

SOC 1101A: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Professor Winders

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Office Hours: Tu, 10:45-11:30am,

Th 1:30-2:30pm, & by appointment

Fall 2006

T, Th 12:05-1:25 pm

Physics (Howey) L4

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Course Overview:

The objective of this course is to provide you with a general survey of the field of sociology. More importantly, this course also aims to provide you with a way to think about and understand the social world and your place in it. Therefore, the lectures, readings, and assignments will focus on understanding the basic social processes and how you can apply them to everyday events, both small and large, both personal and political.

With this in mind, we will begin the course by focusing on the development of the 'self' and identity, as well as the rules that guide interaction between individuals. Then, in the second part of the course, we will examine how large-scale social changes and the organization of society affect us as individuals. In part of three of the course, we will focus on how institutions and interaction create and reproduce social inequality. In the final part of the course, we will see how all of this applies to contemporary U.S. society.

Requirements:

Grades for this course are based on three assignments and three exams. Students are expected to adhere to the **Georgia Tech Honor Code** (see www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/Honor/). Honor code violations will be addressed appropriately and could result in an "F" on the assignment or in the course. I am happy to accommodate you if you need any special considerations due to a disability, but please let me know *as soon as possible* (do not wait until exam day!). You should contact the **ADAPTS Office** (see www.adapts.gatech.edu/index2.htm).

Short Assignments (10%)

Students will complete four short assignments. Due dates are listed on the reading schedule. (More assignments may be added.)

Exams (90%)

There will be three exams for this course. The first exam is scheduled for **September 21**, the second exam is scheduled for **November 2**, and the final exam is scheduled for **December 12**. Each of these exams will consist of multiple choice questions, which will require students to draw on course readings, lectures, and discussions.

Summary of grade breakdown:	Assignments (4).....	10%
	Exams (3).....	<u>90%</u>
	Total.....	100%

To facilitate you doing well on these exams, I strongly urge you to **attend the lectures**, **participate in class**, and **complete all of the readings and assignments**.

Readings:

The following books are **required** for the course:

- Henslin, James. 2001. Down to Earth Sociology. (Thirteenth Edition)
- MacLeod, Jay. 1995. Ain't No Makin' It.
- Collins, Randall. 1992. Sociological Insight. (Second Edition)
- Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. 1989 [1848]. The Communist Manifesto.

These books are available at the Engineer's Bookstore at 748 Marietta Street.

Most readings for the class will come from the required books. It is very important that you have each day's readings done *before* class because the lectures are meant to elaborate – not summarize – the readings.

There is one **recommended** book for the course:

- Shepard, Jon. 2005. Sociology. (Ninth Edition)

This textbook may be helpful in clarifying various sociological concepts and perspectives. This textbook also has practice questions to help prepare for exams. Importantly, *this book is meant only to supplement – not replace – lectures and other reading materials*.

Weekly Schedule

Readings followed by a number in parentheses come are in the Henslin reader, Down to Earth Sociology. The number in ***parentheses*** is the number of the reading in the Henslin reader.

Readings marked with an ***asterisk*** can be found on reserve. All other readings come from the required texts for the class.

- Aug. 22 *Introduction: Understanding Social Behavior*
 P. Berger, Invitation to Sociology (1)
 C. Wright Mills, The Promise (3)
 Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 1.

PART I: Society and the Individual – Meaning and Behavior

- Aug. 24 *The Social Construction of Reality*
 H. Miner, Body Ritual Among the Nacirema (7)
 *H. Kelman and V. Hamilton, The My Lai Massacre (On reserve)
 E. Hall and M. Hall, The Sounds of Silence (9)

- Aug. 29 *The Social Construction of Reality*
 T. Caplow, The Rules for Giving Christmas Gifts (10)
 M. Harris, India's Sacred Cow (41)
 P. Meyer, If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger. . . (22)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 3.
- Aug. 31 *The Social Construction of Reality*
 R. Davis-Floyd, Giving Birth the American Way (37)
 J. Henslin, The Sociology of the Vaginal Examination (19)
 J. Hunt, Police Accounts of Normal Force (42)
Assignment #1 Due: Rules and Meanings
- Sept. 5 *Norms, Statuses, and Roles: Behavior*
 W. Chambliss, The Saints and the Roughnecks (25)
 N. Chagnon, Doing Fieldwork Among the Yanomamo (8)
 J. Henslin, Eating Your Friends is the Hardest (23)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 5.
- Sept. 7 *Norms, Statuses, and Roles: Identity*
 G. Dyer, Anybody's Son Will Do (43)
 P. Zimbardo, The Pathology of Imprisonment (26)
 Video: "Quiet Rage"
- Sept. 12 *Norms, Statuses, and Roles: Identity*
 D. Rosenhan, On Being Sane in Insane Places (27)
 D. Tannen, But What Do You Mean? Women and Men in Conversation (16)
Assignment #2 Due: The Violation of Norms
- Sept. 14 *Socialization: The Development of Self*
 K. Davis, Extreme Isolation (12)
 H. Gracey, Learning the Student Role (34)
 B. Thorne and Z. Luria, Sexuality and Gender in Children's Daily Worlds (15)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 4.
- Sept. 19 *Socialization: Gender*
 H. Lawson, Attacking Nicely (17)
 J. Henslin, On Becoming Male (13)
 D. Eder, On Becoming Female (14)
Review
- Sept. 21 **FIRST EXAM**

