This course is designed to introduce you to sociology by examining what it means to think sociologically and by reviewing the insights of a few core areas of sociological study. As opposed to a thin survey of everything that is studied sociologically (and nearly everything is) this course will begin with a focus on examining the core assumptions of sociological thought. We will then assess the usefulness of the sociological perspective as we explore sociological work on stratification, power, and social change.

Class Format & Expectations:
Class will consist of short lectures, class discussion, and occasionally videos. To do well in this course it is essential to both read the material assigned (and to do so in a timely manner) and to attend class. You will be expected to come to each class prepared. This means attending class having read the assigned material for that class and being prepared to discuss it.

Course Requirements:
The course grade is based on your performance on the exams, quizzes, and reading responses.

Grading Scale:
The grading scale for this course consists of the following: 90-100 points = A; 80-89 points = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D, and anything below 60 points will result in an E.

Exams: There will be four exams in this course, one at the end of each module. There will be no cumulative mid-term or final. The exams will be comprised of short answer and essay questions and will be an opportunity for you to demonstrate your comprehension of the material covered in the previous module. You will be expected to take the exam on the date scheduled. Make-up exams will only be provided in instances of documented illness, documented family emergency, or a dean’s excuse.

Quizzes: I will give three in-class quizzes in each module. A total of twelve quizzes will be given, but only your 8 best scores will count toward your grade. There will be no opportunities to make-up quizzes.

Reading Responses: You will be required to write 4 reading responses in this course. You must submit one reading response for each module. I will assign a question at the beginning of each week in which we do not have an exam. If you choose to do a
response on a particular week it will be due that Friday *in-class*. I will *not* accept responses by email or in my mailbox. These questions will generally ask you to draw on the readings and lectures for that week in order to answer them. These assignments should be *no longer* than two pages.

**Long Story Short:** By the end of each module you should have submitted one reading response and taken *at least* two quizzes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Breakdown</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
<th># of Assignments</th>
<th># points for each Assignment</th>
<th>Total possible points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>4 Exams</td>
<td>15 points each</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8 Quizzes</td>
<td>3 points each</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>4 Reading Responses</td>
<td>4 points each</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Course Policies:**

- There is no extra credit in this course. Please be mindful of the weight placed on all of the assignments in this class. (e.g. skipping two reading responses will cause you to drop 8 points which is over 3/4 a letter grade)

- You are responsible for assignments and notes missed during absences.

- Again, make-up exams will only be provided in instances of documented illness, documented family emergency, or a dean’s excuse. Please let me know ahead of time if you are going to miss an exam so we can schedule an exam prior to the exam date.

- Late work will only be accepted if special arrangements have been made with me.

**Readings:**

There are two books you should buy for this class:


All of the additional readings will be available on electronic reserve which you can access directly on the Library website. Go through the "Reserves/Booking" link on the Library website and select "Electronic Reserves" and find this course. Or go directly to the ER course page at the following URL: [http://eres.library.arizona.edu/coursepage.asp?cid=4117](http://eres.library.arizona.edu/coursepage.asp?cid=4117)
The password for the electronic reserves page is "bentele05".

**Course Schedule:**

"ER" indicates reading is available on Electronic Reserve. "Req" indicates reading is within one of the books that are required for this class.

**Week I: Introduction to Course**

1/12: Introduction to course.

1/14: **Lecture & Discussion Topic:** Introduction to Sociology  
**Read for Friday:**  

**Week 2-3: The Social Construction of Reality & Socialization**

1/17: No Class: Martin Luther King Day

1/19: **Lecture & Discussion Topic:** Social Construction & Socialization  
**Read for Wednesday:**  

1/21: **Lecture & Discussion Topic:** Socialization  
**Read for Friday:**  

1/24: **Lecture & Discussion Topic:** Social Construction of Social Problems  
**Read for Monday:**  
Also available at "www.jstor.org"  
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28198807%2994%3A1%3C53%3ATRAFOS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-X

1/26: **Lecture & Discussion Topic:** Social Construction of Social Problems  
**Read for Wednesday:**

Read for Friday:
Finish Reinarman & Levine reading and Read
Video: “Drugs and Punishment: Are America’s Drug Policies Fair?”

