

Sociology 101-00A.
Summer-A 2001
11:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

Introduction to General Sociology
Alex Hicks

DRAFT OF SYLLABUS FOR Introduction to General Sociology

This course will introduce students to sociology, the study of human beings from the perspective of human interrelations and their cultural products. Principal goals will be to introduce students to the principal questions, methods, concepts and subfields of sociology.

The course will be taught partially as seminar (as well as lecture course) in order to take advantage of small summer class size.

Requirements. Required reading will be nearly confined to Anthony Giddens and Mitchell Duneier's *Introduction to Sociology* -- hereafter *ITS* (Paperback 3rd edition, W.W. Norton & Company, Price: about \$58.00).

Assessment will be based on

- (1) participation: frequent involvement in class discussions and reasonable informed responses to class questions, especially relating to "Key Concepts" and reading "Summaries" from *ITS* (worth 15 %).
- (2) 2 interrelated very short (1 and 3-4 page) papers (worth 10%);
- (3) a longer 9-12 page paper based on the application of course materials to the film *The Bicycle Thief* or with special permission another film (worth 30%); *and*
- (4) a midterm and final exam (worth 20% and 25%, respectively).

SCHEDULE

May 22 Instructor's Introduction to Sociology: social relations and culture
Film Clip from *Lawrence of Arabia*: social relations & culture at a desert well!

May 23 "WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?" (*ITS*, Ch.1)

Learn what sociology covers as a field and what it uncovers as social; learn sociological PERSPECTIVE and IMAGINATION; history, theory, concepts; whether it's a science.

May 24 "CULTURE AND SOCIETY" (*ITS*, Ch.3)

Learn how both biological and social/cultural factors operate; the degree of *social/cultural* change; what culture consists of, and how it differs from society;
Changes of modernization and globalization.

Film Clips: *White Dawn* (Eskimo host or pimp?)

May 25 "SOCIALIZATION" (*ITS*, Ch.4)

Socialization (including gender socialization), and know the most important agencies of socialization; socialization through the various stages of the life course and its similarities and differences among different cultures.

Film Clips: (as for the rest of this draft, to be determined).

May 28-29 "Social Interaction and everyday Life" (*ITS*, Ch. 5) and ASKING CAUSAL, SOCIOLOGICAL QUESTIONS (*ITS*, Ch.2) Everyday life (NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION); ethnomethodology and the rules of interactions (incl. conversations; the "right place" and the "right time"); MICRO- and MACRO-SOCIOLOGY. *Assignment 1*: one page theoretically stating and justifying a sociological question and identifying a research procedure that would provide and empirically justified answer.

May 30 - June 1 "Conformity, Deviance and Crime" (*ITS*, Ch. 6) Deviant behavior as socially determined (by power, class, etc.); traditional explanations for deviance; leading sociological ones;

June 4 "Stratification, Class and Inequality" (*ITS*, Ch. 7)

Social background & an individual's chances of \$\$ success; class in the U.S. & West; whether class stratification determines gender inequalities; social mobility; poverty and inequality; influential theories of stratification.

Assignment 2 (3-4 page elaboration of assignment 1) due

June 5. "Gender Inequality" (*ITS*, Ch.8):

June 6 "Ethnicity and Race" (*ITS*, Ch.9)

June 7 Review

June 8 Midterm (materials of *ITS*, Chs. 1- 9)

June 11 "The Rise of Modern Organization"(*ITS*, Ch.10)

June 12-13 "Government, Political Power, and War" (*ITS*, Ch.11) Hicks reading on the politics of social insurance as a handout

June 14 "Sociology of Work and the Economy" (*ITS*, Ch.12)

June 15 "Marriage and the Family" (*ITS*, Ch.13)

June 18. "Education and the Mass Media" (*ITS*, Ch.14)

June 19 "Religion in Modern Society" (*ITS*, Ch.15)

June 20 "Urbanization, Population, and the Environment" (*ITS*, Ch.17)

June 21 "Social Change and Social Movements" (*ITS*, Ch.18)

June 22 Review

June 25 Final Exam (on material of *ITS*, chs1, 3, 10-18)

June 26-27 Film: *The Bicycle Thief* (Shown on 26th 11:30-1:15; and end Re-shown 27th)

June 29th Paper due on "Class, Work, Gender, Deviance/Crime and Religion and Politics in *The Bicycle Thief*" (or other film or specially arranged topic).