PART II: Social Institutions: Society and Economy

- Sept. 26 *Society as Ritual: Religion*
R. Collins, Sociological Insight, Chapter 1 (“Reason”) and Chapter 2 (“God”)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 15.
- Sept. 28 *Society as Ritual: Deviance and Crime Waves*
R. Collins, Sociological Insight, Chapter 4 (“Crime”)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 7.
*H. Becker. “Becoming a Marihuana User.” Outsiders, Chapter 3, p41-58. (On Reserve)
- Assignment #3 Due: Criminal Activities**
- Oct. 3 *Society as Ritual: Perceptions of Crime*
*S. Danziger. The Real War on Crime. (On reserve)
*Best, Joel. 1985. “The Myth of the Halloween Sadist.” *Psychology Today*. November, p14, 16. (On Reserve)
- Oct. 5 *Society as Ritual: Food and Inequality*
*D. Nibert. 2002. Animal Rights, Human Rights. Chapter 1 (“Toward a Sociological Analysis of Animal Oppression”), p1-20. (On Reserve)
- Oct. 10 *The Great Transformation: The Social Structure of the Market*
*K. Polanyi. The Great Transformation. Chapter 4 (“Societies and Economic Systems”), p43-55; and Chapter 6 (“The Self-Regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities”), p68-76. (On reserve)
- Oct. 12 *The Rise of Capitalism, Alienation, and Anomie*
*R. Collins, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (On Reserve)
R. Leidner, Over the Counter at McDonald’s (44)
- Oct. 17 **NO CLASS: Fall Break**

PART III: Social Inequality

- Oct. 19 *The Fundamental Principles of Inequality*
S. Katz, The Importance of Being Beautiful (28)
Video: “A Class Divided”
- Oct. 24 *The Inequality of Gender*
P. Martin and R. Hummer, Fraternities and Rape on Campus (29)
Williams, Christine. 1992. “The Glass Escalator.” Social Problems. 39(3):253-267. (On reserve)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 10.

- Oct. 26 *The Inequality of Race*
 C. Page, Showing My Color (30)
 *M. Oliver and T. Shapiro, Black Wealth, White Wealth (On Reserve)
 H. Gans, The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All (32)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 9.
- Oct. 31 *The Inequality of Class*
 B. Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed (35)
 S. Higley. The U.S. Upper Class (34)
 E. Liebow, The Lives of Homeless Women (21)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 8.
Review
- Nov. 2 **SECOND EXAM**
- Nov. 7 *The rules of the game: Does capitalism simply reproduce inequality?*
 Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. 1989. The Communist Manifesto. Part I
 (“Bourgeois and Proletarian”), and Part II (“Proletarians and
 Communists”).
- PART IV: Social Institutions of the Contemporary United States**
- Nov. 9 *Economic Change I: The Post-WWII Economic Boom*
 *Adler. Mollie’s Job. Introduction (p11-16), Chapter 5 (p81-98). (On Reserve)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 14 (pages 409-422).
- Nov. 14 *Economic Change II: The Rise of the “Flexible” Economy*
 *Adler. Mollie’s Job. Chapter 7 (p112-136), Epilogue (p305-313). (On Web-Ct)
- Nov. 16 *Changes in the Family*
 *Coontz, Stephanie. 1992. The Way We Never Were. Ch 2 (“Leave It to
 Beaver’ . . . : American Families in the 1950s”), pp.23-41. (On Reserve)
 A. Hochschild, When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work (36)
 *A. Hochschild, Men Who Share the Second Shift (On Reserve)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 12.
- Nov. 21-23 **Holiday: No Class**
- Nov. 28 *Changing the Rules: State Policy and Politics*
 *B. Winders, “The Roller Coaster of Class Conflict” (On reserve)
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 14 (pages 390-409).

- Nov. 30 *Poverty and Behavior*
J. MacLeod, Ain't No Makin' It, Chapters 1 and 3-6
Assignment #4 Due: Poverty and Behavior
- Dec. 5 *Education and Social Mobility*
*J. Kozol, *Savage Inequalities (On Reserve)*
J. Morris, and M. Grimes, *Moving Up from the Working Class (33)*
Recommended: Shepard, Chapter 13.
- Dec. 7 *Education and Social Mobility*
J. MacLeod, Ain't No Makin' It, Chapters 7-11
Review
- Dec. 12 **FINAL EXAM (8:00 - 10:50 am)**