

Sociology 210
Spring semester 2009
Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 – 11:50 a.m.
Classroom: Social Science 5208

Professor Chad Alan Goldberg
E-mail: cgoldber@ssc.wisc.edu
Home page: <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~cgoldber/>
Office: Sewell Social Science 8116B
Office hours: T.B.A.

SURVEY OF SOCIOLOGY

The difficulty, in sociology, is to manage to think in a completely astonished and disconcerted way about things you thought you had always understood.

Pierre Bourdieu

Overview

Please note that you will have two syllabi for Sociology 210: this general one and another one that is specific to your section and written by your Teaching Assistant. The more specific syllabus will contain details about your section meetings and writing assignments. This syllabus discusses more general course policies.

Sociology 210 is intended to provide an introductory overview of the discipline of sociology, including:

- 1) some of the main sub-fields and specialized areas of research in sociology;
- 2) different theoretical approaches to understanding social life, including symbolic interactionism, functionalism, conflict theory, and feminism; and
- 3) different research methods used by sociologists, both quantitative and qualitative.

This course will also encourage you to develop what C. Wright Mills called a *sociological imagination*, i.e., a capacity to understand how seemingly personal troubles are shaped by larger social forces.

Finally, 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 meets the university's Communications-B requirement and introductory requirements for majors in the departments of Sociology and Rural Sociology.

Reading Assignments

The schedule of weekly topics and assigned readings is listed below. Two books are required:

1. Jeffrey C. Alexander and Kenneth Thompson, *A Contemporary Introduction to Sociology* (Boulder: Paradigm, 2008).
2. Randall Collins, *Sociological Insight: An Introduction to Non-Obvious Sociology*, second edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992).

These books may be purchased at the University Book Store. I have also requested that these books be placed on reserve at College Library. Reading assignments from these books are not included in the course reader.

All other required reading assignments are included in a course reader that will be available for purchase at Bob's Copy Shop, 616 University Avenue. The course reader will also be placed on reserve at College Library. If there is a problem with any of the reserve readings, please e-mail me as soon as possible to let me know.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation: You are required to attend the weekly lectures and to attend and participate actively in your discussion section. When attending the lectures or your discussion section, please do not arrive late or leave early, and please do not act in any way that would distract your instructor or the students around you. (If you must arrive late or leave early, please tell your instructor in advance, explain why, and do so quietly and discretely.) Repeated problems with attendance or participation, including distracting behavior during lectures or discussions, will result in a lower grade.

Reading: You are expected to complete all required reading assignments (not recommended readings) before the lectures and discussion section meetings in which they are discussed. Please note that Sociology 210 involves a heavy amount of reading (about 72 pages per week on average). To pass this course, you must be prepared to do the reading assignments consistently throughout the semester. **If you are unable or unwilling to do this much reading, you should drop the course now.** Please bring the assigned readings with you to your discussion section.

Written assignments and other requirements:

Final grades will be based on:

Short writing assignments:	30%
Research project:	40%
Participation:	10%
Oral presentation in discussion section:	5%
Final exam:	15%

The final exam will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009, from 12:25 to 2:25 p.m. (Location to be announced.) The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions focusing on the main points from the lectures and required readings.

Please note that the Teaching Assistant in charge of your section has jurisdiction over the grading of your written work and participation.

Academic Misconduct

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. If you have questions about plagiarism specifically, you must consult the hand-out "Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Acknowledging Sources," available at the Writing Center (6171 Helen C. White Hall). 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.

On dates followed by an asterisk (*), the lecture may be recorded in advance and made available on-line as an audio file due to a major Jewish holiday. I apologize for the inconvenience.

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

WEEK 1 (Jan 20-22): Orientation and introduction to the course

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 3-61.

WEEK 2 (Jan 27-29): What is sociology?

Handout on theories and theoretical approaches (available as PDF file).

Peter L. Berger, "Sociology as a Passion to Understand," in *The Meaning of Sociology*, seventh edition, ed. Joel M. Charon (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002), 2-7.

C. Wright Mills, "The Sociological Imagination," *Meaning of Sociology*, 8-12.

Roseann Giarrusso et al., *A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers*, eds. Judith Richlin-Klonsky and Ellen Strenski (New York: Worth, 2008), 3-27.

Mark A. Schneider, "Theories and Theorizing," in *The Theory Primer* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006), 1-29.

Recommended:

Howard Schuman, "Sense and Nonsense About Surveys," *Contexts* 1, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 40-47.

