

Sociology 420: Cultural Sociology and the Sociology of Culture
Fall quarter 2016 Syllabus FINAL
Tuesdays 9:00 – 11:50 in 1812 Chicago Ave. seminar room

Professor: Wendy Griswold; 1810 Chicago Ave, 2nd floor; w-griswold@northwestern.edu,
Office hours: Please email me to set up an appointment

This course introduces graduate students to the sociology of culture (understanding social influence on cultural formations) and cultural sociology (understanding cultural influences on social processes). Although the course has no prerequisites, some acquaintance with Weber, Durkheim, and Marx will be helpful. Classes will be roughly half discussion, half lecture. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the readings and their applications, and teams of students will lead each discussion.

Course requirements are:

1. Active and prepared participation in class discussions, including leadership (30%)
2. A report on one of the recommended readings (a book or pair of articles) (30%)
3. A term paper, including a short oral report (40%)

The term paper may be either: (1) a critical review of the literature on some problem or issue in cultural sociology; (2) a small-scale study, which might turn out to be a pilot study for later research, or (3) a research design (proposal) for a future empirical study, e.g. second-year paper, article, dissertation (this third option is appropriate only if the student has already done preliminary research and knows the literature on the topic). Students need to decide which type of paper they are writing; they will turn in a short description of their proposed papers in Week III.

Each class begins with a lecture, followed by a student-led discussion on the readings and topics for the week follows; the class ends with one or more book reviews. I expect all seminar members to prepare and participate actively in the discussions. The tradition is that the student team leading the day's discussion brings snacks.

Note that this course has an unusual time structure: *all work will be done and term papers written by the 10th week class*. This means you will not have the reading period or exam week to finish your papers. The good part of this is, you'll have one course out of the way early; the bad part is you'll have to work like crazy for the ten weeks. Smart strategies for keeping your head above water include (1) getting ahead on the readings, (2) forming small groups to discuss readings, (3) acquiring and reading your book for review well in advance of the actual report so you have time to think about it in relation to the course concepts, and (4) getting papers underway right from the start.

The required and recommended readings—some more theoretical, others more empirical—represent each thematic area. Five books are available at Norris; these are also on reserve in the library. (No readings from *Cultures and Societies in a Changing World* have been assigned, but the course lectures roughly follow the chapter structure of this book.) You will have to find the articles and recommended books on your own; they are readily

available, but you'll need to plan ahead. Also note that the required readings for each week follow a logical order, so you should try to read them in the order listed; this is not the case for the recommended readings. In addition to offering book review choices, the recommended readings will, for many of you, be the basis for Special Fields papers and Qualifying Exams.

At Norris and on reserve at the library:

- Collins, Randall. 2004. *Interaction Ritual Chains*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0691123899
- Griswold, Wendy. 2012. *Cultures and Societies in a Changing World*, 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. ISBN-13: 978-1412990547
- Jerolmack, Colin. 2013. *The Global Pigeon*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press. ISBN-13: 9780226002088
- Patterson, Orlando. 2015. *The Cultural Matrix: Understanding Black Youth*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. [This one is on reserve but not ordered since you'll only read part of it.]
- Saguy, Abigail C. 2003. *What Is Sexual Harassment?* Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN-13: 978-0520237414
- Spillman, Lynn. 2002. *Cultural Sociology*. Malden, Mass. & Oxford: Blackwell. [Used repeatedly; if you only buy one book, this should be it.] ISBN-13: 978-0631216537

***** Students will prepare all readings before class (including the Williams and Sapolsky for the first week).**

Week 1 (Sept. 20): What is culture?

Come to class with an example of the word “culture” taken from the newspaper or magazine; be prepared to discuss the definition of culture implicit in your example, with reference to the Williams and Sapolsky readings.

Williams, Raymond. 1976. *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press. Pp. 76-82. http://pubpages.unh.edu/~dml3/880williams.htm - N_1 [Ignore the bottom section on the keyword “Popular.”]

Sapolsky, Robert M. 2006. “The Case of a Non-Human Primate Culture of Low Aggression and High Affiliation.” *Social Forces* 85: 217-233.

