

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
01:920:101:R2
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2014
TF: 12:00 noon-1:20 pm
BECK HALL 221, LIVINGSTON CAMPUS

Instructor: Shruti Devgan

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*When communicating by email please type "Intro Soc" in the subject line

Office: 013, Davison Hall, Douglass Campus

Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4pm and by appointment

Course Description: Orientation and SAS Core Curriculum Learning Goals

Our aim in this course is to understand and develop a "sociological imagination" and begin to think sociologically irrespective of majors and areas of interest. Sociology allows us to arrive at a critical understanding of the familiar and taken for granted social phenomena. One of the core tensions that any course in sociology including ours will address is the relationship between individual and society.

This course fulfills SAS core curriculum learning goals. Our focus on "sociological imagination," will help us unravel the visible and invisible relationship between social/collective contexts and private domains. Further, we will examine this relationship between social contexts and personal concerns as dynamic and rooted in historical processes, rather than being stagnant and unchanging. Specifically, we will focus on categories and processes shaped by social time and space. So for example, we will examine questions like: what is gender and how is this idea shaped by social processes? We will ask similar questions with respect to other socially created categories such as race, ethnicity, economic status, political identity etc. An underlying theme of our course will be to keep in mind the developments and challenges ushered in by new technologies and processes of globalization in the 21st century.

Course Structure and Outline

We will use a textbook that will cover several themes but we will leave out certain issues in the interest of time. The omission of chapters from the syllabus is subjective and not indicative of the insignificance of topics.

Classes will consist of lectures and active discussion. You will need to do the reading **before** each class period to get the most of out this course and from an exam point of view. The exams will draw heavily from our discussion of material discussed in class. Reading and an active involvement in the course will make the material more interesting and engaging. In addition, your participation and input is an integral part of taking this course and contributes toward your final grade.

There will be a mid term and final exam consisting of multiple choice, fill in the blanks, and short essays. In addition, there will be five take-home assignments (word count 1,000- 1,500) based on films we watch during the semester. You can choose to write on any four of the seven films we're scheduled to watch.

Our course has a SAKAI website that will have any additional readings and announcements posted periodically. I will expect you to check these updates regularly.

Required Texts & Materials

Giddens, Anthony et al. 2012. Introduction to Sociology, 8th edition. W.W. Norton & Co. ISBN: 978-0-393-91213-5 (pbk.)

Available at Rutgers University Bookstores

Any other assigned readings/articles will be available via SAKAI under the 'readings' tab.

Attendance and Grading

Midterm Exam: 80 points

Final Exam: 100 points

Class attendance: 10 points

Participation: 10 points

Take home assignments: 100 points (20 each)

Total: 300 points

Attendance should be voluntary but to give you added motivation, it also counts toward your final grade. You may miss *one or two* class periods during the session without any effect to your final attendance grade; beginning with your third absence points will be deducted. Please also use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Excused absences (verified by your dean, doctor, etc.) will give you the opportunity to make up any work you have missed without penalty. Late assignments, due to unexcused absences or failure to turn in work on time, will have points taken off. It is up to you to make up a missed exam. I will not remind you that you owe me an exam. Also, please note that I have to turn in grades twenty-four hours after the final. If you miss the final and do not make prior arrangements with me, your grade will be adversely affected.

Your final grade will be assigned in accordance with the Rutgers grading system, shown below.

Grade	Percent Range	Point Range
A	90-100%	270-300
B+	87-89	261-267
B	80-86	240-258
C+	77-79	231-237
C	70-76	210-228
D	60-69	180-207
F	< 60	<180

Classroom Etiquette

We will strive for a free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. To facilitate such an environment, we must act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Thus, behavior that distracts students and faculty is not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, leaving and returning, leaving early without permission, discourteous remarks, and other behavior that disrupts class atmosphere. Courteous and lawful expression of disagreement with the ideas of the instructor or fellow students is, of course, permitted. If a student engages in disruptive behavior, the instructor, following the University Code of Student Conduct, may direct the student to leave class for the remainder of the class period. Serious verbal assaults, harassment, or defamation of the instructor or other students can lead to university disciplinary proceedings.

