

Sociology 210
Spring 2011
TuTh 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM
Classroom: INGRAHAM B10

Professor Chad Alan Goldberg
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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

Sociology 210 is intended to provide an introductory overview of the discipline of sociology, including (a) some of the main sub-fields and specialized areas of research in sociology; (b) different theoretical approaches to understanding social life, including symbolic interactionism, functionalism, conflict theory, and feminism; and (c) 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*. (If you don't know what that is yet, you will learn early in the semester.)

Lastly, in addition to learning about sociology, you will learn how 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 Community & Environmental (formerly Rural) Sociology.

The course is organized as follows: two 50-minute lectures and two discussion section meetings every week. Your Teaching Assistants (TAs) for this term are Ms. Heather Gordon, Mr. Alex Hanna, Ms. Aliza Luft, Ms. Julia McReynolds, Mr. Paul Pryse, and Ms. Karen Schaepe. You can find their contact information through the campus directory (<http://www.wisc.edu/directories/>).

Reading Assignments

Two books are required: Jeffrey C. Alexander and Kenneth Thompson, *A Contemporary Introduction to Sociology* (Boulder: Paradigm, 2008), and 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 will be posted on Learn@UW and included in a course reader that will be available for purchase at Bob's Copy Shop, 616 University Avenue. 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

Final grades will be based on:

Participation	10 percent
Oral presentation	5 percent
Five short writing assignments (2-3 pages each)	25 percent
Research project	30 percent
Midterm test	15 percent
Final test	15 percent

The grading scale for the course is as follows: A = 93-100, AB = 88-92, B = 83-87, BC = 78-82, C = 70-77, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below.

Participation: Participation includes 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. Sociology 210 involves about 60 pages of reading per week on average. To pass the 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 section meetings.

You are also required to attend the lectures and to attend and participate actively in your section meetings. When attending the lectures or your section meetings, 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 reduce your grade.

Writing assignments and research project: In addition to this general course syllabus, your Teaching Assistant will give you another one that is specific to your section; it will contain details about your section meetings and writing assignments, including due dates for writing assignments and assignments related to your research project (topic, bibliography, outline, and draft as well as final product). The Teaching Assistant in charge of your section has jurisdiction over the grading of your written work and participation.

Midterm and final tests: A midterm test, covering weeks 1-8, is scheduled for March 10, and a final test, covering weeks 9-15, is scheduled for May 5. These tests will consist of multiple-choice questions focusing on the main points from the lectures and required readings. Because we have these two in-class tests, there is no final exam during exam week.

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. Please also consult the hand-out “Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Acknowledging Sources,” available on Learn@UW. 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.

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	
<p>WEEK 1</p> <p>Jan. 18 Film screening: selections from <i>Sociology is a Martial Art</i> (2001), 140 min.</p> <p>Jan. 20 What is sociology?</p>	<p>Alexander and Thompson, <i>Contemporary Introduction to Sociology</i>, 3-27. Peter L. Berger, "Sociology as a Passion to Understand," in <i>The Meaning of Sociology</i>, 7th ed., ed. J. M. Charon (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2002), 2-7.</p>
<p>WEEK 2</p> <p>Jan. 25 Sociological methods</p> <p>Jan. 27 The civic value of sociology</p>	<p>Alexander and Thompson, <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>, 36-53. C. Wright Mills, "The Sociological Imagination," <i>Meaning of Sociology</i>, 8-12. Anthony Giddens, "What Do Sociologists Do?" in <i>Social Theory and Modern Sociology</i> (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1987), 1-21. Roseann Giarrusso et al., <i>A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers</i>, ed. Judith Richlin-Klonsky and Ellen Strenski (New York: Worth, 2008), 3-27.</p>
PART II: THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY	
<p>WEEK 3</p> <p>Feb. 1 What is culture and what does it do for us?</p> <p>Feb. 3 Film screening: selections from <i>Secret of the Wild Child</i> (1994), 60 min.</p>	<p>Alexander and Thompson, <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>, 68-89, 122-125, 133-147. Richard A. Peterson, "Roll Over Beethoven, There's a New Way to Be Cool," <i>Contexts</i> 1, no. 2 (2002): 34-39. Dennis H. Wrong, "The Oversocialized Conception of Man in Modern Sociology," <i>American Sociological Review</i> 26, no. 2 (Apr. 1961): 183-193.</p>
<p>WEEK 4</p> <p>Feb. 8 The self and social interaction I: Fraternity hazing</p> <p>Feb. 10 The self and social interaction II: Total institutions</p>	<p>Excerpts from Arnold van Gennep, William James, Charles Cooley, George Herbert Mead. Lewis A. Coser, <i>Greedy Institutions</i> (New York: Free Press, 1974), 1-8. Erving Goffman, "The Nature of Deference and Demeanor," <i>Interaction Ritual: Essays on Face-to-Face Behavior</i> (New York: Pantheon Books, 1967), 47-95.</p>