Week 2 (Sept. 27): Culture, cultural objects, and the cultural diamond (January 14)

Leaders: x

Schudson, Michael. 2002. How Culture Works: Perspectives from Media Studies on the Efficacy of Symbols.” Pp. 141 - 148 in Spillman, *Cultural Sociology*.

Sewell, William. 1992. "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation." *American Journal Of Sociology* 98: 1-29. [Download full article; do **not** rely on short excerpt in Spillman.]

Wagner-Pacifici, Robin and Barry Schwartz. 2002. “The Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Commemorating a Difficult Past.” Pp. 210 - 220 in Spillman, *Cultural Sociology*.

Zerubavel, Eviatar. 2004. "The Fine Line: Making Distinctions in Everyday Life." Pp. 223 – 232 in Spillman, *Cultural Sociology*.

Recommended: Armstrong, Elizabeth. 2002. *Forging Gay Identities: Organizing Sexuality in San Francisco, 1950 - 1994*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.

Fine, Gary Alan. 1987. *With the Boys: Little League Baseball and Preadolescent Culture*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.

Grazian, David. 2003. *Blue Chicago: The Search for Authenticity in Urban Blues Clubs*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Classics: Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*;

Baxandall, Michael. 1972. *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press. Pp. 1-108.

Week 3 (Oct. 4: Culture and meaning

A one-page description of the paper you are going to write is due in class this week

Leaders: xx

Geertz, Clifford, "Thick Description" in Spillman.

Keister, Lisa A. 2008. "Conservative Protestants and Wealth: How Religion Perpetuates Asset Poverty." *American Journal of Sociology* 113: 1237 – 71.

Alexander, Jeffrey C. 2004. "Cultural Pragmatics: Social Performance Between Ritual and Strategy." *Sociological Theory* 22: 527-573.

Swidler, Ann. 1986. "Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies." *American Sociological Review* 51: 273-86.

Vaisey, Stephen. 2009. "Motivation and Justification: A Dual-Process Model of Culture in Action." *American Journal of Sociology* 114: 1675 – 1715.

Recommended: Blair-Loy, Mary. 2003. *Competing Devotions: Career and Family Among Women Executives*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Farrer, James. 2002. *Opening Up: Youth Sex Culture and Market Reform in Shanghai*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Griswold, Wendy. 2000. *Bearing Witness: Readers, Writers, and the Novel in Nigeria*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Pp. 1 – 167.

Smith, Philip. 2005. *Why War? The Cultural Logic of Iraq, the Gulf War, and Suez*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Zelizer, Viviana. 2005. *The Purchase of Intimacy*. Princeton & Oxford: Princeton University Press.

Classics: Geertz, Clifford. 1973. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic.

Especially Ch. 15, "Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight."

Weber, Max. 1946. . "The Social Psychology of World Religions." *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 280 – 301.

Week 4 (Oct. 11): Collective Production**Leaders: xx**

Collins, *Interaction Ritual Chains*, chs. 1 – 5, 8.

Brown, Karida L. 2016. “The ‘hidden injuries’ of school desegregation: Cultural trauma and transforming African American Identities.” *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 4, 2: 196-220.

Wuthnow, Robert. 2002. “Communities of Discourse: Ideology and Social Structure in the Reformation, the Enlightenment, and European Socialism.” Pp. 329 - 240 in Spillman, *Cultural Sociology*.

Recommended: Becker, Howard S. 1982. *Art Worlds*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.

Bijker, Wiebe E. 1995. *Of Bicycles, Bakelites, and Bulbs: Toward a Theory of Sociotechnical Change*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Cerulo, Karen A. 2006. *Never Saw It Coming: Cultural Challenges to Envisioning the Worst*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press.

DiMaggio, Paul. 1997. "Culture and Cognition." *Annual Review of Sociology* 23: 263-87.

Sennett, Richard. 2008. *The Craftsman*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press.

Tepper, Steven J. & Bill Ivey. 2008. *Engaging Art: The Next Great Transformation of America's Cultural Life*. New York: Routledge.

