

Soc 345
M/ W 2:00 PM – 3:20 PM
Location: University Hall 122

TA: Morgan Clark (A-K)
Office Hours: By Appointment
MorganClark2014@u.northwestern.edu

Beth Redbird (redbird@northwestern.edu)
Office Hours: W 3:30-4:30, Appointment Required
Office Location: 1810 Chicago Room 120

TA: Angel Escamilla (L-Z)
Office Hours: By Appointment
AngelEscamillaGarcia2015@u.northwestern.edu

SOC 345: Class and Culture

This course covers the economic, social, and political causes and consequence of class in America. Specifically, this course examines the effects of class on culture, politics, social interaction, identity, social psychology, and language, and emphasizes ways that social class shapes the background and experiences of current Northwestern students and what their future will hold.

Required Readings: Readings may be found on the course website. In the course schedule, they are listed the day they are due. Readings and schedule may change throughout the quarter.

My Co-Worker

Mitaka Ki (Mita for short), is a licensed medical alert dog. She is trained to detect and alert to subtle changes in blood chemistry. She accompanies me everywhere, but when we are out, she is frequently working, so please do not be offended if she doesn't visit you. If you would like to have Mita kept away from you, please let me know. Also, we all get distracted once in a while. Mita is just a dog, so please forgive her if she periodically gets distracted or forgets what she is doing.

Requirements

<i>Homework</i>		
Take 5 Surveys (Sept 19, Sept 25, Oct 4, Oct 18, Nov 1)		5 pts
<i>Survey Experiment Research Project (3-5 Pages)</i>		
Topic Overview & Hypotheses	Oct 16	10 pts
Draft Questions	Oct 23	5 pts
Final Questions	Oct 30	5 pts
Results	Nov 20	5 pts
Final Write-Up	Dec 6	15 pts
<i>Take Home Final</i>	Dec 6	15 pts
<i>Attendance and Participation (Up to 2 Make-Ups)</i>	-----	30 pts
<i>Group Presentation</i>		
(Oct 4, Oct 11, Oct 18, Oct 25, Nov 1)	-----	10 pts

Attendance and Participation

Show up, be on time, participate.

You may miss two classes with no point penalty, no questions asked, and no excuse or make-up needed. Beyond that students may make up lost points.

Attendance Make-Up Points: Lectures will be recorded. If you miss a day, you may make up the lost points by watching the missed lecture and writing a 2-3 page paper that answers a specific question. The question may be obtained from the TA. Make-ups are due December 6th at midnight.

Research Project

Students will complete an independent, scientific research project that utilizes a survey experiment to draw conclusions about social class. Each project should: (1) propose a research question; (2) state and JUSTIFY one or more hypotheses; (3) gather and analyze data; (4) state a conclusion; and (5) discuss limitations of the data and conclusions. Because of the time limits imposed by the quarter system, papers are limited to only one experiment. Students are encouraged to examine bi-variate relationships within their data. Paper is limited to 3-5 pages MAXIMUM.

To assist students in completing their project, every lecture will contain a discussion of the development of survey measures in class research. Additionally, students will receive feedback from myself and course TAs as their projects develop. Students will submit their research project in stages.

The ultimate goal of the project is to learn to think like a social scientist. Your project should be well-reasoned, scientific, concise, interesting, and well-written.

Getting Feedback: Students are given the option to submit draft copies of paper sections prior to due dates in order to receive feedback. With the exception of the draft questionnaire, these draft submissions are not required, but these draft submissions are the only opportunity for extensive feedback. Feedback provided on the proposal is meant to help with the final project, but students are not expected to adopt all suggestions. Learn from comments and feedback, and evaluate them fairly, but you do not have to accept all of them. Feedback will be returned by Friday of the week due.

TAs will hold help sessions throughout the quarter to walk you through the process.

Group Topic Discussion

Students will collaborate on one group presentation. Students choose one of three topic areas. Readings for the presentation will focus on your topic area. Sign up for a presentation date and topic can be found on Canvas groups. Once you commit, you cannot change. Group sign-ups are due by Sept 25 by midnight.