<p>WEEK 5</p> <p>Feb. 15 Groups and organizations I: Universities as (rational?) organizations</p> <p>Feb. 17 Groups and organizations II: Social capital, trust, and solidarity</p>	<p>Alexander and Thompson, "Organization of Work" (374-77), "Conflict and Control" (377-81), "Authority and Legitimation" (526-27) in <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>.</p> <p>Ray Marshall and Marc Tucker, <i>Thinking for a Living</i> (New York: Basic Books, 1992), 13-27.</p> <p>Collins, "The Nonrational Foundations of Rationality," in <i>Sociological Insight</i>, 3-29.</p> <p>Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," <i>Journal of Democracy</i> (Jan. 1995): 65-78.</p>
<p>WEEK 6</p> <p>Feb. 22 Film screening: <i>Crime & Deviance</i> (2004), 30 min.</p> <p>Feb. 24 Crime and deviance (cont'd)</p>	<p>Alexander and Thompson, "Crime and Deviance," in <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>, 331-363.</p> <p>Collins, "The Normalcy of Crime," in <i>Sociological Insight</i>, 86-118.</p>
<p>PART III: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS</p>	
<p>WEEK 7</p> <p>Mar. 1 Film screening: <i>Obedience</i> (1965), 45 min.</p> <p>Mar. 3 Power</p>	<p>Collins, "Paradoxes of Power," in <i>Sociological Insight</i>, 60-85.</p> <p>Alexander and Thompson, "Politics, Publics, and the State," in <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>, 511-553.</p>
<p>WEEK 8</p> <p>Mar. 8 Democracy, or who rules?</p> <p>Mar. 10 Midterm test</p>	<p>Review for midterm test.</p>
<p>SPRING RECESS, MARCH 12-20</p>	
<p>WEEK 9</p> <p>Mar. 22 God is dead? Religion and secularization</p> <p>Mar. 24 Film screening: <i>What Do You Believe? The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers</i> (2004), 49 min</p>	<p>Alexander and Thompson, "What is Religion" (460-63), "Religion, Modernity, and the Secularization Thesis" (463-70), "New Age" (476-77) in <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>. The rest of the chapter is recommended.</p> <p>"Religion's Debate With Secularism Might Benefit From Review of Social Forces at Play," <i>New York Times</i>, Jul. 16, 2005.</p> <p>"Give Them Some of That Free-Market Religion," <i>New York Times</i>, Nov. 21, 2004.</p> <p>Elaine Howard Ecklund, "Religion and Spirituality among Scientists," <i>Contexts</i> 7, no. 1 (Winter 2007): 12-15.</p> <p>Christian Smith, <i>Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults</i> (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), 3-9, 279-299.</p>

<p>WEEK 10</p> <p>Mar. 29 Society, the sacred, and the cult of the individual</p> <p>Mar. 31 Film screening: <i>Families & Households</i> (2005)</p>	<p>Collins, "The Sociology of God," in <i>Sociological Insight</i>, 30-59.</p> <p>Alexander and Thompson, "Marriage and the Family" (205-237) in <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>.</p>
<p>WEEK 11</p> <p>Apr. 5 Family relations as property relations</p> <p>Apr. 7 The organization of work and control over the labor process</p>	<p>Collins, "Love and Property," in <i>Sociological Insight</i>, 119-154.</p> <p>Stephanie Coontz, "The Heterosexual Revolution," <i>New York Times</i>, Jul. 5, 2005.</p> <p>Alexander and Thompson, <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>, 372-374, 383-392. Review 374-81. Recommended: "Emotion Work in Postmodern Life" (161-163).</p> <p>Arlie Russell Hochschild, <i>The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983), 3-23. Recommended: 89-136.</p>
<p>PART IV: SOCIAL INEQUALITY</p>	
<p>WEEK 12</p> <p>Apr. 12 Labor unions and their vicissitudes</p> <p>Apr. 14 Education and the reproduction of class inequality</p>	<p>Erik Olin Wright and Joel Rogers, "Labor Unions," in <i>American Society: How It Really Works</i> (New York: W. W. Norton, 2011), 432-445.</p> <p>Alexander and Thompson, "Social Stratification" (241-242), "Class, Race, and Gender," (244-249), "Social Mobility" (249-251), "Inequality: Past, Present, and Future" (255-264), "Different Perspectives on Education" (408-411) in <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>. The rest of chapter 8 is recommended.</p> <p>Paul Willis, <i>Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs</i> (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977), 1-6, 11-22, 26-29, 43-49, 95-99, 101-105, 126-137.</p>
<p>WEEK 13</p> <p>Apr. 19* Film screening: selections from <i>People Like Us</i> (2001), 124 min.</p> <p>Apr. 21 Gender inequality and socialization</p> <p>* Passover</p>	<p>Alexander and Thompson, "Gender" (269-297) in <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>.</p> <p>Paula England and Su Li, "Desegregation Stalled: The Changing Gender Composition of College Majors, 1971-2002," <i>Gender and Society</i> 20, no. 5 (Oct. 2006): 657-677.</p> <p>Barbara F. Reskin, "The Proximate Causes of Employment Discrimination," <i>Contemporary Sociology</i> 29, no. 2 (Mar. 2000): 319-328.</p>

