

Introduction to Sociology

Sociology 204 – Spring 2007
10:00-11:20 Tuesday & Thursday

Professor Caleb Southworth
720 PLC, Office Hours: Tue. 9:00 -10:00 & by appointment

THE COURSE IN GENERAL

The goal of this course is to get you to think sociologically. We will consider what sociologists study – both applied and theoretical subjects – and field our own survey in class. The scope of sociology is broad, and as a result our emphasis will be on how social scientists pose questions and consider evidence rather than a comprehensive summary of the field.

According to the American Sociological Association, “Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious cults; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of sports.” (See <http://www.asanet.org/>)

The course tackles a set of specific topics and gives you the chance to read some real sociology as published in scientific journals. You will also develop a set of specific skills useful throughout your college career and in the workplace.

REQUIRED READINGS

You need to purchase:

Christian Parenti. 2004. *The Freedom: Shadows and Hallucinations in Occupied Iraq*. New York: New Press.

Sterling Braswell. 2006. *American Meth: A History of the Methamphetamine Epidemic in America*. iUniverse. Note: Available as an ebook for \$6.

Most other readings are on electronic reserve in the Knight Library. You are responsible for locating all assigned readings that are available through the library databases. Additional materials may be distributed via blackboard. You will need to buy (or find in a library) one book from a list of selected titles for a review essay. This list is on blackboard. The lectures will assume you have already read the material and elaborate the issues of the readings without repeating them.

BLACKBOARD

The full syllabus is available here: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>. The syllabus is typically adjusted during the quarter. It is your responsibility to check regularly and locate the correct readings for each week.

SKILLS TO BE LEARNED

The course assignments, lectures, readings and the activities pursued in discussion sections are designed to teach you a set of important, general skills. These include:

- Collecting original data with a social survey
- Locating research findings in library databases
- Interpreting graphs and tables
- Note-taking and the synthesis of ideas
- Connecting theories to relevant data
- Writing a concise, issue-oriented report

GRADES & ATTENDANCE

Your grade is the sum of these components:

Section Participation	20 points
3 Quizzes	30 points
Review Essay	20 points
Final paper	30 points

Final grades are based on the following point system (rounded to the nearest half point):

A+	97.5-100	C+	77.5-79.5
A	93-97	C	73-77
A-	90-92.5	C-	70-72.5
B+	87.5-89.5	D+	65-69.5
B	83-87	D	60-64.5
B-	80-82.5	F	0-59.5

QUIZZES

Quizzes will cover the readings, films, and lectures; they may be cumulative and may include anything and everything up until and including the day the quiz is administered. Quizzes may include short-answer and multiple choice questions. **You must bring a green scantron sheet (FORM 882-E) and a #2 pencil for each quiz.** If you miss a quiz you will *not* be allowed to make it up unless you have informed me 24 in advance and have a legitimate excuse.

Plan to be in your seat at the start of the hour, and to remain there until class is dismissed. With a large class, getting up to leave early or arriving late is disruptive. This is even more important when quizzes are administered. When there is a quiz, plan to stay in your seat until the end of class, even if you are finished. Please bring only a novel or other entertainment to read. *Do not bring notes, laptops, phones, sociology books or anything that resembles such to the lecture hall on the day of the quiz.*

There is no final exam in this course; the course will not meet during exam week.

COURSE WRITINGS

Part of your grade is based on a final paper. We will administer our own social survey in class and the paper will focus on the results from that survey. The details of this assignment will be described in section and lecture; section time will be devoted to developing your writing.

Another writing assignment involves reading a book and writing a review essay. The choice of books is limited to the list on blackboard without specific approval from your GTF. In brief, the assignment is to take a theory, hypothesis or main argument from the course and use the evidence from your chosen text to comment on it. You are advised to choose your additional book soon and obtain a copy.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Academic Etiquette: Please arrive in class on time and do not leave early (or pack up to leave early). Arriving late and leaving early are disruptive. Although you should feel free to ask questions of the instructor during lectures, please remain quiet in class otherwise so as not to distract other students. Be sure that phones are turned off during class. Most importantly, you are expected to be respectful to all members of this class.

You may use a laptop to take notes during lecture. However, IM, texting, email, web surfing, chat, game play, etc. are prohibited. If you are going to use a laptop, be sure that the only application running is a text editor and that the sound and all other distractions are turned off or disabled.

Academic Integrity: All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be acknowledged and documented. If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult with the instructor before you complete any requirement of the course. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, see <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/>. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. Note that if you commit an act of academic dishonesty, you may receive an F in the course.

Attendance: I expect you to be in class, although I will not take attendance. You are responsible for any material, announcements, assignments, and/or schedule changes presented in class. If you miss a lecture you will need to ask another student for details of what was covered in class; I will not repeat information in class for those who have missed classes.

Disability Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify me during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for this course.

FAQ

May I take a quiz at a different time? May I make up a quiz that I missed?

In a course of this size, it is not possible to accommodate individual requests for alternate times or make-up quizzes. If documented events beyond your control result in you missing a quiz, the only option for make-up is an oral exam during the next scheduled office hour.

May I take an incomplete?

Incompletes are given only for exceptional circumstances and with prior approval from the professor. Incompletes can only be given for some minor yet essential requirement. The UO Registrar's policy is here http://registrar.uoregon.edu/common/incomplete_policy.html.

Why did my email go unanswered?

