

## SOC 1101: Introduction to Sociology

Professor Winders

*Office:* Old Civil Engineering (Old CE) Building, room 137

*Office Hours:* Tues, 12:00-1:00; Thur, 3:30-4:30

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Summer 2015

Late Short Session

MTWR, 1:20-3:20

### 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 this second part of the course, we will also explore 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.

### Learning Outcomes:

This course fulfills Georgia Tech’s Learning Goal E (Social Sciences), which states:

“Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.”

#### *How this course satisfies the learning outcome:*

This course will focus on sociological theories and methods and the application of those to a variety of substantive issues commonly studied by sociologists. Students will learn how social, political, and economic forces influence social behavior through an examination of such subjects as how identity and the self are constructed; the importance of culture; social institutions such as the family and the economy; and inequality in access to things such as healthcare and technology. Students will demonstrate that they have met the Area E learning outcome through completing several short (1 – 2 pages) written assignments and in-class examinations.

#### *Additional learning outcomes for this course:*

- Students in this class will demonstrate the ability to describe theoretical perspectives and concepts used by sociologists to explain the links between social institutions and individual behavior.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, cultural, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of how society is structured in terms of both social institutions and social stratification, as well as how the social structure shapes and influences social interactions.

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of political and economic forces shaped social change in U.S. society.

**Requirements:**

The course grade will be based on: three short written assignments and two exams. In fulfilling these requirements, students are expected to adhere to the **Georgia Tech Honor Code** (see [www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/Honor/](http://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](http://www.adapts.gatech.edu)).

*Preparing for each class session:* Student participation is expected for this class. Therefore, make sure you **do the reading before class** and come prepared to discuss. Having students fully engaged with the course readings and material will enhance the classroom experience, and it will improve students’ grades. We will not discuss every reading during class, so it is important to keep up all of the readings (because they may well show up on exams). In addition, students should feel free to ask questions about readings or course material.

*Short Papers (15%)*

Students will have to complete several assignments. These assignments and their due dates are listed on the reading schedule. Students should turn these assignments in on T-Square by the beginning of class on the due date. I will have more details on these assignments as the session progresses.

*First Exam (25%)*

The first exam for this course will consist will focus on social processes underlying individual behavior, small group interaction, and socialization. This exam will consist of multiple-choice questions that will require students to draw on course readings, as well as lectures and discussions from the course. This exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 1**.

*Second Exam (30%)*

The second exam for this course will focus on social institutions and inequality. This exam will consist of multiple-choice questions that will require students to draw on course readings, as well as lectures and discussions from the course. This exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14**.

*Final Exam (30%)*

The final exam will focus on changing inequality and social institutions in the contemporary United States. This exam will consist of multiple-choice that will require students to draw on course readings, as well as lectures and discussions from the course. The date and time for this final exam will be determined by Georgia Tech’s exam schedule, which has not yet been announced.

Summary of grade breakdown:		Grading System:
Short Papers.....	15%	90-100 = A
First Exam.....	25%	80-89 = B
Second Exam.....	30%	70-79 = C
Final Exam.....	<u>30%</u>	60-69 = D
Total.....	100%	0-59 = F

**Make-Up Policy:**

Permission of the professor is needed to make-up assignments or exams. (Having work/exams in another class will NOT get you my permission.) Make up exams and assignments will **only** be allowed in a situation of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency, etc.).

If you are going to miss an assignment or exam, please make every effort to **notify me before the missed class** and to gather appropriate material to justify your absence (e.g., a note from your physician if you are ill). If you are unable to notify me before the class/due date, please try to have a friend, roommate, etc. contact me via e-mail and inform me of your absence. A mutually convenient time will be arranged for you to make up the assignment.

*The use of cell phones, iPhones, Blackberries, or similar devices is not permitted in this class. Please turn **OFF** your phones before entering the classroom. **Those who violate this policy repeatedly will be asked to leave class for that class period.***

**Readings:**

The following books are required for the course:

- Henslin, James. 2007. Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings. 14<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- Draut, Tamara. 2007. Strapped: Why America's 20- and 30-Somethings Can't Get Ahead.
- Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. 1848. The Communist Manifesto.

**These books are available at the Engineer's Bookstore at 748 Marietta Street, the GT Barnes & Noble Bookstore, and online (e.g., Amazon and Barnes & Noble).**

Most readings for the class will come from these books. Again, because this class will be a mix of lecture and discussion, it is very important that you have each day's readings done *before* class so that you can participate.

