch. 4 in *Gender Differences at Work*, pp. 88-91; 109-130).
- Apr 27:* Review
- May 4 (M):* **4:30pm-7:00pm FINAL EXAM**