Classics: Durkheim, Emile. *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*.

Becker, Howard S. 1982. *Art Worlds*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press. (Should be read by anyone interested in sociology of culture; also on Recommended list.)

Week 5 (Oct. 18): Cultural Reception, Tastes and Symbolic Boundaries**Leaders: xx**

Patterson, Orlando. 2015. *The Cultural Matrix: Understanding Black Youth*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Introduction and chapter 1.

Peterson, Richard A. And Roger M. Kern. 1996. "Changing Highbrow Taste: From Snob to Omnivore." *American Sociological Review* 61: 900-907.

Edgell, Penny, Joseph Gerteis, & Douglas Hartmann. 2006. “Atheists as ‘Other’: Moral boundaries and Cultural Membership in American Society.” *American Sociological Review* 71: 211 – 234.

Johnston, Josée and Shyon Baumann. 2007. “Democracy versus Distinction: Omnivorosity in Gourmet Food Writing.” *American Journal of Sociology* 113: 165-205.

Recommended: Bourdieu, Pierre. 1996. *The Rules of Art: Genesis and Structure of the Literary Field*. Trans. Susan Emanuel. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.

Crane, Diana. 2000. *Fashion and Its Agendas: Class, Gender, and Identity in Clothing*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Lamont, Michèle. 2000. *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Immigration*. New York: Russell Sage.

Kefalas, Maria. 2003. *Working-Class Heroes: Protecting Home, Community, and Nation in a Chicago Neighborhood*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Richard A. Peterson. 1997. *Creating Country Music: Fabricating Authenticity*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

Adams, Laura L. 2010. *The Spectacular State: Culture and National Identity in Uzbekistan*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Classics: Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*, trans. Richard Nice. Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press.

Georg Simmel, "The Stranger."

Veblen, Thorsten. *The Theory of the Leisure Class*

Week 6 (Oct. 25): Identities, Problems, Movements

Leaders: xx

Hilgartner, Stephen, And Bosc, Charles L. 1988. "The Rise and Fall of Social Problems." *American Journal of Sociology* 94: 53-78.

Snow, David et al. 1986. "Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization and Movement Participation." *American Sociological Review* 51: 464-481.

Polletta, Francesca. 2006. *It Was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest and Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Eliasoph, Nina and Paul Lichterman. 2003. "Culture in Interaction." *American Journal of Sociology* 108: 735-794/

Recommended: Dworkin, Shari L. and Faye Linda Wachs. 2009. *Body Panic: Gender, Health, and the Selling of Fitness*. New York & London: New York University Press.

Johnson, Hank and Bert Klandermans, eds. 1995. *Social Movements and Culture*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Lichterman, Paul. 2005. *Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge America's Divisions*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Perrin, Andrew J. 2006. *Citizen Speak: The Democratic Imagination in American Life*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press.

Stevens, Mitchell. *Kingdom of Children: Culture and Controversy in the Home Schooling Movement*. **Emily**

Classics: Gusfield, Joseph R. 1981. *The Culture of Public Problems: Drinking-Driving and the Symbolic Order*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.

Week 7 Nov. 1: Organizations in a Multicultural World

Leaders: xx

Star, Susan Leigh and James R. Griesemer. 1989. "Institutional Ecology, 'Translations' and Boundary Objects: Amateurs and Professionals in Berkeley's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, 1907-39." *Social Studies of Science* 19:387 – 420.

Ghaziani, Amin and Delia Baldassarri. 2011. "Cultural Anchors and the Organization of Differences: A Multi-method Analysis of LGBT Marches on Washington." *American Sociological Review* 76: 129 – 206.

Saguy, Abigail C. 2003. *What Is Sexual Harassment?* Berkeley: University of California Press.
 Mizrahi, Nissim, Israel Drori and Renee R. Anspach. 2007. "Repertoires of Trust: The Practice of Trust in a Multinational Organization amid Political Conflict." *American Sociological Review* 72:143–165.

