



SOCIOLOGY 201: Sociological Imagination

Course Description and Objectives: The social world is often taken for granted or reduced to explanations that stem from conventional wisdom and personal experience. This course is designed to encourage students to develop analytical, social-scientific frameworks for analyzing the social world in a context that transcends conventional wisdom and personal experience. The major question driving this course is: "What are the social forces operating in the world, often beyond the control of individuals, that shape individual behaviors and societal changes?" Topics include culture, socialization, social and economic inequalities, social structure, organizational behavior, social groups, deviance, and social institutions (family, religion, education, and economy, etc.).

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to define basic social scientific concepts pertaining to life in society.
2. Students will be able to analyze the social world from different social scientific perspectives (functionalist, conflict, and interactionist).
3. Students will be able to identify the various social forces impacting society and social life.
4. Students shall be able to interpret social scientific data regarding human interactions, group processes, and societal trends.
5. Students will be able to describe the ways in which inequities by gender, race, and class impact our social world.
6. Student will develop effective writing skills.

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Adams State University
Department of Sociology
Spring 2015
TR 9:30-10:45 (Sec 003)
MCD, 317

Texts and Articles:

*All readings are available as PDFs on my Website (benjaminjameswaddell.com)

Assignments/Exams:

Quizzes (20%): Four *unannounced* quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. Quizzes will address material covered in the previous two or three class periods plus the material assigned for that particular day.

Essay Assignment Part 1 (10%) and Part 2 (20%): Part of your grade will be determined based on your performance on a two-part essay assignment. The first part of the assignment is worth 10% of your final grade, while the second part of the assignment is worth 20%. Further details concerning these assignments are provided on the course website.

Midterm exam (20%): A midterm exam will be given midway through the semester. The exam consists of multiple choice and true/false questions. If you read, take the assigned quizzes and attend lecture you will be well prepared for the exam.

Final Presentation (20%): Toward the end of the semester students will give a group presentation in class. Presentations will be done in groups of three to four students. Additional information concerning this assignment is provided on the course website.

Final Exam (10%): Students will take a comprehensive final exam during finals week.

Written work: All written work must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font (Garamond or Times New Roman preferred), with 1" margins on all sides. In general students should follow American Sociological Association (ASA) guidelines. (See link on course website for specifics.) Hard copies of papers should be during class unless I request a digital copy. Late papers will be penalized with a 10-point deduction for *each day* after the deadline.

Extra Credit: For each essay, if you utilize the writing lab I will increase your final grade, for that particular assignment, by 5 percent (you will need to provide edited drafts with your final essay).

Persons with Disabilities: If you have any sort of disability that prevents the fullest expression of your abilities, please let me know as soon as possible during the semester—i.e., before it interferes with your work—so that I can make a reasonable accommodation to your needs.