The goal of the presentation is to read about current events and relate them to class materials. Your topic group will be responsible for educating your peers on how class material relates to your group's readings. The goal is not to summarize what you read, but rather to synthesize it into a cohesive lecture that relates to what was discussed in lecture. You can do this however you want: lecture, group discussion, powerpoint, etc. You may take turns or do it all together, but you will be graded as a group either way. Each group will get about 20 minutes each. You are responsible for making sure your technology works! You may choose from the following topics:

- Millennials and College Students

- Race, Ethnicity and Citizenship
- American Politics, Political Opinion, and the 2016 Presidential Election

Take Home Final

Each student will pick two out of three questions and write no more than 500 words in response to each. Learn from your paper. Be well-reasoned, concrete, and concise. Due December 6 by midnight.

Policies

Late Policy

Life happens. Thus, you may be late on any one individual assignment (or combination of assignments), up to four days total (in 24-hour increments), with no penalty and no questions asked. Students will lose ten (10) percent of possible points for each 24-hour period the assignment is late beyond that. Keep in mind you receive collective feedback on your draft paper sections, so being late on one may inhibit your ability to gain constructive feedback. Group presentations are not subject to the late forgiveness policy. All late assignments must be submitted no later than December 6th (by midnight) or no credit will be given.

Academic Freedom

This class will deal with subjects that are difficult, complex, and controversial. My goal as the instructor will be to introduce you to a diverse variety of theories and opinions about these topics. None of the topics we discuss have easy answers; if they did then they would not be controversial, nor a matter for public debate. You may have an opinion that differs from that of the material discussed, your fellow classmates, and even me. This is completely fine. Students are free to express their opinion, or not, depending entirely on their comfort level. Similarly, I expect students to respect the opinion and voice of others. At no time will your grade be based on your personal views. All views are welcome in my classroom, though we will be applying critical thinking to a diverse group of opinions and beliefs. Critical thinking means you will be challenged to explore new ways of looking at the world. Sometimes this is uncomfortable, but intellectual growth and exposure should be uncomfortable. Readings will be diverse. By no means should you believe, or even agree with, everything you read for class. Students are encouraged to think critically about the content, style and structure of materials.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities or other concerns should contact the Accessible NU office (accessiblenu@northwestern.edu) for a student accommodation letter.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct

Northwestern's code of academic conduct applies. I am required to report incidents of academic misconduct. University policies may be found at <http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/index.html>.

Topics & Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
9/20	1 – Welcome and The Purpose of Education <u>Readings:</u> Academic Freedom (18pgs) (Canvas); Safe Space Debate (12pgs) (Canvas); Politics on Campus (6pgs) (Canvas); Wellmon Op-Ed – Moral Clarity (5pgs) (Canvas); Sunstein Op-Ed – Expressivism on Campus (4pgs) (Canvas); Feldman Op-Ed - Universities Can Do More to Curb Hateful Speech (4pgs) (Canvas).	Take Survey 1 before 9/19
Unit 1: Defining Social Class		
9/25	2 – Structural-Functionalism and Conflict Theory <u>Readings:</u> “Communism: Promise and Reality, pt.1” (60 min) (Canvas). Survey link: https://weinberg.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b48NvZhtledveTP	Survey 2 Due 9/24 by Midnight
9/27	3 – The Logic of Experiments <u>Readings:</u> Take the Implicit Bias Test https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/education.html .	
10/2	4 – Marxism <u>Readings:</u> Parable of the Shmoo (3pgs) (Canvas).	
10/4	5 – Group Presentations 1 <u>Millennials 1:</u> “Raising Minimum Wage” (13pgs.) (Canvas); “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver: Fast Food Minimum Wage” (8min) (Canvas); “McDonalds Commercial” (1min) (Canvas); “30 days on the Minimum Wage (S1E1)” (45min) https://youtu.be/wmSGEGOVI34 or find it wherever). <u>Race 1:</u> “High Cost of Cheap Goods” (21pgs) (Canvas); “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver: Fashion” (17min) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdLf4fihP78 ; “BBC’s Panorama – Dying for a Bargain” (30min) (Canvas).	Survey 3