Robert S. Weiss, "In Their Own Words: Making the Most of Qualitative Interviews," *Contexts* 3, no. 4 (Fall 2004): 44-51.

Joel M. Charon, "Sociology and Democracy," *Meaning of Sociology*, 394-399.

PART II: THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

WEEK 3 (Feb 3-5): Culture and socialization

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 63-89, 121-147.

Dennis H. Wrong, "The Oversocialized Conception of Man in Modern Sociology," *American Sociological Review* 26, no. 2 (Apr. 1961): 183-193.

Richard A. Peterson, "Roll Over Beethoven, There's a New Way to Be Cool," *Contexts* 1, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 34-39.

Bethany Bryson, "'Anything But Heavy Metal': Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes," *American Sociological Review* 61, no. 5 (Oct. 1996): 884-899.

Recommended:

George Herbert Mead, *Mind, Self, and Society* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962), 144-164.

Howard S. Becker, "Culture: A Sociological View," *Meaning of Sociology*, 238-243.

WEEK 4 (Feb 10-12): The self and social interaction

Excerpts from Arnold van Gennep, William James, Charles Cooley, George Herbert Mead.

Lewis A. Coser, *Greedy Institutions* (New York: Free Press, 1974), 1-8.

Erving Goffman, "The Nature of Deference and Demeanor," *Interaction Ritual: Essays on Face-to-Face Behavior* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1967), 47-95.

Recommended:

Erving Goffman, *Asylums* (Garden City: Doubleday, 1961).

Natan Sharansky, *Fear No Evil*, trans. Stefani Hoffman (New York: Random House, 1988).

WEEK 5 (Feb 17-19): Groups and organizations

Gareth Morgan, *Images of Organization*, second edition (Thousand Oaks: Sage, 1997), 11-31.
Ray Marshall and Marc Tucker, *Thinking for a Living* (New York: Basic Books, 1992), 13-27.
Collins, "The Nonrational Foundations of Rationality," in *Sociological Insight*, 3-29.
Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy* (Jan. 1995): 65-78.

WEEK 6 (Feb 24-26): Crime and deviance

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 331-363.
Collins, "The Normalcy of Crime," in *Sociological Insight*, 86-118.
Howard S. Becker, "Becoming a Marijuana User," chap. 3 in *Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance* (New York: The Free Press, 1963), 41-58.

Recommended:

Becker, "Marijuana Use and Social Control," chap. 4 in *Outsiders*, 59-78.
Patricia Yancey Martin and Robert A. Hummer, "Fraternities and Rape on Campus," in *Meaning of Sociology*, 227-236.
Philip Meyer, "If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger, Would You? Probably," in *Meaning of Sociology*, 111-115.
Herbert Kelman and V. Lee Hamilton, "The My Lai Massacre: A Military Crime of Obedience," in *Meaning of Sociology*, 116-127.
Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (New York: Viking Press, 1963).

PART III: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

WEEK 7 (Mar 3-5): Politics, publics, and the state

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 511-553.
Collins, "Paradoxes of Power," in *Sociological Insight*, 60-85.
Freedom House, "Democracy's Century: A Survey of Global Political Change in the 20th Century."

Recommended:

Max Weber, selections in *Democracy*, ed. Philip Green (New Jersey: Humanities Press, 1993), 74-82.
C. Wright Mills, selections in *American Social and Political Thought: A Reader*, ed. Andreas Hess (New York: New York University Press, 2003), 215-221, 244-249.
Robert A. Dahl, selections in *Democracy*, ed. Philip Green (New Jersey: Humanities Press, 1993), 104-118.
Friedrich Engels, "The Origin of the State," in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Robert C. Tucker, second edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 1978), 751-759.
Peter Bachrach and Morton S. Baratz, "Two Faces of Power," *American Political Science Review* 56, no. 4. (Dec. 1962): 947-952.
Steven Lukes, "Power," *Contexts* 6, no. 3 (Summer 2007): 59-61.
Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward, *Poor People's Movements* (New York: Random House, 1977).
Talcott Parsons, "The Distribution of Power in American Society," in *The Talcott Parsons Reader*, ed. Bryan S. Turner (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1999), 220-236 (especially 232-235).
Jürgen Habermas, "Hannah Arendt: On the Concept of Power," in *Philosophical-Political Profiles*, trans. Frederick G. Lawrence (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1983), 171-187.

WEEK 8 (Mar 10-12): Work and the economy

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 365-393.
Arlie Russell Hochschild, *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983), 3-23, 89-136.