Recommended: Becker, Penny. 1999. *Congregations in Conflict: Cultural Models of Local Religious Life*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
 Binder, Amy J. 2001. *Contentious Curricula: Afrocentrism and Creationism in American Public Schools*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Univ. Press.
 Czarniawska, Barbara. 1997. *Narrating the Organization: Dramas of Institutional Identity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
 Fantasia, Rick. 1988. *Cultures of Solidarity: Consciousness, Action, and Contemporary American Workers*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.
 Jackall, Robert. 1997. *Wild Cowboys: Urban Marauders & the Forces of Order*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
 McRoberts, Omar Maurice. 2003. *Streets of Glory: Church and Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
 Ogasawara, Yuko. 1998. *Office Ladies and Salaried Men: Power, Gender, and Work in Japanese Companies*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Classics: Weber, Max. "Bureaucratic Authority."
 Homans, George Caspar. 1961. *Social Behavior: Its Elementary Forms*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, [1961]
 March, James G. and Simon, Herbert A. 1958. *Organizations*. New York: Wiley.

Week 8 (Nov. 8): Culture and Connection

Leaders: xx

Jerolmack, Colin. 2013. *The Global Pigeon*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press.
 Jerolmack, Colin and Iddo Tavory. 2014. "Molds and Totems: Nonhumans and the Constitution of the Social Self."
 Lizardo, Omar. 2006. "How Cultural Tastes Shape Personal Networks." *American Sociological Review* 71: 778–807.
 Orgad, Shani. 2006. "The Cultural Dimensions of Online Communication: A Study of Breast Cancer Patients' Internet Spaces." *New Media and Society* 8: 877-99.

Recommended: Fischer, Claude S. 1992. *America Calling: A Social History of the Telephone to 1940*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
 Howard, Philip N. & Steve Jones. 2004. *Society Online: The Internet in Context*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
 Klinenberg, Eric. 2007. *Fighting for Air: The Battle to Control America's Media*. New York: Metropolitan.
 Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar. 2001. *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration and Domestic Work*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
 Bandelj, Nina and Frederick F. Wherry. 2011. *The Cultural Wealth of Nations*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Fischer, Claude. 2010. *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1, 2, 5.

Classics: Emile Durkheim. *Suicide*.

Goody, Jack and Ian Watt. 1963. "The Consequences of Literacy." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 5:304–345.

Simmel, Georg. "The Metropolis and Mental Life," pp. 28 – 38 in Spillman.

Week 9 (Nov. 15): Culture and power

Leaders: xx

Wilde, Melissa J. 2004. "How Culture Mattered at Vatican II: Collegiality Trumps Authority in the Council's Social Movement Organizations." *American Sociological Review* 69: 576 – 602.

Berezin, Mabel. 2002. "Cultural Form and Political Meaning: State-subsidized Theater, Ideology, and the Language of Style in Fascist Italy." Pp. 245-256 in Spillman, *Cultural Sociology*.

Ewick, Patricia and Susan Silbey. 2003. "Narrating Social Structure: Stories of Resistance to Legal Authority." *American Journal of Sociology* 108: 1328-72.

McFarland, Daniel A. 2004. Resistance as a Social Drama: A Study of Change-Oriented Encounters. *American Journal of Sociology* 109: 1249–1318.

Recommended: Bennett, Andy. 2000. *Popular Music and Youth Culture: Music, Identity, and Place*. New York: St. Martins.

Hebdige, Dick. 1979. *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*. London & New York: Methuen.

Poletta, Francesca. 2002. *Freedom in an Endless Meeting: Democracy in American Social Movements*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Two articles on social memory:

Schwartz, Barry. 1996. "Memory as a Cultural System: Abraham Lincoln in World War II" *American Sociological Review* 61: 908-927.

Tota, Anna Lisa. 2005. "Terrorism and Collective Memories Comparing Bologna, Naples and Madrid 11 March." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 46: 55-78.

Classics: Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels. *The German Ideology*.

Steven Lukes. 1974 (2nd ed. 2005). *Power: A Radical View*.

Week 10 (Nov. 22): Oral presentation of term papers; no additional reading. Term papers are due in class that day.