Politics 1:

- “Why Do Young People Like Socialism More Than Older People Do? – NPR” (Listen and Read)
(<http://www.npr.org/2015/11/21/456676215/why-do-young-people-like-socialism-more-than-older-people>);
- “Is The U.S. Moving Toward Socialism? A Socialist Weighs In – NPR” (3pgs) (Canvas);
- “Bernie Sanders in Seattle Washington, Aug 8 2016” (58min) (Canvas)*;
- “Bernie Sanders: 17 things the Democratic socialist believes – NPR” (4pgs) (Canvas).

10/09 6 – Social Status & Closure

***Draft Topic
and
Hypotheses
Due***

Readings:

John Oliver Last Week Tonight – School Segregation (18min) (Canvas).

10/11 7 – Group Presentations 2

Millennials 2:

- “The Voting Rights Controversy” (40pgs) (Canvas);
- “President Obama’s Letter to the Editor” – NY Times (2pgs) (Canvas);
- Be familiar with Shelby County v. Holder;
- Daily Show "Voter ID Laws" (4min) (Canvas);
- “Asked for Voters’ Data, States Give Trump Panel a Bipartisan ‘No’ (4pgs) (Canvas).

Race 2:

- “Current Issues in Immigration” (40ish pgs) (Canvas).
- “Stay, Hide or Leave? Hard Choices for Immigrants in the Heartland- NYT” (11pgs)(Canvas);
- “Fewer Immigrants Mean More Jobs? Not So, Economists Say” (5pgs) (Canvas);
- “Trump Supports Plan to Cut Legal Immigration by Half” (5pgs) (Canvas);
- “‘Dreamer’ Plan That Aided 800,000 Immigrants Is Threatened” (5pgs) (Canvas);
- “John Oliver - Boarder Wall” (18 min) (Canvas).

Politics 2:

- “Gerrymandering” (77min)
(<http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/gerrymandering>);
- “Gerrymandering and the Right” (21pgs) (Canvas).

10/16 8 – Lifestyle and Occupation

***Final Topic
and
Hypotheses
Due***

Readings:

“Queen of Versailles” (100min) (Amazon).

10/18 9 – Group Presentations 3

Millennials 3:

Survey 4

“For-Profit Colleges” (40pgs) (Canvas);
“The Cheating Economy” (35pgs);
“John Oliver Last Week Tonight: Trump University” (S3E14) (22min)
(https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiC1pqj4a_WAhVI04MKHsw2DXAQtwIIMDAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DDnpO_RTSNmQ&usg=AFQjCNEP52jZb-2lYBj4DNDzRhQVwtuvj);
“Lives on Hold” – Consumer Reports (21pgs) (Canvas);
“John Oliver Last Week Tonight: Student Loans” (S3E14) (22min)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8pjd1QEA0c>).

Race 3:

“American Crime Gangs S07 - Nuestra Familia”
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8bVIV8-h68>);
“Outlaw Empires Nuestra Familia”
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0OKD3G0iWY>);
Rise and Fall of the “Nuestra Familia” (Beginning-Chapter 1; Pg 21-24; 29-30; 33; 35-41; 87-93; 103-107; 111-114);

Politics 3:

“Rachel Maddow on Kleptocracy” (11min) (Canvas);
Something on Oligarchs TBA.

Unit 2: The Effects of Social Class

10/23 10 – Culture and Interactions

*Draft
Questions
Due*

Readings:

Class Segregation in California (4min)
(<http://www.bethredbird.com/?p=327>);
Class Segregation in Architecture (5min)
(<http://www.bethredbird.com/?p=259>);
Interview with Dan Price (5min) (<http://www.bethredbird.com/?p=430>).

10/25 11 – Group Presentations 4

Millennials 4:

“My Nanny Was a Dreadful Snob” (2pgs) (Canvas);
“Class Matters Selections” (36pgs) (Canvas).

