

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30a-1:30p, Art of Espresso (Mandeville Coffee Cart)
Email: e1bender@ucsd.edu

"If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences."
W.I. Thomas

"The function of sociology, as with every science, is to reveal that which is hidden."
Pierre Bourdieu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Have you ever wondered why homelessness is still a problem? Why we dress babies in pastel blues and pinks? Why some of us are likely than others to get A's in college? Why police shootings are patterned by race? Why nurses are overwhelmingly women, while CEOs are overwhelmingly men? Some social patterns become so normal to us that we often overlook them, while others are so startlingly inequitable that we have to ask, how did we get here? Sociology provides a set of tools to systematically study these questions, and more. In general, sociology interrogates the many ways our lives are socially constructed. Sociology is a social science that investigates society, social relations, beliefs, and behavior – and the effects of these processes on individual lives.

At its most basic level, sociology requires us to question "common sense" and to push back against things that we often consider normal. It requires a particular disposition, what C. Wright Mills called "**the sociological imagination**," and a willingness to "**make the familiar strange**." This course will introduce you to some of the most basic, yet most profound, ways that our lives are socially constructed. Our class position, race, and gender are constructed identities that are inherently *arbitrary*, yet have tremendous consequences on our lives.

The goal of SOCI1 is to introduce you to core concepts in Sociology while also pushing you to examine your own lives as products of this society at this moment. To accomplish this goal, we will integrate a variety of readings, assignments, discussion topics, and activities. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Explain what sociology is and how sociologists ask/answer questions
 - Demonstrate the sociological imagination
 - Articulate how class, race, and gender are socially constructed, yet have real consequences
 - Critically read, reflect upon, and discuss sociological texts
 - Observe the social construction of reality in your immediate environment
 - Write coherent and sociologically informed analyses
 - Apply course material to analyze contemporary social phenomena
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

15% Reading Quizzes (5 quizzes, 3% each)

15% Observation field notes (3 observations, 5% each)

30% Prompted Essays (2 essays, 15% each)

25% Final Paper

15% Discussion Section Attendance/Participation

Discussion Section Attendance/Participation (15%)

Discussion section occurs in the hour before lecture. The TA has the autonomy to exercise complete discretion over the activities and assignments in the discussion section. All section activities will combine to be worth 15% of your course grade.

Reading Quizzes (15%)

We will have one reading quiz at each class meeting, with the exception of the first and last days of class, for a total of 8 quizzes. These short quizzes will consist of multiple choice/short answer questions that will assess your completion/comprehension of the readings due that day. The quizzes will be straightforward and drawn directly from

the reading. I will use the quizzes to take attendance in lecture, so you must be present in class to take the quiz. Your 3 lowest scoring quizzes will be dropped; only the 5 highest scoring quizzes will count toward your grade.

Observation Field Notes (15%)

One of the learning objectives for this class is to get you to see the world through a sociological lens. As such, we will practice observing our immediate social environment (the UCSD campus) and taking field notes on our observations, a common qualitative research method in sociology. We will take 1 hour out of class time each week to observe various facets of the UCSD campus, after which you will need to write and submit observation field notes and complete a survey about the experience. Observation field notes will be due in Weeks 2, 3, and 4. These field notes will be graded on a pass/no pass basis. More detailed instructions to follow.

Prompted Essays (30%)

You will be expected to write two short essays (2-3 pages), each responding to a specific essay prompt. More detailed instructions to follow. The essay prompts will be posted on TED and the papers will be due via upload to Turnitin on the following dates:

Prompted Essay #1 (15%)

Prompt posted on TED: Monday, July 6

Paper due via Turnitin: Friday, July 10 at 5pm

Prompted Essay #2 (15%)

Prompt posted on TED: Monday, July 20

Paper due via Turnitin: Friday, July 24 at 5pm

Final Paper (25%)

Your final exam in this class will be a take-home paper (4-5 pages) that explores the many ways that your particular identities are socially constructed. There will be a specific prompt for you to answer, however the general theme will be to fit the concepts of the course into your life. The paper is cumulative insofar as you will be expected to synthesize many different facets of the course to make a clear argument. The paper will be due via upload to Turnitin during the scheduled final exam period (Friday, July 31, 11:30am-2:30pm). More detailed instructions to follow.

COURSE POLICIES

Lecture Attendance

Attendance in lecture is mandatory. This course incorporates a range of activities that are meant to turn the classroom into an “active learning” environment, as such your attendance and participation are *crucial* for the class to function. In addition, lecture will supplement (not review) the course readings, thus lecture attendance is crucial to your success in this class. You are allowed one absence without any penalty to your grade (please note you will miss the quiz that day). After the first absence, your course grade will be reduced by 3 points for each additional absence.

Classroom Demeanor

As members of the UCSD Community, I expect each of us to respect each other and create a class environment that is conducive to civil engagement and discourse. This includes being attentive during lecture, not engaging in side conversations (especially when your fellow students are trying to participate), demonstrating a commitment to hearing alternative viewpoints and experiences, and discussing topics in a courteous manner.

Email Policies

Your UCSD email will be the primary way that I contact you. I will try to respond to your emails within 24 hours (Monday-Friday). In addition, I much prefer answering questions verbally, where we can discuss precisely what is confusing you and resolve the confusion together. Thus, if you email me with a question that will take more than a few sentences to answer, I will ask that you speak with me in office hours or make an appointment.

Accessibility

I want the course to be as accessible to as many different people as possible. If you have an OSD accommodation, please consult with me any time after class or contact me via email. I am happy to work with you. In addition, if you

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have had trouble with the standard approach to college courses, please come talk to me about it or send me an email. The earlier you come to see me, the more I can do to try to work with you to help alleviate any unique disadvantages.

