

SOCIOLOGY 101: INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL SOCIOLOGY

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Overview

You know who you are and why you do what you do. You have a fair idea of what society is and how it works. These things are all common sense. Or are they?

In this course you will learn that common sense is not a particularly good guide to understanding yourself and society. The course introduces you to sociological perspectives that will give you new ways to think about education, religion, sports, the poor, love and sex, crime, and the family. You will also gain a bit of historical perspective on some of these issues and get an introduction to how sociologists do research.

Requirements

A. **All books and articles** listed on the course outline are **required reading**.

B. **Class attendance is strongly encouraged** -- there will be considerable in-class discussion and much of the material presented in lectures will **not** be covered in the reading. You will be responsible for all lecture topics on the exams.

In addition, your grade can be improved by **in-class participation** -- both how much you participate and the thoughtfulness of your contributions. Come to class prepared to ask questions and generate ideas, as well as to discuss the assigned readings.

C. Several **exercises** will be assigned. Two exercises will be **5-6 page essays** that require you to use ideas from the course, and some thought and investigation of your own, to analyze aspects of daily life in American society. Originality and thoughtfulness will be rewarded. Two exercises will involve data analysis using a personal computer.

One essay exercise will be completed early in the term, the other late in the term. The data analysis exercises will be completed in weeks 9 and 15 (see course outline).

D. You are required to keep a **journal** throughout the semester. In the journal you will make short entries with your thoughts about the readings and some of the lectures. For some readings you will be required to prepare two or three questions to bring to class for discussion. Journal assignments will be announced in class.

E. The **midterm exam** will include both short-answer and short-essay items, asking you to give examples illustrating concepts, explain assertions about social relationships, present key ideas from lectures and readings, and apply what you have learned to situations that have not been discussed in class.

F. The **final exam** will have the same format as the midterm but will include more items. It is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 15, 8:30-11.

Evaluation

Your grade will be determined as follows:

In-class participation		10%
Exercises	25	
Journal	15	
Mid-term examination	20	
Final examination	30	

Office hours and teaching assistant help

My posted office hours will be MW 11-1. Normally, you can also talk to me after class, and I am generally available in my office if forewarned that you would like to see me. We will also have a teaching assistant available for discussion of course activities and guidance on the exercises. The TA's office hours and telephone numbers will be announced in class.

BOOKS TO BUY

Cherlin, Andrew J. *Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage*

Collins, Randall *Sociological Insight: An Introduction to Non-Obvious Sociology*

Ferguson, Susan J. *Mapping the Social Landscape: Readings in Sociology*

Healey, Joseph H., Earl Babbie, Fred Halley *Exploring Social Issues Using SPSS for Windows*

Steinberg, Stephen *The Ethnic Myth: Race, Ethnicity, and Class in America*

Selections from the Ferguson reader are indicated on the course outline. Two readings will be distributed as handouts in class early in the course (Miner on the Nacirema and Orenstein on theory).

COURSE OUTLINE

(Approximate dates)

- Weeks 1-2** Introduction: Sociology, common sense, knowledge.
 Aug 29- The social construction of reality.
 Sep 5 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 1. Mills, "The Promise"
 Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" (handout)
 Collins, *Sociological Insight*, Ch. 1
- Week 3** Theoretical perspectives: functional, conflict, symbolic interaction,
 Sep 8-12 and institutional approaches. Rationalization.
 Orenstein, "Sociology Without Theory . . ." (handout)
 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 55. Ritzer, "The McDonaldization of Society"
- Week 4** The individual and the social self. Individuals and collectivities;
 Sep 15-19 cultures and sub-cultures. Roles and role theory.
 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 7. Lewis, "The Rastafari"
 15. Williams, "Role Making and Decision Making Within the
 Working Class"
 50. Wooden, "Kicking Back at 'Raging High'"
- Week 5** Socialization, rites of passage, life course. Gender reproduction.
 Sep 22-26 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 11. Lorber, "Night to His Day"
 13. Granfield, "Making It by Faking It"
 14. Dyer, "Anybody's Son Will Do"
- Weeks 6-7** Love, marriage, the family.
 Sep 29- Changing conceptions of the family and child.
 Oct 10 Cherlin, *Marriage Divorce Remarriage* (all)
 Collins, *Sociological Insight*, Ch. 5
 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 54. Collins, "The Meaning of Motherhood in Black Culture"
 28. Gerson, "No Man's Land"
- Fall Break** No class.
 Oct 13

- Week 8** Schooling and sports.
 Oct 15-17 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 48. Dog and Erdoes, "Civilize Them with a Stick"
 49. Cookson and Persell, "Preparing for Power"
- Week 9** Doing sociological research: methods and issues.
 Oct 20-24 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 4. McAdam, "Freedom Summer: In Search of the Volunteers"
 6. Weitz, "Personal Reflections on Researching HIV Disease"
 Healey/Babbie/Halley, *Exploring Social Issues Using SPSS*,
 Chapters 1, 3, 2 (including exercises)
- Week 10** Power, legitimacy, authority: from small groups to national states.
 Oct 27-31 Collins, *Sociological Insight*, Ch. 3
 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 35. Mills, "The Power Elite"
 36. Clawson et al., "Money Talks"
 37. Marger, "The Mass Media as a Power Institution"
- Weeks 11-12** Stratification and inequality. Ethnicity and racism.
 Nov 3-14 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 23. Weber, "Class, Status, Party"
 24. Domhoff, "The American Upper Class"
 26. Gans, "The Uses of Poverty"
 27. Anderson and Moore, "The Burden of Womanhood"
 Steinberg, *The Ethnic Myth*, Part 1 and Chs. 3, 4, 7, 10,
 and Epilogue
- Week 13** Social boundaries and social integration. Gods and God;
 Nov 17-21 traditional and secular religions.
 Collins, *Sociological Insight*, Ch. 2
 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 2. Gaines, "Teenage Wasteland"
 43. Durkheim, "The Elementary Forms of Religious Life"
 44. Roof, "Toward the Year 2000"
 46. Curtis, "Miami's Little Havana"
- Week 14** The cultures and politics of deviance and crime.
 Nov 24-26 Collins, *Sociological Insight*, Ch. 4
 Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape*:
 8. Anderson, "The Code of the Streets"
 19. Rosenhan, "On Being Sane in Insane Places"
 22. Martin and Hummer, "Fraternalities and Rape on Campus"

Week 15 Data analysis and hypothesis testing.

Dec 1-5

Healey/Babbie/Halley, *Exploring Social Issues Using SPSS*,
Ch. 4 (pp. 81-85 only); Chs. 7, 8 (including exercises)

Week 16 Sociological analysis, social reality, and the issue of freedom.

Dec 8