Race 4:

“Changing Racial and Ethnic Composition of Schools” (2pgs) (Canvas);
“Can a country survive without a strong middle class” (14pgs)(Canvas);
“Red State Blue City” (7pgs) (Canvas);
“Bluxit” (7pgs) (Canvas);
“Dear Black Middle Class People” (4pgs) (Canvas);
“The Black Middle Class Is Leaving Its Brothers And Sisters Behind”(4pgs)(Canvas);

“Black Demographics” (3pgs) (Canvas);
 “How Black Middle-Class Kids Become Poor Adults” (4pgs)(Canvas);
 “The stalled, struggling black middle class” (7pgs)(Canvas);
 “Black America and the Class Divide”(5pgs)(Canvas).

Politics 4:

“European Populism” (9pgs) (Canvas);
 “Right-Wing Populism” (4pgs)(Canvas);
 “The Peculiar Populism of Donald Trump”(8pgs)(Canvas);
 “Political Polarization and Media Habits” (9pgs)(Canvas);
 “Split: A Deeper Divide” (74min) (Amazon);
 Explore “Where News Audiences Fit on the Political Spectrum”
 (<http://www.journalism.org/interactives/media-polarization/>);
 John Oliver Last Week Tonight: Brexit (15 min)
 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAgKHSNqxa8>);
 Brexit Update (5 min)
 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh0ac5HUpDU>);
 Scottish Independence (15 min) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YkLPxQp_y0).

10/30 12 – Psychology and Identity

Readings:

TBA

**Final
Questions
Due**

11/1 13 – Group Presentations 5

Millennials 5:

“Current Issues in Millennial Identity” (31pgs)(Canvas);
 “The New Political Generation” (44pgs)(Canvas).

Survey 5

Race 5:

“How Fluid Is Racial Identity?”
 (<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/06/16/how-fluid-is-racial-identity>);
 “Did Rachel Dolezal Commit Racial Fraud” (8pgs) (Canvas);
 “Everything You Need to Know About ‘Transracial’ NAACP Activist” – Time
 June 13, 2015 (2min & 2 pgs) (<http://time.com/3918915/rachel-dolezal-race-naacp/>).

Politics 5:

“The Political Typology, Identity and Attitudes” (13pgs) (Canvas);
 “Political Polarization” (10pgs)(Canvas);
 “Political Typology Quiz” (<http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/>);
 Do some group comparisons (<http://www.people-press.org/2014/06/26/typology-comparison/>).

Unit 3: Applied Social Class

11/6	14 – Guest Speaker: Annette O’Donofrio – Sociolinguistic Inequality	
	<u>Readings:</u> “Linguistic Prejudice” (3pgs) (Canvas); Listen to some of Rachel Jeantel’s testimony (youtube); “Here’s Why Smart and Black Go Together Well” - Huffington Post (5pgs) (Canvas); “From Upspeak To Vocal Fry: Are We ‘Policing’ Young Women’s Voices?” – NPR (36min) (http://www.npr.org/2015/07/23/425608745/from-uptspeak-to-vocal-fry-are-we-policing-young-womens-voices).	
11/8	15 – Language, Politics, and Inequality	
	<u>Readings:</u> None.	
11/13	16 – Class and Politics	Draft Results Due
	<u>Readings:</u> Be familiar with Citizens United v. FEC.; Explore the Colbert Super PAC (http://www.cc.com/video-collections/8iug7x/the-colbert-report-colbert-super-pac/kj1cs9); Explore OpenSecrets (http://www.opensecrets.org/bigpicture../).	
11/15	17 – Guest Speaker: TBA	
	<u>Readings:</u> “Managing Elites” - Schleef (2005) (Ch. 1) (Canvas).	
11/20	18 – Guest Speaker: TBA	Final Results Due
	<u>Readings:</u> “Homelessness” (74pgs) (Canvas).	
11/22	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>	
11/27	<i>No Class – Reading Week</i>	
12/4	<i>No Class – Finals Week</i>	Take Home Final Due 12/6
		Final Paper Due 12/6