

Survey of Sociology

Sociology 210 - Spring 2012 – University of Wisconsin, Department of Sociology
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:55-10:45am in William H. Sewell Social Science 5208.

Professor Joseph Conti
8111 Sewell Social Science Building
Office Hours, 11-1 on Mondays and by appointment
Email: jconti@ssc.wisc.edu

This course is intended to provide an introduction to the field of sociology, including many of its subfields and specialized areas of research, theoretical traditions and different research methods used by sociologists. Sociology encompasses a diverse array of topics, issues, and research subjects and it is impossible for one class to cover them all in detail. The subjects covered in this course provide a general introduction to the sociological perspective and many popular areas of research and inquiry.

In addition to learning about sociology, you will learn to write as a sociologist, conduct some forms of sociological research, present your findings, and analyze what sociologists have written. Sociology 210 satisfies the University's Communications-B requirement and the requirements for the majors in the departments of Sociology and Community & Environmental Sociology. Its principle aim is to prepare students for writing assignments in upper-level courses in the social sciences and to give sociology majors a base of knowledge with which to begin their studies. Specifically, the objectives of Communications B courses are to develop advanced skills in:

- Critical reading, logical thinking, and the use of evidence
- The use of appropriate style and disciplinary conventions in writing and speaking
- The productive use of core library resources specific to the discipline.

This is a **four credit** course. In addition to two 50-minute lectures a week, you will attend two section meetings every week. All section meetings are required. **Your section instructor will give you a more detailed schedule** of assignments, noting when bi-weekly writing assignments and assignments related to your research project (topic, bibliography, outline, and draft as well as final product) are due.

Course Requirements and Policies

The required book is available from the Rainbow bookstore (426 West Gilman Street, Madison, WI 53703-1009 (608) 257-6050).

Giddens, Anthony, Mitchell Duneier, Richard P. Appelbaum, and Deborah Carr. 2012. Introduction to Sociology. 8th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton.

Electronic reader available (for free) from the course learn@UW website (required)

You will receive a more detailed description of course requirements in section. Final grades will be based on:

- Five short writing assignments: 20 percent
- Research project: 25 percent
- Two oral presentations: 10 percent (5% each)
- Participation: 10 percent
- Attendance in section: 5 percent
- Midterm: 15 percent
- Final exam: 15 percent

This is the grading scale employed in the class:

- A = 93%-100%, AB = 88%-92%, B = 83%-87%, BC = 78%-82%, C = 70%-77%,
D = 60%-69%, F = 59% or below.

Participation includes reading. You are expected to complete all required readings assignments before the lectures and discussion section in meetings in which they are discussed. The amount of reading is fairly high. To pass this course, you must be prepared to do the reading assignments consistently and thoroughly throughout the semester. Please bring assigned readings with you to section.

You are also required to attend the lectures and to attend and participate actively in your section meetings. Repeated problems with attendance or participation, including distracting behavior during lectures or discussions, will reduce your grade.

Late papers are not accepted except at the discretion of the Instructor and Section Instructor. Missed exams cannot be made up except at the discretion of the Instructor and provided that the student can document the reason for their absence.

Other Business

- If you require alternative arrangements for classes or exams due to a disability or religious observances, please speak with me, or your TA, as soon as possible. I rely on the McBurney Disability Resource Center to determine what reasonable academic accommodations a student may require. Students who request accommodations must master all requirements, skills, knowledge, and academic standards of the course.
- If laptops, cell phones, or other devices prove distracting in class, they will be banned.
- Because this is a writing intensive course, you may wish to employ the services of the Writing Center (6171 Helen C. White Hall).

Academic Misconduct

Naturally, academic misconduct of any sort will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic misconduct generally, you must consult <http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html> before proceeding in this course. **Also, read the statement on academic misconduct posted on the learn@UW website.**

If you have questions about plagiarism specifically, you must consult the hand-out "Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Acknowledging Sources," available at the learn@UW website for this course. You are expected to be familiar with these guidelines before you submit any

written work in this course. *Lack of familiarity with these rules in no way constitutes an excuse for acts of misconduct.* Any instance of cheating, plagiarism, or other misconduct will be dealt with strictly according to university policy, and severe penalties will be recommended to the Dean of Students.

Weekly schedule:

Week 1

January 24 – Why do we eat with forks? An introduction to Sociological thought

January 26 – The value of a sociological perspective

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 2-14
- C. Wright Mills, “The Promise of Sociology”
- Richlin-Klonsky and Strenski – “A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers”
- ASA Quick style guide
- “Acknowledging Sources”

Week 2

January 31 – Origins of sociology in the break with tradition

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 14-26
- Durkheim – introduction from *Suicide*
- Marx – “Manifesto of the Communist Party”
- Weber – “The Spirit of Capitalism and the Iron Cage”

February 2 – Is Sociology a science?

