

SOC 101-1: Introduction to Sociology

10am MWF, Spring 2005, PSYCH 306

Instructor: Keith Bentele

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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.

Grade Breakdown	% of Final Grade	# of Assignments	# points for each Assignment	Total possible points
Exams	60%	4 Exams	15 points each	60
Quizzes	24%	8 Quizzes	3 points each	24
Reading Responses	16%	4 Reading Responses	4 points each	16
Total	100%			100

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:

Fischer et al. 1996. *Inequality by Design*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

McAdam, Doug 1988. *Freedom Summer*. New York : Oxford University Press.

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>

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:

Newman, David M.. 2004. "Taking a New Look at a Familiar World." *Sociology Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. Pgs 2-16. **ER**

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:

Roy, William G. 2001. "Constructing Historical Reality." *Making Societies The Historical Construction of Our World*. CA: Pine Forge Press. Pgs. 1-29. **ER**

1/21: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Socialization

Read for Friday:

Romero, Mary. 2001. "Life as the Maid's Daughter." *Working Families: The Transformation of the American Home*. CA: University of California Press. Pgs.102-112. **ER**

1/24: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Social Construction of Social Problems

Read for Monday:

Hilgartner, S. & C. Bosk. 1988. "The Rise and Fall of Social Problems." *American Journal of Sociology* 4(1): Pgs. 53-78. **ER**

Also available at "www.jstor.org"

Stable URL: [http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28198807%2994%3A1%3C53%3AATRAFOS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-X)

[9602%28198807%2994%3A1%3C53%3AATRAFOS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-X](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28198807%2994%3A1%3C53%3AATRAFOS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-X)

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

Read for Wednesday:

Reinarman, Craig & Harry G. Levine. 1997. "The Crack Attack: Politics and Media in the Crack Scare." *Crack in America: Demon Drugs and Social Justice*. University of California Press. Pgs. 47-65. **ER**

1/28: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Social Construction of Social Problems

Read for Friday:

Finish Reinarman & Levine reading and Read

Berger, Ronald J. 2003. "Constructing the "Jewish Problem" in Nazi Germany" *Social Problems Constructionist Readings*. N.Y.: Walter de Gruyter Inc. Pgs. 272-277.

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:

Lemert, Charles. 2002. "The Mysterious Powers of Social Structures." *Social Things: An Introduction to the Sociological Life*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield. Pgs. 113-135. **ER**

2/2: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Individualistic vs. Structural Explanations

Read for Wednesday:

Rank, Mark. 2004. "Poverty as a Structural Failing." *One Nation, Underprivileged*. N.Y.: Oxford University Press. 1st Half of Pgs. 49-84. **ER**

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:

Wilson, William Julius. 1996. "From Institutional to Jobless Ghettos." *When Work Disappears*. N.Y.: First Vintage Books. Pgs. 3-24. **ER**

2/9: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Global Structures

Read for Wednesday:

Isbister, John. 2001. "The Foundations of Third World Poverty." *Promises not Kept*. Bloomfield, Conn: Kumarian Press. Pgs. 16-23, & 86-96. **ER**

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:

Fisher, Claude S. et al. 1996. "Why Inequality." *Inequality By Design*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Pgs. 3-10 & 102-120 & 128. (21-27 Optional)

Req

2/18: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* What Drives Inequality?

Read for Friday:

Fisher, Claude S. et al. 1996. "How Unequal? America's Invisible Policy Choices." *Inequality By Design*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Pgs 129-147 & 156-157 (148-155 Optional). **Req**

2/21: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Class

Read for Monday:

Gilbert, Dennis. 2003. "The Dimensions of Class" *The American Class Structure In an Age of Growing Inequality*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. Pgs. 1-21. **ER**

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:

Marmot, Michael, 2004. "Some Are More Equal Than Others". *Status Syndrome How Your Social Standing Directly Affects Your Health And Life Expectancy*. London: Bloomsbury. Pgs. 13-33. **ER**

2/25: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Gender

Read for Friday:

Roy, William G. 2001. "Gender" *Making Societies The Historical Construction of Our World*. CA: Pine Forge Press. Pgs. 110-128 & 140-143 & 152-155. **ER**

2/28: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Gender - Consequences

Read for Monday:

Hesse-Biber, Sharlene N. & Gregg L. Carter. 2005. "Gender Inequality: Economic & Legal Explanations". *Working Women in America*. NY: Oxford University Press. Pgs. 72-91 & 108-109. **ER**

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:

Hesse-Biber, Sharlene N. & Gregg L. Carter. 2005. "Gender Inequality and Socialization: The Influences of Family, School, Peers, and the Media". *Working Women in America*. NY: Oxford University Press. Pgs. 111-114 (Optional) & 114-130. **ER**

3/4: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Racial/Ethnic Inequity

Read for Friday:

Fisher, Claude S. et al. 1996. *Inequality by Design*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Read first half of Chapter 8. Pgs. 171- 188. or so. **Req**

3/7: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Racial/Ethnic Inequity

Read for Monday:

Finish Chapter 8 in Fisher Pgs. 188-203. **Req**

Also:

Roy, William G. 2001. "Whiteness" & "Reproducing Race" *Making Societies The Historical Construction of Our World*. CA: Pine Forge Press. Pgs. 96-101 & 103-104. **ER**