<p>WEEK 14</p> <p>Apr. 26 Gender inequality and discrimination</p> <p>Apr. 28 Race as classification struggle: An historical perspective</p>	<p>Alexander and Thompson, <i>Contemporary Introduction</i>, 299-311. Recommended: 312-329.</p> <p>Noel Ignatiev, <i>How the Irish Became White</i> (New York: Routledge, 1995), 34-42. Recommended: 1-3, 43-59.</p> <p>Anthony Marx, "Race-Making and the Nation-State," <i>World Politics</i> 48, no. 2 (Jan. 1996): 180-208.</p>
<p>WEEK 15</p> <p>May 3 Race-making in Brazil, South Africa, and the United States: A comparative perspective</p> <p>May 5 Final test</p>	<p>Review for final test.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER READING

Introduction to Sociology

- Robert N. Bellah, "The Ethical Aims of Social Inquiry," in *The Robert Bellah Reader*, ed. Robert N. Bellah and Steven M. Tipton (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006), 381-401.
- Pierre Bourdieu, "Public Opinion Does Not Exist," in *Sociology in Question*, trans. Richard Nice (London: Sage, 1993), 149-157.
- Joel M. Charon, "Sociology and Democracy," *Meaning of Sociology*, 394-399.
- Mark A. Schneider, *The Theory Primer* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006), 1-29.
- Howard Schuman, "Sense and Nonsense About Surveys," *Contexts* 1, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 40-47.
- Edward Shils, "The Calling of Sociology" in *Theories of Society*, vol. 2, ed. Talcott Parsons, Edward Shils, Kaspar D. Naegle, and Jesse R. Pitts (Glencoe: Free Press, 1961), 1405-1448.
- Robert S. Weiss, "In Their Own Words: Making the Most of Qualitative Interviews," *Contexts* 3, no. 4 (Fall 2004): 44-51.

The Individual and Society

- Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (New York: Viking Press, 1963).
- Howard S. Becker, "Culture: A Sociological View," *Meaning of Sociology*, 238-243.
- Howard S. Becker, *Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance* (New York: Free Press, 1963).
- Bethany Bryson, "'Anything But Heavy Metal': Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes," *American Sociological Review* 61, no. 5 (Oct. 1996): 884-899.
- Erving Goffman, *Asylums* (Garden City: Doubleday, 1961).
- Herbert Kelman and V. Lee Hamilton, "The My Lai Massacre: A Military Crime of Obedience," in *Meaning of Sociology*, 116-127.
- 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.
- Gareth Morgan, *Images of Organization*, 2nd ed. (Thousand Oaks: Sage, 1997).
- Natan Sharansky, *Fear No Evil*, trans. Stefani Hoffman (New York: Random House, 1988).

Social Institutions

- Peter Bachrach and Morton S. Baratz, “Two Faces of Power,” *American Political Science Review* 56, no. 4. (Dec. 1962): 947-952.
- Pierre Bourdieu and Jean-Claude Passeron, *The Inheritors*, trans. Richard Nice (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, [1964] 1979).
- Jürgen Habermas, “Hannah Arendt: On the Concept of Power,” in *Philosophical-Political Profiles*, trans. Frederick G. Lawrence (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1983), 171-187.
- David Held, *Models of Democracy* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006).
- Jonathan Kozol, “American Education: Savage Inequalities,” in *Meaning of Sociology*, 361-370.
- Steven Lukes, “Power,” *Contexts* 6, no. 3 (Summer 2007): 59-61.
- C. Wright Mills, “The Structure of Power in American Society,” *British Journal of Sociology* 9, no. 1 (Mar. 1958): 29-41.
- 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).
- Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward, *Poor People’s Movements* (New York: Random House, 1977).
- Arlene S. and Jerome H. Skolnick, *Family in Transition*, 14th ed. (Boston: Pearson, 2007), 1-10.

Social Inequality

- Matthew Desmond and Mustafa Emirbayer, *Racial Domination, Racial Progress* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010).
- Michael S. Kimmel, ed., *The Gendered Society Reader* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000).
- Jennifer Lee and Frank D. Bean, “Beyond Black and White: Remaking Race in America,” *Contexts* 2, no. 3 (Summer 2003): 26-33.
- Erik Olin Wright and Joel Rogers, *American Society: How It Really Works* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2011).
- Min Zhou, “Are Asian Americans Becoming ‘White’?” *Contexts* 3, no. 1 (Winter 2004): 29-37.