Recommended:

Cameron Lynne Macdonald and David Merrill, "Intersectionality in the Emotional Proletariat," in *Service Work: Critical Perspectives*, eds. Marek Korczynski and Cameron Lynne Macdonald (New York: Routledge: 2009), 113-133.

Dorothy Sue Cobble and Michael Merrill, "The Promise of Service Worker Unionism," in *Service Work*, 153-174.

Kim Voss and Rick Fantasia, "The Future of American Labor: Reinventing Unions," *Contexts* 3, no. 2 (Spring 2004): 35-41.

Monica Krause et al., eds., *The University Against Itself: The NYU Strike and the Future of the Academic Workplace* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2008).

***** MAR 14-22 SPRING RECESS *****

WEEK 9 (Mar 24-26): Marriage and the family

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 205-237.

Collins, "Love and Property," in *Sociological Insight*, 119-154.

Arlene S. and Jerome H. Skolnick, "Family in Transition," in *Family in Transition*, 14th edition (Boston: Pearson, 2007), 1-10.

Stephanie Coontz, "The Heterosexual Revolution," *New York Times*, July 5, 2005.

WEEK 10 (Mar 31-Apr 2): Religion

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 457-483.

Collins, "The Sociology of God," in *Sociological Insight*, 30-59.

Mark Chaves, "Abiding Faith," *Contexts* 1, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 19-26.

Emile Durkheim, "Individualism and the Intellectuals," in *Emile Durkheim on Morality and Society*, ed. Robert N. Bellah (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973), 43-57.

PART IV: SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

WEEK 11 (Apr 7-9*): Class

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 239-267, 408-411.

Paul Willis, *Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977), 1-6, 11-49, 89-113.

Recommended:

Robert Purrucci and Earl Wysong, "The New American Class Structure," in *Meaning of Sociology*, 146-154.

Jonathan Kozol, "American Education: Savage Inequalities," in *Meaning of Sociology*, 361-370.

Pierre Bourdieu and Jean-Claude Passeron, *Reproduction in Education, Society and Culture*, trans. Richard Nice (Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications, 1977).

Jenny M. Stuber, "Talk of Class: The Discursive Repertoires of White Working- and Upper-Middle-Class College Students," *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 35, no. 3 (Jun. 2006): 285-318.

WEEK 12 (Apr 14-16): Gender

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 269-297.

Douglas Hartmann, "The Sanctity of Sunday Football: Why Men Love Sports," *Contexts* 2, no. 4 (Fall 2003): 13-21.

Barbara F. Reskin, "Bringing the Men Back In: Sex Differentiation and the Devaluation of Women's Work," in *The Gendered Society Reader*, ed. Michael S. Kimmel (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 257-269.

Recommended: Kimmel, ed., *The Gendered Society Reader*, 1-6, 167-187.

WEEK 13 (Apr 21-23): Race and ethnicity

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 299-329.
Noel Ignatiev, *How the Irish Became White* (New York: Routledge, 1995), 1-3, 34-59.
Anthony Marx, "Race-Making and the Nation-State," *World Politics* 48, no. 2 (Jan. 1996): 180-208.

Recommended:

Jennifer Lee and Frank D. Bean, "Beyond Black and White: Remaking Race in America," *Contexts* 2, no. 3 (Summer 2003): 26-33.
Min Zhou, "Are Asian Americans Becoming 'White'?" *Contexts* 3, no. 1 (Winter 2004): 29-37.

PART V: SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE MODERN WORLD

WEEK 14 (Apr 28-30): Urbanism and population

Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 485-509.
Saskia Sassen and Alejandro Portes, "Miami: A New Global City?" *Contemporary Sociology* 22, no. 4 (Jul. 1993): 471-477.
Richard Florida, "The Rise of the Creative Class," *Washington Monthly*, May 2002
(<http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2001/0205.florida.html>).

Recommended:

Jane Jacobs, "Downtown is For People," in *The Exploding Metropolis* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1958), 157-84.
Saskia Sassen, "Economic Restructuring and the American City," *Annual Review of Sociology* 16 (1990): 465-490.

WEEK 15 (May 5-7): Globalization in a changing world

Anthony Giddens, "Globalization," in *Meaning of Sociology*, 380-384.
Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" *National Interest* (Summer 1989), 3-18.
Benjamin R. Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld," *Atlantic Monthly* (March 1992), 53-63.
Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993), 22-49.
Frances Fox Piven, "Can Power from Below Change the World?" *American Sociological Review* 73, no. 1 (Feb. 2008): 1-14.

Recommended: Alexander and Thompson, *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 555-583.

Study day	May 9
Final exam	May 15
Last day grades in	May 22