

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (Sociology 110) - Fall 2012
Tu/Th 11am - 12:20pm, Leverone Hall - Coon Auditorium

Professor: Professor Mary Pattillo
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TAs: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Sociology is the study of the individual in a range of social contexts – from dyads (parent-child, romantic partners, boss-employee, assailant-victim) to large and anonymous, but somehow coherent, groups (e.g., Germans, Asian-Americans, bisexuals, lawyers), to institutions that surround and envelop us (religion, capitalism, sexism). This course aims to awaken students' sociological imagination by going beneath our common sense assumptions to ask: How do social relationships, contexts, institutions and organizations work and how do we actively or passively participate? What are the major trends in employment, crime, political party affiliation, and racial inequality? How does sociology help to understand concepts like power, passion, and popularity? At root, all of these things are “social constructions,” but as the early sociologist W.I. Thomas teaches us “If men [and women] define situations as real, they are real in their consequences.” This course uses theory, research, and real-world examples to explore all three parts of this postulate: our definitions, the situations, and their consequences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Recognize unacknowledged social processes that underlie everyday phenomena
- Recognize, define, and utilize sociological vocabulary (e.g., stratification, correlation, reflexivity)
- Define “social structure” and identify structural causes of social patterns
- Apply your sociological imagination to generate questions about current and historical events

EVALUATION:

Grades will be based on a midterm (30%), research proposal (10%), paper (30%), and final (30%). *Please review statement on academic integrity at wcas.northwestern.edu/advising/academic.html

OFFICE HOURS:

My office hours are Wednesdays, 2-6pm in 5-111 Crowe Hall. You must sign up for an appointment. Follow the link below and sign up for no more than 3 consecutive 15-minute slots, depending on your estimate of how much time we'll need. If you need to cancel the appointment, you can only do so through cancelling it on your own calendar. No need to send me any confirmation of the appointment you make. <https://www.google.com/calendar/selfsched?sstoken=UUxzNEw2UWFqVkJ2fGRIZmF1bHR8MjNINDU1OTA3OWQ2MWM0YWM2N2VIZWQwOTNINTdkZWU>
TA's office hours will be posted on Blackboard.

READINGS:

The following required book is available at Norris Bookstore. Various formats may be available, including standard new and used paperbacks and e-versions for purchase or rental. Make sure you're looking at the correct (2nd) edition. Readings are to be completed for the day listed on the syllabus.

Conley, Dalton. 2011. *You May Ask Yourself*. Second Edition. New York: WW Norton.
(<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/978-0-393-93517-2/>)

Choose from the following optional books for the required paper described below. Limited copies have been ordered at Norris, they are readily available on-line, and they have been placed on Library Reserve. You are responsible for obtaining one of the books in order to complete the assignment on time.

- Carrillo, Héctor. 2002. *The Night is Young: Sexuality in Mexico in the Time of AIDS*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Carruthers, Bruce, and Laura Ariovich. 2010. *Money and Credit: A Sociological Approach*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Chen, Carolyn. 2008. *Getting Saved in America: Taiwanese Immigration and Religious Experience*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Epstein, Steven. 2007. *Inclusion: the Politics of Difference in Medical Research*. Chicago : University of Chicago Press.
- Griswold, Wendy. 2008. *Regionalism and the Reading Class*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Hagan, John. 2010. *Who are the Criminals? The Politics of Crime Policy from the Age of Roosevelt to the Age of Reagan*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- McCall, Leslie. 2001. *Complex Inequality: Gender, Class, and Race in the New Economy*. New York: Routledge.
- Pattillo, Mary. 1999. *Black Picket Fences: Privilege and Peril among the Black Middle Classes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Prasad, Monica. 2006. *The Politics of Free Markets: The Rise of Neoliberal Economic Policies in Britain, France, Germany, and the United States*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

EXAMS, PAPERS:

- The research proposal is due Friday, October 12, by 11:59pm via Blackboard. The objective of this assignment is for you to utilize sociological approaches and methods to explore your own curiosities about the social world; that is, to apply your sociological imagination to a topic that interests you. Write a one-page, single-spaced research proposal that covers the following components: research question; data you would need to answer the question and method to analyze or interpret those data; relevant variables to include. Since you will not be able to review the existing theories and research on your topic, include your *assumptions* about what you will find and why you have those expectations. Of course, if are familiar with some theories or research on your topic, you may include that information. PAPERS SUBMITTED AFTER 11:59PM WILL BE DOWNGRADED FOR EACH DAY LATE. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- The midterm (T/F, fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice) is Thursday, October 25th, during the regular class period in the regular classroom.
- The paper is due Friday, November 16th by 11:59pm via Blackboard. Write a 5-page double-spaced paper on one of the books listed on the “optional books” reading list above. The paper should discuss 1) what question(s) “you asked yourself” that caused you to choose that book, 2) what were the central questions of the book’s author(s), 3) what were the book’s answer(s) to those question(s), and 4) what critiques do you have or what questions linger for you. PAPERS SUBMITTED AFTER 11:59PM WILL BE DOWNGRADED FOR EACH DAY LATE. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- The final (same format as the midterm, and not cumulative) is Tuesday, December 11th from 12pm to 2pm in the regular classroom.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS:

YMAY = *You May Ask Yourself* by Dalton Conley
BB = *Black Board*, indicates journal article readings on Blackboard

Week 1: Sociology: What and How

9/27 YMAY, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2: Socialization and Groups

10/2 YMAY, Chapter 4
10/4 YMAY, Chapter 5; BB, Harding 2009

Week 3: Culture and the Media

10/9 YMAY, Chapter 3; BB, Dávila 2004
10/11 BB, Salganik and Watts 2008

RESEARCH PROPOSAL is due FRIDAY, OCT 12TH, by 11:59pm via Blackboard

Week 4: Capitalism and the Economy

10/16 YMAY, Chapter 14
10/18 BB, Davis et al. 2003; Symposium on Subprime Crisis 2009

Week 5: Family

10/23 YMAY, Chapter 12
10/25 *MIDTERM*

Week 6: Education and Schools

10/30 YMAY, Chapter 13
11/1 BB, Carter 2006; Kaufman and Gabler 2004

Week 7: Stratification, Wealth and Poverty

11/6 YMAY, Chapter 7; BB, Keister 2003
11/8 YMAY, Chapter 10

Week 8: Gender and Race/Ethnicity

11/13 YMAY, Chapter 8
11/15 BB, Loveman 2009; Lee and Bean 2007

PAPER is due FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, by 11:59pm via Blackboard

Week 9: Health and Society

11/20 YMAY, Chapter 11; BB, Saguy et al 2010
11/22 THANKSGIVING

Week 10: Social Movements and Activism

11/27 YMAY, Chapter 18
11/29 BB, Brown-Saracino and Ghaziani 2009; Williamson et al 2011

FINAL EXAM is TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH from 12noon to 2pm in the usual classroom.

HAPPY WINTER BREAK