



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

SOCIOLOGY 101

INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL SOCIOLOGY
FALL 2007

SYLLABUS

Professor:	Dennis Condron	Teaching Assistant:	Sonal Nalkur
Office:	232 Tarbutton Hall	Office:	201 Tarbutton Hall
Office hours:	M/W 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. or by appt.	Office hours:	By appointment
Office phone:	404-727-6272	Email address:	snalkur@emory.edu
Email address:	dennis.condron@emory.edu		
Meetings:	MWF 9:35 - 10:25 a.m.		
Location:	111 White Hall		

Course Description and Objective

The social world in which we live shapes, and often constrains, human behavior. At the same time, we construct that social world. With these guiding assumptions in mind, this course will provide students with an introduction to the various concepts and theories that sociologists use in attempting to explain how society works. We will consider a wide variety of issues, such as: how sociologists think and conduct research; the social construction of reality; culture; socialization and identity formation; social interaction and group dynamics; influence of the mass media; deviance; social stratification; race; gender; homelessness; education; families; and social change. You will learn what Sociology has to say about these and many other topics through readings, writing assignments, in-class discussions, and exams. In the process, you will develop critical thinking skills that will allow you to apply what you learn as you try to make sense of the social world that surrounds you.

Required Readings

- Adler, Patricia A. and Peter Adler. 2007. *Sociological Odyssey: Contemporary Readings in Introductory Sociology* (Second Edition). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. ["A&A"]
- Glassner, Barry. 2000. *The Culture of Fear: Why Americans Are Afraid of the Wrong Things*. New York: Basic Books.
- Liebow, Elliot. 1995. *Tell Them Who I Am: The Lives of Homeless Women*. New York: Penguin Books.
- Ritzer, George. 2004. *The McDonaldization of Society* (Revised New Century edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

You will also need to access several readings online via the Blackboard site for this course (these readings are indicated in the reading schedules with "Bb").

Summary of Course Requirements

Description	Date	Percentage of Overall Grade
<i>Quiz/Exams:</i>		
Early Semester Quiz	September 17	8
Midterm Exam	October 19	17
Final Exam	December 14, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.	25
<i>Assignments:</i>		
Violating a Social Norm	October 1	20
Constructing Gender	November 5	20
Blog Entries	Oct. 15, Nov. 2, or Dec. 7	10

Quiz/Exams: You will take a Quiz (worth 8% of your overall grade) that is designed to gauge how well you are keeping up and understanding the material early in the semester. This quiz will also serve to preview the kinds of questions that will be on the Exams. You will take a Midterm Exam (worth 17% of your overall grade) and a Final Exam (worth 25% of your overall grade). Exams will include a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, with the two components being roughly equally weighted. I will provide more details on the Exams, as well study guides to help you prepare, as the semester unfolds. The summary of course requirements highlights the dates of the Exams.

Assignments: You will complete three Assignments. The first, worth 20% of your overall grade, involves violating a social norm and writing about your experience in the context of course material. The second, also worth 20% of your overall grade, involves observing and writing about the social construction of gender. The third, worth 10% of your overall grade, is to post a blog entry (on Blackboard) in reaction to one of three assigned books. I will provide details on each of these Assignments in separate handouts.

Grading: You will receive a score ranging from 0 to 100 on each Quiz, Exam, and Assignment. To calculate your final course grade, these scores will be weighted as noted above. Scores correspond to letter grades as presented in the scale below.

Score	Letter Grade	Score	Letter Grade
93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	60-66	D
80-82	B-	0-59	F
77-79	C+		

Make-up exam policy: If you have a legitimate and unavoidable scheduling conflict that you are aware of in advance, or if an unexpected emergency prevents you from making it to class the day of an exam, you are responsible for demonstrating these circumstances in writing and discussing arrangements with me as soon as possible. These are the only conditions under which I give make-up exams. If you are late to class for some other reason, such as oversleeping, you will have to complete the exam during whatever class time remains.

Late assignment policy: Unless you have a legitimate excuse documented in writing, late assignments (turned in at any point after the end of class on the due date) will be docked 5% per weekday late.

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. If you are unsure of what constitutes academic misconduct, review the Emory College Honor Code at the following URL:

http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html

Students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS; 404-727-6016) to obtain proper documentation if you need accommodations. I strongly encourage you to make sure that everything is in order early in the semester. If you fail to arrange accommodations (i.e., exam proctoring) in a timely manner, ODS may be unable to provide them. If this occurs, I am not obligated to provide accommodations and, due to time constraints, will likely be unable to do so.

