

Sociology 210: Survey of Sociology
Fall 2010

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, 11:00-12:00
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Sociology, it has been said, involves rethinking ‘common sense’ -- the re-examination of the society in which we live, the reconsideration of some of the assumptions we all make about the basic social dynamics that shape our lives. Based on reading a series of contemporary sociological selections, we will explore some of the current debates and themes in sociology, looking both at how social contexts and structures shape our lives, and at a range of the ways in which sociologists study those processes.

In addition to learning about sociology, you will learn to write as a sociologist, conduct some forms of sociological research, present your findings, and analyse what sociologists have written. Sociology 210 satisfies the University’s Comm-B requirement. 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.

This is a **four credit** course. In addition to two 50-minute lectures a week, you will attend three section meetings every two weeks. **Sections meet at their regularly scheduled weekly time, plus alternate Friday mornings.** All section meetings are required. **Your teaching assistant 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.

Final grades will be based on:

Five short writing assignments (two-three pages):	20 percent
Research project	30 percent
Participation/oral presentation	15 percent
Midterm	15 percent
Final exam	20 percent

Required books:

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (not) getting by in America*
Annette Lareau, *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race and Family Life*

Additional reading: York Bradshaw, Joseph Healey and Rebecca Smith, *Sociology for a New Century*

All books will be on reserve in the undergraduate library. Required books have been ordered through the University Bookstore. All readings will be available at the Social Science copy center and/or through Learn@UW.

Week I: Introduction: What is sociology?

(September 8)

C. Wright Mills, "The promise of sociology", 1-5

Emile Durkheim, introduction from *Suicide*, 41-53

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, excerpt from *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*, 12-19

Max Weber, excerpt from *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, 366-370

Additional: Bradshaw, Healey and Smith, *Sociology for a New Century*, chapters 2 and 3

Week II: Stratification: economic inequality

(September 15)

Annette Lareau, *Unequal Childhoods*, chapters 1, 2, 3, 5

Edward Wolff, "Top Heavy", 95-103

Andrew Hacker, "Who has how much and why", 194-200

David Wessel, "As rich-poor gap widens in the U.S., class mobility stalls", 121-126

Robert Pear, "Gap in life expectancy widens for the nation," *NYT*, 3/23/08

Additional: Bradshaw, Healey and Smith, *Sociology for a New Century*, chapter 5

Week III: Education and inequality

(September 20, 22)

Annette Lareau, *Unequal Childhoods*, chapters 6, 7, 10, 11, 12

Linda Renzulli and Vincent Roscigno, "Charter Schools and the public good," *Contexts* 6:1 (2007), 31-36

Jay Matthews, "Dropout data raise questions on two fronts", *Washington Post*, 5/22/06

Sam Dillon, "Large urban-suburban gap seen in graduation rates", *NYT* 4/22/09

Sam Dillon, "Study finds high rate of imprisonment among dropouts," *NYT*, 10/9/09

Week IV: Racial identities and inequality

(September 27, 29)

Michael Omi and Howard Winant, "Racial Formations", 57-69

Jennifer Lee and Frank Bean, "America's Changing Color Lines: Immigration, Race/Ethnicity, and Multiracial Identification", *Annual Review of Sociology* August 2004, p 221-242

Ronald Takaki, "Asian Americans: The myth of the model minority", 148-154

Matthew Snipp, "A comeback for American Indians," 243-246

Additional: Bradshaw, Healey and Smith, *Sociology for a New Century*, chapter 6

Week V: Segregation and urban life

(October 4, 6)

D. Massey and N. Denton, *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*, chapters 1 and 4

William Julius Wilson, "From Institutional to Jobless Ghettos," (1996), 185-196
Michael Luo, "In Job Hunt, College Degree Can't Close Racial Gap" *NYT* 11/30/09
John Farley and Gregory Squires, "Fences and neighbors: Segregation in 21st century America," *Contexts*, 4:1 (2005), 33-39

Week VI: Social movements

(October 11, 13)

Robin Kelly, *Race Rebels*, Chapter 3

Aldon Morris, "Birmingham Confrontation Reconsidered: An analysis of the dynamics and tactics of mobilization," 621-636

Week VII: Midterm and Gender

(October 18, 20)

Midterm: October 18

Peggy Orenstein, "Learning Silence: Girls and Boys in School," 120-127

Michael Messner, "Barbie Girls versus Sea Monsters: Children constructing gender", 87-102

E. Madriz, "Nothing bad happens to good girls: Fear of crime in women's lives" , 332-345

K. Luker, "Motherhood and morality in America" 192-215

Week VIII: Sociology of the family

(October 25, 27)

Stephanie Coontz, "The American Family", (1999), 172-178

Suzanne Bianchi, John Robinson, Melissa Milkie, *Changing Rhythms of American Family*, 1-18, 89-112, 169-180

Pamela Stone, "The rhetoric and reality of 'opting out'", *Contexts* 6:4 (2007), 14-19

Timothy Biblarz and Judith Stacey, "How does the gender of parents matter?" *J. of Marriage and the Family* (2010), 2-22

Additional: Bradshaw, Healey and Smith, *Sociology for a New Century*, chapter 8

Week IX: Sociology of culture

(November 1, 3)

Howard Becker, "Culture: a sociological view", 238-243

George Ritzer, "The McDonalidization of Society," 151-163

Week X: Sociology of religion

(November 8, 10)

Neela Banerjee, "Poll finds a fluid religious life in U.S." *NYT*, 2/26/08

Nancy Ammerman, *Pillars of Faith*, chapters 1, 2

Mark Regnerus, *Forbidden Fruit*, introduction and chapter 5

Jen'naqn Ghazal Read, "Muslims in America," *Contexts* 7:4 (2008), 39-43

Laurie Goodstein, "Across nation, mosque projects meet opposition," *NYT* 8/7/10

Week XI: Sociology of Deviance

(November 15, 17)

William Chambliss, "The Saints and the Roughnecks", 275-286

Fox Butterfield, "Father Steals Best: Crime in an American Family", *NYT* 8/21/02

Bruce Western and Becky Petit, "Beyond Crime and Punishment: Prisons and Inequality", *Contexts* reader, 377-383

Alice Goffman, "On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto", 339-357

Bernard Harcourt, "The Mentally Ill, Behind Bars" *NYT* op-ed, 1/15/07

Additional: Bradshaw, Healey and Smith, *Sociology for a New Century*, chapter 9

Week XII: Sociology of Health and Medicine

(November 22, 24)

Lisa Berkman, "The health divide," 337-344

Atul Gawande, "How should Obama reform health care?" *The New Yorker*, 1/26/09

David Leonhardt, "In health bill, Obama attacks wealth inequality," *NYT*, 3/23/10

Laurence Kotlikoff and Scott Burns, "The Elderly: A Demographic Tidal Wave", 547-558

Week XIII: Sociology of Work

(November 29, Dec 1)

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (not) getting by in America*, "Introduction", chapters 1, 3, and "Evaluation"

Michael Luo, "Recession adds to appeal of shortterm jobs," *NYT*, 4/19/10

Additional: Bradshaw, Healey and Smith, *Sociology for a New Century*, chapter 12

Week XIV: Globalization and social change

(December 6, 8)

Edna Bonacich, Richard Appelbaum et al, "Offshore Production", 141-167

Arlie Hochschild, "Love and Gold" , 15-30

Additional: Bradshaw, Healey and Smith, *Sociology for a New Century*, chapter 10

Week XV: Immigration and Conclusion

(December 13, 15)

Douglas Massey, "International Migration and the Future of the United States" (2003), 197-204