Academic Misconduct: Taking the easy way out will have real consequences in this class. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty will be dropped from the course and formal charges will be brought before the Department Chair and the University.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments
01/20	Introduction to Course	-Syllabus (benjaminjameswaddell.com)	*Read “Tips for being a successful student.” (Website.) *Read for 2 nd day of class!
01/22	What is Sociology?	-C. Wright Mills, “The Promise.” -Richard J. Gelles and Mary M. Cavanaugh, “Association is Not Causation.”	
01/27	The Science of Sociology	-William E. Thompson, "Hanging Tongues: A Social Encounter with the Assembly Line."	Watch: “Statistician Peter Donnelly on Tedtalks.” http://goo.gl/tKh2WW
01/29	The Science of Sociology	-Allan M. Brandt, “Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study.”	Watch: “The Frightening Legacy of U.S. Syphilis Experiments in Guatemala.” http://goo.gl/zLQRyo
02/03	U.S. Census	-Intro to working with U.S. Census data. -Guest lecture by librarian.	*Watch: “Center of Population: What can we learn from these changes?” http://goo.gl/QxMyhG
02/05	The Role of Culture in Society	-Horace Miner, “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema.” -U.S. Department of Justice, “The Code of the Street and African-American Adolescent Violence.” (Read pages 1-16)	*Watch: “The Freakonomics of Crack Dealing.” http://goo.gl/VYhM81
02/10	Socialization in Context	-Lera Boroditsky. “How Language Shapes Thoughts.” -Herbert C. Kelman and V. Lee Hamilton, “The My Lai Massacre.” (See Ch 5 in <i>Readings for Sociology</i> PDF, pgs. 35-52)	-Watch: “The Linguistic Genius of Babies.” http://goo.gl/f4dsnU *Watch: “Sebastian Junger: Why Veterans Miss War.” http://goo.gl/xtb1gC
02/12	Socialization in Context	-Hunt, Jennifer. “Police Accounts of Normal Force.” -The Economist. “Paramilitary Police: Cops or Soldiers?” (Website or http://goo.gl/4rl8Ib)	*Watch: “Questionable Police Tactics.” http://goo.gl/yCouMk
02/17	Education	-“Education Pays 2013.” (Read pages 4-16) -Jonathan Kozol. “Savage Inequalities: Children in America’s Schools.”	*Essay Assignment 1 Due In Class!
02/19	Education	-Guest lecture? Lillian Gomez?	*Watch: “Why We Shouldn’t Trust Markets With Our Civic Life.” http://goo.gl/9MvFmk
02/24	Education	-In Class Film: <i>The Lottery</i>	
02/26	Education	-Michael Mitchell et al. “States are still Funding Higher Education Below Pre-Recession Levels.” -Ellen Mutari and Melaku Lakew. “Class Conflict: Tuition Hikes Leave College Students in Debt...”	
03/03	Education	-In Class Film: <i>Default: The Student Loan Documentary</i> or <i>The Ivory Tower</i> .	

03/05	Education	-Midterm Review in Class	*Review for midterm exam.
03/10	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam in Class	*Study
03/12	Economics, Politics and Illicit Trade	-Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party."	-Watch: "Beware, fellow plutocrats, the pitchforks are coming." http://goo.gl/DlvnkB
03/17	Economics, Politics and Illicit Trade	-The Independent. "Colombia Faces \$17bn Laundry Bill."	
03/19	Economics, Politics and Illicit Trade	-Robert J. MacCoun and Peter Reuter, "Does Europe Do It Better? Lessons from Holland, Britain and Switzerland."	
03/24	Spring Break	-No class.	-Watch: "Nature. Beauty. Gratitude." http://goo.gl/Bl6edb
03/26	Spring Break	-No class.	
03/31	Stratification	-William Julius Wilson, "When Work Disappears." (MySocLab) -Massey, Douglas. "The Psychology of Social Stratification."	
04/02	Stratification and Race	-Bertrand and Mullainathan "Are Emily and Greg More Employable Than Lakisha and Jamal?" -Massey and Lundy. "Use of Black English and Racial Discrimination in Urban Housing Markets."	
04/07	Deviance and Social Control	-Mark Warr. "Safe at Home."	*Essay Assignment 2 Due In Class!
04/09	Deviance and Social Control	-Ronald Weitzer, "Prostitution: Facts and Fiction." -Reiman, Jeffrey. "The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison."	
04/14	Deviance and Social Control	-In Class Film: <i>The House I Live In</i>	
04/16	Population, and Environment	-Garrett Hardin "The Tragedy of the Commons." -Dr. Mercola. "Environmental Toxins Causing Early Puberty in Both Boys and Girls."	Watch: "The Earth is Full." http://goo.gl/MP5wFD -"New Thinking on the Climate Crisis." http://goo.gl/5I0yIk
04/21	Population, and Environment	-Christopher Wanjek. "The Truth Behind Early Puberty." -Marcia E. Herman-Giddens et al. "Secondary Sexual Characteristics in Boys."	-Watch "Let's Prepare for Our New Climate." http://goo.gl/zESLjr
04/23	Population, and Environment	-"NASA-funded study: industrial civilization headed for 'irreversible collapse?'" -Explore: United States Environmental Protection Agency: http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/basics/ -Wrap-up	-Watch "Salvation (and profit) in Greentech." http://goo.gl/u2bhdK

04/28	Final Presentations		
04/30	Final Presentations		
05/05	Final Presentations		
05/07	Final Presentations		
05/12	Final Exam	-Details TBA	