Campus Resources for Students

Beverly Bernhardt (Sociology Department Student Affairs Officer): (858) 534-4627
Shannon Goodison (Sociology Department Undergraduate Advisor): (858) 534-4628
The Writing Center (for help with all kinds of writing): (858) 534-4911
CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services): (858) 534-3755
OASIS (tutoring and study skills): (858) 534-3760

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

I expect you to uphold UCSD's standards when it comes to academic integrity. I understand that sometimes it is hard to know what academic integrity means. As such, I have put a "Plagiarism Primer" and other resources on Academic Integrity on TED. You are expected to familiarize yourselves with these policies if you are otherwise unfamiliar. Any violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Academic Integrity Review Board.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(All required readings are posted on TED in PDF format)

Week 1: Sociology and the Social Construction of Reality

Monday, June 29: Course Introduction, Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Required Reading:

Watts, Duncan. "Preface: A Sociologists Apology." *Everything is Obvious, Until You Know the Answer*, p ix-xvi
Mills, C. Wright. "The Sociological Imagination" (in Massey 13-18)
Berger, Peter L. "Sociology as an Individual Pastime." (in Massey 3-12)

Wednesday, July 1: The social construction of reality, society, and ourselves

Field Demonstration: Social construction on a university campus

Required Reading:

Berger, Peter L. and Thomas Luckman. "Society as a Human Product" (in Lemert 384-388)
Goffman, Erving. "On Face-Work." (in Lemert 332-337)
Watts, Duncan. Excerpts of "The Myth of Common Sense" (3-15) & "The Wisdom (and Madness) of Crowds" (54-67)

Week 2: Class, Social Stratification, and the Construction of Life Chances

Monday, July 6: Class Inequality in America: The new elite, cultural capital, and meritocracy

Required Reading:

Johnson, Heather Beth. "American Dream of Meritocracy." (in Blair-Loy 73-85)
Brooks, David. "Bobos in Paradise." (in Grusky 304-310)
Lareau, Annette. "Concerted Cultivation and the Accomplishment of Natural Growth." (in Massey 278-287)

Wednesday, July 8: Class Inequality in America: Life chances and social mobility

Field Observations: Class on a university campus (Field notes due by 11:59pm)

Required Reading:

Ehrenreich, Barbara. "Nicked and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America" (in Massey 229-248)
Paules, Greta Foff. "Getting and Making a Tip" (in Massey 269-277)
Gans, Herbert. "Uses of the Underclass in America." (in Massey 332-344)

****First Prompted Writing Assignment due by Friday, July 10, to Turnitin.com.****

Week 3: Race, Racism, and the Construction of Life Chances

Monday: July 13: Race as a social construction, race privilege

Required Reading:

Conley, Dalton. Excerpt from "Chapter 13: Race." *You May Ask Yourself*, p491-507.
Waters, Mary C. "Optional Ethnicities: For Whites Only?" (in Massey 217-226)
Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. "Racism Without Racists." (in Anderson and Hill Collins 91-97)

Wednesday, July 15: Racial Inequality

Field Observations: Race on a university campus (*Field notes due by 11:59pm*)

Required Reading:

Oliver, Melvin L. and Thomas M. Shapiro. "Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality." (in Grusky 673-677)
Bertrand, Marianne and Sendhil Mullainathan. "Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination." (in Grusky 673-677)
Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. "We are all Americans! The Latin Americanization of Racial Stratification in the USA." *Race & Society* 5: 3-16.

Week 4: Gender, Gender Inequality, and the Construction of Life Chances

Monday: July 20: The social construction of gender difference, masculinity, and femininity

Required Reading:

Kimmel, Michael. "Human Beings: An Engendered Species." *The Gendered Society*, p1-17.
Messner, Michael. "Barbie Girls versus Sea Monsters." *Gender & Society* 14(6): 765-784.

Wednesday, July 22: Contemporary gender inequality and gender relations

Field Observations: Gender on a university campus (*Field notes due by 11:59pm*)

Required Reading:

Johnson, Allan G. "Patriarchy, The System." *The Gender Knot*, p75-98.
Kimmel, Michael. "Masculinity as Homophobia." *Theorizing Masculinities* edited by Brod and Kaufman, p119-139

****Second Prompted Writing Assignment due by Friday, July 24, toTurnitin.com.****

Week 5: Identities, Intersectionality, Looking Forward

Monday: July 27: Intersectional identities

Required Reading:

Frye, Marilyn. "Oppression" (in Anderson and Hill Collins 29-32)
Amott, Teresa and Julie Matthaei. "Race, Class, Gender, And Women's Works." (Anderson and Hill Collins 283-292)
Bettie, Julie. "Women Without Class." (in Massey 184-197)
Barber, Kristen. "The Well-Coiffed Man." (in Blair-Loy 451-459)

Wednesday, July 29: Sociology and social change

Required Reading:

Burawoy, Michael. "Public Sociologies." (in Massey 27-33)
Jamila, Shani. "Can I Get a Witness? Testimony from a Hip Hop Feminist." (in Anderson and Hill Collins 557-564)

****Final Paper due by 2:30pm on Friday, July 31, toTurnitin.com.****

Anthology References

Anderson, Margaret L. and Patricia Hill Collins (Editors). 2007. *Race, Class, & Gender*, 6th Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
Blair-Loy, Mary (Editor). 2013. *Introduction to Sociology*, 2nd Edition. San Diego, CA: Cognella.
Grusky, David B. (Editor). 2008. *Social Stratification*, 3rd Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview.
Lemert, Charles (Editor). 2004. *Social Theory*, 3rd Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview.

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Massey, Garth (Editor). 2009. *Readings for Sociology*, 6th Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.