3/9: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Racial/Ethnic Inequity & Exam Review

Read for Wednesday:

Oliver, Melvin L. & Thomas M. Shapiro. 1997. *Black Wealth/White Wealth*. N.Y.: Routledge. Pgs. 1-11. **ER**

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:

Shulman, Beth. 2003. "The Betrayal of Work How Low-Wage Jobs Fail 30 Million Americans." NY,NY: The New York Press. Introduction Pgs. 1-14 & start Chapter 2 Pgs 24-34. **ER**

3/25: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Intersections -Consequences in the Labor Market

Read for Friday:

Shulman, Beth. 2003. "The Betrayal of Work How Low-Wage Jobs Fail 30 Million Americans." NY,NY: The New York Press. Finish Chapter 4 Pgs 34-44. & Chapter 4 Pgs 69-79. **ER**

3/28: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Intersections - Political Consequences

Read for Monday:

Jetter, Alexis. 1995. "Mothers at Risk: The War on Poor Women and Children." Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press. Pgs.104-128. **ER**

Also if you're interested: (Optional)

O'Connor, Brendon. 2001. "The Protagonists and Ideas behind the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996: The Enactment of a Conservative Welfare System." *Social Justice* 28(4): 4-32. **ER**

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

Read for Wednesday:

Sifry, Micah L. & Nancy Watzman. 2004. *Is That A Politician in Your Pocket?* Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons Inc. Introduction and Chapter 1. Pgs 1-3 & 5-22. **ER**

4/1: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Social Class & Power

Read for Friday:

Domhoff, William. 2002. *Who Rules America? Power & Politics* 4th ed Boston: McGraw-Hill. Introduction & Chapter 1. Pgs. 1-13. **ER**

4/4 Lecture & Discussion Topic: Instrumentalism: Mechanisms of Domination

Read for Monday:

Domhoff, William. 2002. *Who Rules America? Power & Politics* 4th ed Boston: McGraw-Hill. Chapter 7. Pgs. 147-148, 150-157, 158-163, 179-180. **ER**

4/6 Lecture & Discussion Topic: Considering Alternative Views

Read for Wednesday:

Domhoff, William. 2002. *Who Rules America? Power & Politics* 4th ed Boston: McGraw-Hill. Chapter 8. Pgs. 181-194. **ER**

4/8 Lecture & Discussion Topic: Compromise & Exam Review

Read for Friday:

Hooks, Gregory. 1993. "The Weakness of Strong Theories: The U.S. State's Dominance of the World War II Investment Process". *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 58, No. 1. pp. 37-53. Pgs. (44-50 Optional (read conclusion)) **ER**
Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28199302%2958%3A1%3C37%3ATWOSTT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-6>

4/11 Third Exam

Week 12-14: Stability and Change

4/13: Lecture & Discussion Topic: Stability - Social Control & Deviance

Read for Wednesday:

Berger, Peter L. 1963. "The Meaning of Social Controls" from *An Invitation to Sociology*. NY: Doubleday. Pgs. 230-234. **ER**

And:

Goode, Erich, 1978. "An Introduction to Deviance" from *Deviant Behavior: An Interactionist Approach*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall Inc. Pgs. 234-240. **ER**

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

Read for Friday:

Becker, Howard S. 1982. excerpt from "Culture: A Sociological View". *Yale Review*. 71:513-527. Pgs. 208-213 **ER**

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:

Miller, Matthew. 2003. "Why We're Not Serious." *The Two Percent Solution*. N.Y.:Public Affairs. Pgs. 16-19 & 38-54. (Pgs. 20-37 optional) **ER**

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

Read for Friday:

Shulman, Beth. 2003. "The Betrayal of Work How Low-Wage Jobs Fail 30 Million Americans." NY,NY: The New York Press. Finish Chapter 7 Pgs 117-139. **ER**

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

Read for Monday:

Barber, Benjamin R. 1995. "Introduction" to *Jihad vs McWorld*. NY: Ballantine Books. Pgs 3-20. **ER**

4/27: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Social Change and Social Movements

Read for Wednesday:

Green, John C., James L. Guth, & Clyde Wilcox. 1998. "Less than Conquerors: The Christian Right in State Republican Parties" in *Social Movements and American Political Institutions*. Eds. Anne Costain & Andrew McFarland. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc. Pgs. 117-136.

4/29: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Social Change and Social Movements

Read for Friday:

Jasper, James M. & Jane D. Poulsen. 1993. "Fighting Back: Vulnerabilities, Blunders, and Countermobilization by the Targets in Three Animal Rights Campaigns." *Sociological Forum* 8: 639-657. **ER**

Also on Jstor: Stable URL

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5/2: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Social Change and Social Movements

Read for Monday:

Morris, Aldon. 2001. "The Genius of the Civil Rights Movement". Northwestern University. **ER**

5/4: *Lecture & Discussion Topic:* Social Movements & Review for Exam

Read for Wednesday: TBA

McAdam, Doug 1988. *Freedom Summer* New York : Oxford University Press. Pgs 3-5, 11-19, 116-118, & 145-147. Epilogue is optional. **Req also on ER**

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

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