Email is a great way to communicate. In a course that typically has more than 300 people, email can also increase organizational costs. Please do email with questions, comments or to make an appointment. Please do not email with questions that are answered here, in lecture, in section or on blackboard. Email is not an appropriate means for the discussion of grades and evaluation.

May I have a copy of the lecture notes or PowerPoint slides?

No. One of the skills you develop in this course is note-taking. Studies show that taking notes and thinking about the material during lecture improves learning.

My first language is not English. May I use a dictionary?

Yes, you may, but please check with the GTFs before the beginning of the quiz.

I did not turn in an assignment when it was due. May I turn it in now?

No, late work is not generally acceptable without prior approval and a legitimate excuse.

Date	Lecture	Section
Week 1 April 3	Introduction: What is Sociology? Garrett Hardin. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." <i>Science</i> 162:1243-8.	Sections meet week 1. Design survey questions.
April 5	Sociological Questions & Methods Howard Schuman. 2002. "Sense and Nonsense about Surveys." <i>Contexts</i> 2(1):40-47. Fred Block, Anna C. Korteweg, and Kerry Woodward. 2006. "The Compassion Gap in American Poverty Policy." <i>Contexts</i> 5(2):14-20. Howard Schuman and Amy D. Corning. 2006. "Comparing Iraq to Vietnam: Recognition, Recall, and the Nature of Cohort Effects." <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> 70(1):78-87. Earl Babbie. 2005. <i>The Basics of Social Research</i> . Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. pp. 252-9.	
Week 2 April 10	Social Networks Stanley Milgram. 1967. "The Small-World Problem." <i>Psychology Today</i> (May):60-67. Mark Granovetter. 1973. "The Strength of Weak Ties." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 78(6):1360-80.	
April 12	Social Networks Robert Putnam. 2000. <i>Bowling Alone</i> . New York: Touchstone. Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 15-47.	Field Survey in teams.
Week 3 April 17	Sociology of Education Alejandro Portes. 2002. "English-only Triumphs, but the Costs are High." <i>Contexts</i> 1(1):10-15. Jonathan Kozol. 1992. <i>Savage Inequalities. Children in America's Schools</i> . New York: Crown Publishers. pp. 1-82.	Enter survey data. Please bring a laptop computer with Excel if you have one.
April 19	Sociology of War & Peace Thomas Cushman. 2006. <i>A Matter of Principle: Humanitarian Arguments for War in Iraq</i> . Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. pp. 1-75. Ken Roth. 2004. "War in Iraq: Not a Humanitarian Intervention." <i>World Report</i> . Human Rights Watch.	

Week 4 April 24	Sociology of War & Peace William Greider. May 3, 2004. "Iraq as Vietnam." <i>The Nation</i> . Christian Parenti. 2004. <i>The Freedom: Shadows and Hallucinations in Occupied Iraq</i> . New York: New Press. pp. 1-76.	Consider preliminary survey results.
April 26	Quiz 1 Christian Parenti. 2004. <i>The Freedom: Shadows and Hallucinations in Occupied Iraq</i> . New York: New Press. pp. 77-139.	Receive paper assignment.
Week 5 May 1	Sociology of War & Peace Christian Parenti. 2004. <i>The Freedom: Shadows and Hallucinations in Occupied Iraq</i> . New York: New Press. pp. 141-208.	
May 3	Political Sociology: Labor Unions Dan Clawson. 2003. <i>The Next Upsurge</i> . Ithaca, NY: ILR Press. Chapters 1, 2 & 6.	
Week 6 May 8	Political Sociology Dan Clawson. 2003. <i>The Next Upsurge</i> . Ithaca, NY: ILR Press. Chapters 7. Roger Waldinger et al. 1998. "Helots No More: A Case Study of the Justice for Janitors Campaign in Los Angeles." in Kate Bronfenbrenner et al. (editors) <i>Organizing to Win: New Research on Union Strategies</i> . Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, pp. 102-19.	Review essay due.
May 10	Crime, Drugs & Prisons Bruce Western. 2006. <i>Punishment and Inequality in America</i> . New York: Russell Sage Foundation. pp.1-51. Lorna A. Rhodes. 2005. "Changing the Subject: Conversation in Supermax." <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 20(3):388-411.	
Week 7 May 15	Crime, Drugs & Prisons Sterling Braswell. 2006. <i>American Meth: A History of the Methamphetamine Epidemic in America</i> . iUniverse.	
May 19	Quiz 2 Derek Humphry and Mary Clement. 1998. <i>Freedom to Die: People, Politics, and the Right to Die Movement</i> . New York: St. Martins Press. Chapter 1.	
Week 8 May 22	Medical Sociology Derek Humphry and Mary Clement. 1998. <i>Freedom to Die: People, Politics, and the Right to Die Movement</i> . New York: St. Martins Press. Chapters 15-18.	

May 24	Mass Media Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky. 2002. <i>Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media</i> . New York: Pantheon Books. pp. 1-35.	
Week 9 May 29	Mass Media McChesney, Robert. 2004. <i>The Problem of the Media : U.S. Communication Politics in the Twenty-First Century</i> . New York: Monthly Review Press. Chapter 6.	Research Paper due in section
May 31	Environmental Sociology Elliott A. Norse. 1990. <i>Ancient Forests of the Pacific Northwest</i> . Washington, DC: Island Press. pp. 3-83.	
Week 10 June 5	Environmental Sociology Goodstein, David L. 2004. <i>Out of Gas: The End of the Age of Oil</i> . New York: W.W. Norton. pp. 15-76.	No section this week
June 7	Quiz 3 Summer! Yippee!	