Blackboard (<https://classes.emory.edu/>) is where you can find additional readings, in-class handouts such as study guides, useful links that I mention in class, etc. You will also need to use Blackboard to post your blog entry and read those of your classmates. Occasionally, I might need to send an email to everyone in the class for some reason, and I will do so via Blackboard. Please note that Blackboard states the following in response to an FAQ asking why students do not receive email messages sent from Blackboard: “If you are a LearnLink user, the problem may be related to your email settings. LearnLink considers mail from Blackboard as junk mail because it’s being sent to a group with no students’ names listed. You need to change how LearnLink handles junk mail via Edit > Preferences > Junk Mail Handling > Set to ACCEPT (rather than Delete Silently).”

A note on emailing me: You should *not* use email as the primary means for contacting me regarding this course. If you have a question or concern, I encourage you to stop by during office hours or call me at my office (during office hours is best) to resolve the matter. In addition, *I do not accept assignments via email attachment*, unless approved ahead of time. I take this approach to email for two main reasons. First, it is unreliable – messages are sometimes not delivered in a timely manner or are lost completely. You should therefore never count on getting in touch with me via email when a matter is urgent. Second, relying on email makes it too easy for one party to claim to have emailed the other when he or she in fact did not, or for one party to claim not to have received an email that he or she actually did receive. The possibility that a message is truly lost in cyberspace adds more uncertainty to situations like these, all the more reason to avoid them.

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading due</u>
1	F	8/31	Introduction	
2	M	9/3	NO CLASS	
	W	9/5	The sociological perspective	A&A #1, #2; Johnson, "The Forest and the Trees" (Bb)
	F	9/7	Social structure and human agency	Best, "Promoting Bad Statistics" (Bb); Zerubavel, "The Seven Day Circle" (Bb)
3	M	9/10	Sociological theories	A&A #4; Chambliss, "The Mundanity of Excellence" (Bb)
	W	9/12	Research methods	A&A #6, #7
	F	9/14	Research methods	A&A #3, #5
4	M	9/17	Quiz	
	W	9/19	Culture	Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" (Bb); A&A #8
	F	9/21	Culture	A&A #9; Ainsworth-Darnell & Downey, "Assessing the Oppositional Culture..."(Bb)
5	M	9/24	Socialization and identities	A&A #11, #12
	W	9/26	Socialization and identities (video)	A&A #13; Kilbourne, "Buy This 24-Year-Old..." (Bb)
	F	9/28	Interaction and groups	A&A #14; Lambert et al., "Pluralistic Ignorance..." (Bb)
6	M	10/1	Discussion: The Influence of Norms	Violating a Social Norm assignment due
	W	10/3	Deviance and crime	A&A #18, #19
	F	10/5	Deviance and crime	A&A #17; Mauer, "The Social Cost..." (Bb)
7	M	10/8	NO CLASS	
	W	10/10	Deviance and crime (video)	(Glassner)
	F	10/12	Deviance and crime (conclusion of video)	(Glassner)
8	M	10/15	Discussion: <i>The Culture of Fear</i>	Glassner, all
	W	10/17	Review for midterm exam	
	F	10/19	MIDTERM EXAM	

9	M	10/22	Social stratification	Morris & Western, "Inequality in Earnings" (Bb)
	W	10/24	Theories of class inequality	Davis & Moore, "Some Principles...;" Fischer et al., "Inequality By Design" (both Bb)
	F	10/26	Consequences of class inequality in the U.S.	A&A #22; Lareau, "Invisible Inequality" (Bb)
10	M	10/29	Constructing gender	A&A #27; Andersen, "The Social Construction of Gender" (Bb)
	W	10/31	Gender inequality	A&A #29
	F	11/2	Discussion: <i>Tell Them Who I Am</i>	Liebow, all
11	M	11/5	Discussion: Gender in society	Constructing Gender assignment due
	W	11/7	Constructing race (video)	A&A #21, #23
	F	11/9	Racial inequality (conclusion of video)	Massey & Denton, "American Apartheid" (Bb)
12	M	11/12	Education	Mehan, "Understanding Inequality in Schools" (Bb)
	W	11/14	Education (video)	A&A #35
	F	11/16	Education	Renzulli & Roscigno, "Charter Schools...;" Karen, "No Child Left Behind?" (both Bb)
13	M	11/19	Families	Coltrane, "Family Rituals and the Construction of Reality" (Bb)
	W	11/21	NO CLASS	
	F	11/23	NO CLASS	
14	M	11/26	Families	A&A #32
	W	11/28	Health and health care	A&A #40, #41
	F	11/30	Work and occupations	Shulman, Ch's 3 and 4 (Bb)
15	M	12/3	Social change: Deindustrialization in the U.S.	Eitzen and Baca Zinn, "Structural Sources of Societal Change" (Bb)
	W	12/5	Social change: Globalization	(Ritzer)
	F	12/7	Discussion: <i>The McDonaldisation of Society</i>	Ritzer, all
16	M	12/10	Review for final exam	

Final Exam: Friday, December 14, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.