Week 3-4: Thinking Structurally

1/31: Lecture & Discussion Topic: What are Social Structures?
Read for Monday:

2/2: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Individualistic vs. Structural Explanations
Read for Wednesday:

2/4: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Poverty
Read for Friday: Finish Rank reading
Video: "The Forgotten Americans"

2/7: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Structural Change & Consequences
Read for Monday:

2/9: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Global Structures
Read for Wednesday:
Video: The New Rulers of the World

2/11: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Exam Review
Read for Friday: Review notes/readings.

2/14: First Exam
Week 5-6: Stratification & Class

2/16: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Why is Inequality Important?
Read for Wednesday:
Req

2/18: Lecture & Discussion Topic: What Drives Inequality?
Read for Friday:

2/21: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Class
Read for Monday:
Also:
(no attribution), "Ever Higher Society, Ever Harder to Ascend" The Economist 29 Dec. 2004 ER

2/23: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Class - Consequences
Read for Wednesday:

2/25: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Gender
Read for Friday:

2/28: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Gender - Consequences
Read for Monday:
If you're interested:
Bem, Sandra L. 1994 Transforming the Debate on Sexual Inequality: From Biological Difference to Institutionalized Androcentrism” pp. 1-8 (Optional) ER

3/2: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Gender as Structure
Read for Wednesday:

3/4: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Racial/Ethnic Inequity
Read for Friday:

3/7: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Racial/Ethnic Inequity
Read for Monday:
Finish Chapter 8 in Fisher Pgs. 188-203. Req
Also:

3/9: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Racial/Ethnic Inequity & Exam Review
Read for Wednesday:

3/11: Second Exam

***Spring Break***

Week 9-11: Intersections - Power and Politics

3/21: No class

3/23: Lecture & Discussion Topic:
Read for Wednesday:

Read for Friday:

3/28: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Intersections - Political Consequences
Read for Monday:

Also if you're interested: (Optional)

3/30: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Power - Money and Politics
Read for Wednesday:

4/1: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Social Class & Power
Read for Friday:

4/4 Lecture & Discussion Topic: Instrumentalism: Mechanisms of Domination
Read for Monday:

4/6 Lecture & Discussion Topic: Considering Alternative Views
Read for Wednesday:

4/8 Lecture & Discussion Topic: Compromise & Exam Review
Read for Friday:

4/11 Third Exam

Week 12-14: Stability and Change

Read for Wednesday:

And:

**4/15:** *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Stability - Culture  
**Read for Friday:**  

And:
Get Started on the Rank Reading:

**4/18:** *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Social Change - Cultural Barriers  
**Read for Monday:**  
Rank, Mark 2004. “Future Directions” *One Nation, Underprivileged* N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Press. Read pages 193-206 (up until "Increasing Accessibility of Key Social and Public Goods" Section on pg. 206) & Pgs 235-241 (Pg 235 Starts on the page with the "Providing an Effective Safety Net" Section and 241 is the last page) Skim pages in between these sections and read about any specific policy proposals you're personally interested in. ER

**4/20:** *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Social Change - Political Barriers  
**Read for Wednesday:**  

**4/22:** *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Resistance - Class Conflict  
**Read for Friday:**  

**4/25:** *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Social Change - Macro Forces  
**Read for Monday:**  

**4/27:** *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Social Change and Social Movements  
**Read for Wednesday:**  
4/29: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Social Change and Social Movements
   Read for Friday:
   Also on Jstor: Stable URL
   http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0884-8971%28799312%298%3A4%3C639%3AFBVBAC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-5

5/2: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Social Change and Social Movements
   Read for Monday:

5/4: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Social Movements & Review for Exam
   Read for Wednesday: TBA

5/11: Fourth Exam  11:00-1:00

   Good luck to you and have a great summer !!!