

Introduction to Sociology, Section 12
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 3:40 PM to 4:30 PM
BB308

Instructor: John T. Lang

Office Hours: MWF 10:00am-11:20am, and by appointment

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Sociology! Sociology is the systematic, scientific study of the patterns and processes of social life, touching on all of its major dimensions - economic, political, religious, familial, and criminal, to name a few - and investigating it at both the level of grand social and historical developments, and the level of everyday, mundane interactions. It studies both individual actors, and the informal groups and formal organizations that populate the social landscape.

This course cannot be comprehensive in its coverage of the discipline of social science. But it will introduce you to some basic concepts in sociological analysis, to some fundamental arguments about the constitution of society and the individuals who comprise it, and to important substantive topics and problems in a variety of the subfields of sociology.

We will explore some of the big questions we face as social beings, and talk about some of the intriguing answers - and questions, for that matter - that sociologists have provided.

REQUIRED READING

Textbooks are too expensive. Besides, sociology textbooks are often wrong and boring. For this class you buy one book and access the other readings on the web. This means that this class does not cost a lot and you can access the materials for the class from nearly any computer. There are times, however, that our computers or the Internet are not as reliable as we would like. Avoid disaster - get the readings well before the class in which they will be discussed. Definitely make sure you get the readings long before we have a test. Connectivity problems are not acceptable excuses for not being ready.

GRADING

The exams are multiple-choice, and are not cumulative.

Test 1: 25 questions, worth 25 points

Test 2: 25 questions, worth 25 points

Test 3: 35 questions, worth 35 points

Exams will cover the readings, movies, and lectures. I do not give extra-credit assignments, nor will I allow make-ups on the exams without a superb, legitimate explanation (bring me medical records, phone numbers of surviving relatives, etc.). Weddings, personal holidays, oversleeping, Septa problems, etc. are not acceptable excuses for missing exams. Drop the course now if there is a conflict between the test days and your personal schedule. The make-ups are essay tests, consisting of several questions. Since these tests must replace a huge percentage of your total grade, the answers for the make-ups must be extremely thorough to warrant a high grade. It is not to your advantage to miss my scheduled tests.

Attendance: worth 15 points

You may miss 5 class sessions without penalty. After that, you will lose 1 point for every absence. I do not distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. You are, therefore, strongly encouraged not to miss class carelessly because of the possibility of unexpected or unavoidable absences during the semester. No matter the reason, it is always your responsibility to contact other students to learn what you've missed and to get notes.

FINAL GRADES

Do NOT count on a curve. I will assign letter grades for the entire course as follows:

92.5 points and higher = A	72.5 to 77.49 points = C
90.0 to 92.49 points = A-	70 to 72.49 points = C-
87.5 to 89.99 points = B+	67.5 to 69.99 points = D+
82.5 to 87.49 points = B	62.5 to 67.49 points = D
80 to 82.49 points = B-	60 to 62.49 points = D-
77.5 to 79.99 points = C+	59.99 points and lower = F.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

I will hold you responsible for the information in this syllabus, so I expect you to read it, understand it, and ask questions about anything you don't understand. I do not print the syllabus, so you'll need to get it online.

Readings

Your most basic duty in this class is to read all of the assigned texts. Be sure to read the calendar of class meetings, readings, assignments, and exams. All readings are due on the day they are listed. You must have read them carefully, taken notes, and be prepared to pass a quiz and discuss them intelligently. Some of the time, I won't cover the readings in class, but the lectures will make more sense if you've done the reading ahead of time.

Incompletes

The University policy on incomplete grades requires that an Incomplete is to be negotiated in advance and include a contract between the student and professor. An Incomplete is not as an extension for a student to catch up on coursework; it reserved for extreme and rare circumstances that prevent a student from completing the final stages of the course.

Academic Integrity

I expect you to be familiar with the Temple University Policy on Academic Honesty in the Student Responsibilities and Rights section of the Undergraduate Bulletin, which defines all forms of cheating and the procedures for dealing with violations. As is always the case, you are responsible for your own work. If you find yourself questioning whether you have documented or cited your sources properly, it is your responsibility to come see me about these issues prior to submitting an assignment. If you are thinking about submitting work that is not your own due to pressure, frustration, perfectionism, or any other reason, please talk to me. I am here to help you resolve these issues before they become a problem for your academic career.

Disability Statement

This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Statement on Academic Freedom

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link:

http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Although I will do my best to keep us on schedule, it is possible that we will make some adjustments during the semester. I will give as much notice - both in class and on the course website - when changes are necessary.

JANUARY

22nd Welcome to the class

25th 📄 C. Wright Mills, "The sociological imagination"

28th 📄 Peter Berger, "An invitation to sociology" & 📄 Emile Durkheim, "What is a Social Fact"

30th 🗣️ Tootsie

FEBRUARY

1st 🗣️ Tootsie

4th [Last day to drop] 📄 Goffman, "Presentation of Self in Everyday Life"

6th 📄 Charles Horton Cooley, "The Looking-Glass Self"

8th 📄 Harold Garfinkel, "Studies of the routine grounds of everyday activities"

11th 📄 Andrew Cherlin, "Should the government promote marriage?"

13th Review for Exam 1

15th EXAM 1. Bring pencils. Be on time.

18th 🗣️ Ethnic Notions

20th 🗣️ Ethnic Notions

22nd 📄 Charles Mingus, "Liner notes" from Let My Children Hear Music

25th 📄 F. James Davis, "Who is black? The one-drop rule examined"

27th 📄 Herbert Gans, "Race as class"

29th 📄 Malcolm Gladwell, "What I.Q. doesn't tell you about race."

MARCH

3rd 📄 Kathleen Gerson and Jerry Jacobs, "The work-home crunch"

5th 📄 Pamela Stone, "The Rhetoric and Reality of 'Opting Out'"

7th 📄 Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas, "Unmarried with Children"

10th No Class – Enjoy Spring Break

12th No Class – Enjoy Spring Break

14th No Class – Enjoy Spring Break


17th 📄 Maureen Hallinan, "Tracking: From theory to practice"


19th 📄 Jay Gabler and Jason Kaufman, "Chess, cheerleading, Chopin: What gets you into college?"

21st Review for Exam 2

24th EXAM 2. Bring pencils. Be on time.


26th 🗣️ Stanford Prison Experiment

28th  Philip Zimbardo, "Pathology of Imprisonment"

31st  Stanley Milgram, "The Perils of Obedience"

APRIL

2nd  Howard Becker, "Becoming a Marihuana User"


4th  Karen Sternheimer, "Do Video Games Kill?"


7th  David Rosenhan, "Being sane in insane places"

9th  Wall Street


11th  Wall Street


14th  Barnet, Cynthia. "The Measurement of White-Collar Crime Using UCR Data"

16th  Frank Elwell, "Bureaucracy"


18th  Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital"

21st  Pamela Paxton, "Trust in decline?"


23rd  Barry Glassner, "Why Americans Fear the Wrong Things"

25th  Kathleen Tierney, "Disaster Beliefs"

28th  Lee Clarke, "Panic: Myth or Reality"

30th  Rebecca Solnit, "The Uses of Disaster: Notes on Bad Weather and Good Government"

MAY

2nd  Malcolm Gladwell, "Connecting the Dots"

5th Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM - Monday, May 12, 2:00 - 4:00pm

Good luck. I'm looking forward to a great semester.