Those 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 our course T-Square site. All other readings come from the required texts for the class.

## Weekly Schedule

June 22      *Introduction: Understanding Social Behavior*

P. Berger, Invitation to Sociology (1)

C. Wright Mills, The Promise (3)

### **Part I: Society and the Individual: Meaning and Behavior**

June 23      *The Social Construction of Reality*

H. Miner, Body Ritual Among the Nacirema (8)

J. Hunt, Police Accounts of Normal Force (41)

P. Meyer, If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger. . . (23)

J. Henslin, The Sociology of the Vaginal Examination (20)

**Assignment #1 Due: Rules and Meanings**

June 24      *Norms, Statuses, and Roles: Behavior*

J. Henslin, Eating Your Friends is the Hardest (24)

W. Chambliss, The Saints and the Roughnecks (26)

R. Davis-Floyd, Giving Birth the American Way (38)

M. Harris, India's Sacred Cow (40)

June 25      *Norms, Statuses, and Roles: Identity*

P. Zimbardo, The Pathology of Imprisonment (27)

D. Rosenhan, On Being Sane in Insane Places (28)

W. Thompson, Handling the Stigma of Handling the Dead (22)

*Video: "Quiet Rage"*

**Assignment #2 Due: The Violation of Norms**

June 29      *Socialization and the Development of Self*

K. Davis, Extreme Isolation (13)

H. Gracey, Kindergarten as Academic Boot Camp (39)

B. Thorne and Z. Luria, Sexuality and Gender in Children's Daily Worlds (16)

G. Dwyer, Anybody's Son Will Do (43)

June 30      *Socialization and Gender*

J. Henslin, On Becoming Male (14)

D. Eder, On Becoming Female (15)

D. Tannen, But What Do You Mean? Women and Men in Conversation (17)

H. Lawson, Attacking Nicely (18)

July 1        **FIRST EXAM**

## **Part II: Social Institutions: The “Big Picture”**

- July 2            *Society and Religion*  
\*R. Collins, Sociological Insight, Chapter 2 (“God”).
- July 6            *Society and Deviance*  
\*R. Collins, Sociological Insight, Chapter 4 (“Crime”)  
\*J. Best, The Myth of the Halloween Sadist  
D. Pager, Would You Hire An Ex-Convict? (6)  
**Assignment #3 Due: Criminal Activities**
- July 7            *Society and Economy: 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.
- July 8            *Society and Economy: The Rise of Capitalism, Alienation, and Anomie*  
\*Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism  
Leidner, Over the Counter at McDonalds (43)
- July 9            *The Nature of Inequality*  
Katz, The Importance of Being Beautiful (29)  
Page, Showing My Color (31)  
S. Higley. The U.S. Upper Class (35)
- July 13           *Inequality in the United States*  
B. Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dime (36)  
\*M. Oliver and T. Shapiro, Black Wealth, White Wealth  
Liebow, Lives of Homeless Women (21)  
**Assignment #4 Due: Principles of Inequality**
- July 14           **SECOND EXAM**

## **Part III: Society and Individual in the U.S.**

- July 15           *Capitalism and Inequality: “The Rules of the Game”*  
K. Marx and F. Engels, The Communist Manifesto. Part I (“Bourgeois and Proletarian”), and Part II (“Proletarians and Communists”).
- July 16           *Changes in the Economy I: The Shifting Market in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*  
T. Draut, Strapped. Introduction and Chapter 2.
- July 20           *Changes in the Economy II: The Turbulent Market Since 2000*  
T. Draut, Strapped. Chapters 3 (“Generation Debt”) and 4 (“High Cost. . .”)

- July 21      *Changes in the Family*  
T. Draut, Strapped. Chapter 5 (“And Baby Makes Broke”)  
S. Coontz, *The American Family* (37)  
\*A. Hochschild and A. Machung, *Men Who Share the Second Shift*
- July 22      *Education and Society*  
\*J. Kozol, *Savage Inequalities*  
\*A. Lareau, Home Advantage. Chapter 9.  
T. Draut, Strapped. Chapter 1 (“Higher and Higher Education”)
- July 23      *Politics and Society*  
T. Draut, Strapped. Chapter 6 (“Without a Fight”)  
\*R. Doyle, *Voter Turnout*
- July 29      **FINAL EXAM (11:30am - 2:20pm)**