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 29-38
- Berger -- “Sociology as the passion to understand”
- Durkheim – excerpt from *The Rules of Sociological Methods*

Week 3

February 7 – Culture and Society

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 53-58, 62-9
- Becker – “Culture: A Sociological View”
- Peterson – “Roll over Beethoven, There’s A New Way to Be Cool”
- Willis – *Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs* (pp. 1-6, 11-22, 26-29, 43-49, 95-99, 101-105, 126-137)

February 9 – Socialization and the life cycle

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 59-62, 81-101
- Wrong – “The Oversocialized Conception of Man in Modern Sociology”

Week 4

February 14 – Film: *Secrets of the Wild Child*

February 16 – The Self and Society: Symbolic Interactionism

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 103-116, 124-126
- Goffman – “Presentation of Self in Everyday Life”

Week 5

February 21 – Deviance

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 163-169, 172-177
- Chambliss – “Saints and Roughnecks”
- Murphy and Waldorf – “Drifting into Dealing”

February 23 – Groups and Modern Organizations

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 129-134, 141-149, 155-156
- Ritzer – “Precursors: Bureaucracy and Max Weber’s Theory of Rationality, Irrationality, and the Iron Cage” and “ Islands of the Living Dead: The Social Geography of McDonaldization”
- Berger and Luckman – “The Meaning and Origins of Social Institutions”

Week 6

February 28 – Institutions and the self: Obedience

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 41, 135-137
- Zimbardo – “Pathology of Imprisonment”
- Meyer – “If Hitler Asked you to Electrocute a Stranger, Would You? Probably.”
- Boswell and Spade, “Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture: Why Are Some Fraternities More Dangerous Places for Women?”

March 1 – Film: *Obedience*

Week 7

March 6: - Society, the Individual, and the Sacred

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 489-504, 508-518
- Collins – “The Sociology of God”

*****March 8 – In-Class Midterm exam*****

Week 8

March 13 – American Families

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 429-439, 441-448, 450-453
- Coontz – “The Heterosexual Revolution”
- Furstenberg, Frank, “The Recent Transformation of the American Family: Witnessing and Exploring Social Change.”

March 15 – The Demand Constraint in Capitalist Democracies

- Giddens, Appelbaum and Duneier, and Carr: pp. 351-376
- Perrow – “The Rise of Big Business in the United States”

Week 9

March 20 -- Work in America: the rise of services and the breaking of the social contract in America

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 393- 403, 411-426

- Ehrenreich – excerpt from *Nickel and Dimed*
- Hochschild – excerpt from *The Managed Heart*

March 22 -- Class inequality

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 196-213, 216-219, 224-230
- Wright and Rogers – *Contemporary American Society*, Ch 11 and 12

Week 10

March 27 -- Gender inequality and socialization

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 93-97 (review), 259-264
- Messner – “Barbie Girls versus Sea Monsters”

March 29 – Gender Inequality at work

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 264-290
- Reskin and Padavic – “Sex Differences in Moving Up and Taking Charge”

*****Spring Break*****

Week 11

April 10 – Gender Inequality at Home

- Hochschild – “The Second Shift”
- Gerson – “Changing Lives, Resistant Institutions: A New Generation Negotiates, Gender, Work and Family Change”
- Offer and Schneider – “Revisiting the Gender Gap in Time-Use Patterns: Multitasking and Well-Being among Mothers and Fathers in Dual-Earner Families.” (pp. 809-814, skim data and analysis section, 827-830)

April 12 – Film: *Killing Us Softly IV*

Week 12

April 17 - Race and Ethnicity as Classification Struggle

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 293-302, 315-322
- Ignatiev – *How the Irish Became White*, pp. 1-19, 34-42

April 19: – The Role of Discrimination in Racial Disparities

- Pager and Shepard – “The Sociology of Discrimination: Racial Discrimination in Employment, Housing, Credit, and Consumer Markets”

Week 13

April 24: – Maintaining Order in an Unequal Society

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 29-31 (review), 177-178, 186-191
- Levine – “Testimony of Harry Levine Regarding New York State Senate Bill 5187”
- Western and Petit – “Beyond Crime and Punishment” Prisons and Inequality”

- Goffman – “On the Run”

April 26 – Film: excerpts from *Tulia, TX*

Week 14

May 1 – What’s new about Globalization?

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 407-411, 605-609, 612-617, 621-632
- Brecher, Costell and Smith – “Globalization and its Specter”
- Ehrenreich and Hochschild – “Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy”

May 3 – Global Social Change

- Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum and Carr: pp. 233-238, 242-255
- Gunder Frank – *Development of Underdevelopment*, pp 17-23
- Rostow – *The Stages of Economic Development*, pp 4-16

Week 15

May 8 -- Conclusion: Sociology and Social Change

- Wright – “Real Utopias”

*****May 10: In-Class Final exam*****