The University Code of Student Conduct is at:

<http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/university-code-of-student-conduct>

Academic Integrity: Cheating and Plagiarism

We will uphold honesty and originality in this course and inculcate it as a habit for other classes as well. I'm sure you are well aware that cheating on tests and written assignments is never acceptable, and this note only serves as a reminder to maintain integrity and ethical behavior at all times, even if it means earning a few points less on an exam or assignment.

To make sure there is no confusion about what plagiarism means, here is a definition from the university academic integrity policy:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources without proper attribution.¹

I expect you to read through the entire document here. Please make sure you address any questions and/or concerns about attributing material to me:

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

If you have the need to consult the Office of Special Problems, please do so:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Schedule & Reading Assignment (subject to revision)

Week One

Tuesday, January 21

Introduction
No reading

Friday, January 24

Orientation to Sociology and main theories
Reading Assignment: Chapter 1

Week Two

Tuesday, January 28

Orientation and theories (contd.)
Reading Assignment: Chapter 1

Friday, January 31

Sociological Questions and Research
Reading Assignment: Chapter 2

Week Three

Tuesday, February 4

Sociology of Culture
Reading Assignment: Chapter 3

Friday, February 7

Culture, Society and Socialization
Reading Assignment: Chapter 4

¹ http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf Updated with the University's current language on July 13, 2012. S. Lawrence

Week Four

Tuesday, February 11

FILM: Wo ai ni, mommy

Friday, February 14

Social Interaction and Microsociology
Reading Assignment: Chapter 5**Week Five**

Tuesday, February 18

Social Interaction and Microsociology (contd.)
SAKAI Reading

Friday, February 21

Conformity, Deviance and Crime
Reading Assignment: Chapter 7**Week Six**

Tuesday, February 25

FILM: Lost children of Rockdale

Friday, February 28

Social Inequality
Reading Assignment: Chapter 8 (pages 212-227 –
before subheading entitled “Theories of
Stratification in Modern Societies”) + SAKAI
Reading**Week Seven**

Tuesday, March 4

MID TERM EXAM (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8)

Friday, March 7

Gender
Reading Assignment: Chapter 10**Week Eight**

Tuesday, March 11

Gender (contd.)
Reading Assignment: Chapter 10 + SAKAI Reading

Friday March 14

FILM: Miss Representation

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 15-23**Week Nine**

Tuesday, March 25

Ethnicity and Race
Reading Assignment: Chapter 11

Friday, March 28

FILM: Race- The Power of an Illusion

Week Ten

Tuesday, April 1

Ethnicity and Race
Reading Assignment (Chapter 11)

Friday, April 4

FILM: Neverperfect

Week Eleven

Tuesday, April 8

Political Power and Social Movements
Reading Assignment: Chapter 13 (pages 376-384-
before subheading entitled "Nationalist
Movements) + SAKAI Reading

Friday, April 11

Family
Reading Assignment: Chapter 15 + SAKAI Reading**Week Twelve**

Tuesday, April 15

Education and the Mass Media
Reading Assignment: Chapter 16 (pages 468
starting from the subheading "Academic
achievement and differential outcomes" to page
474 before subheading "Education Policy Today,"
and page 478 from subheading "Communication
and the mass media" to the end of chapter

Friday, April 18

FILM: Digital_nation

Week Thirteen

Tuesday, April 22

Religion
Reading Assignment: Chapter 17 (pages 489-496;
page 508 starting from the subheading entitled
"Religion in the United States" to the end of page
509 and page 519 starting from the subheading
entitled "The global rise of religious nationalism" to
end of chapter) + SAKAI Reading

Friday, April 25

FILM: Final solution

Week Fourteen

Tuesday, April 29

Globalization
Reading Assignment: Chapter 20, Chapter 9 (pages
246 starting from subheading entitled "Theories of
global inequality" to end of chapter)

Friday, May 2

FINAL EXAM REVIEW

FINAL EXAM (Chapters 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20)
MAY 8, THURSDAY 12-3 pm (TO BE CONFIRMED)

YOU'RE DONE! HAPPY SUMMER! 😊