

Soc 001-001
Introduction to Sociology
University of Pennsylvania
Fall 2004
Dr. Edin

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Office Hours: By prior appointment only, Wednesday, 12:30-2:30.

Text: Introduction to Sociology, 4th Edition.
Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, Richard P. Appelbaum
Other Reading Assignments on Blackboard (#1-#4)

In this course, we will look at human behavior through the lens of sociology. Humans are social animals and are profoundly influenced by the social groups to which they belong. These groups include the family one is born into, one's gender, race and ethnicity, and the neighborhood, city, region, and country in which one lives. They also include religious and political affiliations and one's economic and social position within the larger strata of the society in which one lives. As humans participate in each of the groups to which they belong, their behavior, beliefs, and even those things they come to define as "normal" or "real" are shaped by their interactions with other group members.

My rules for the course are quite simple. First, show up to the lectures. I promise to make them as useful and stimulating as possible. You'll need to take careful lecture notes to do well on the exams. Second, show up to sections. We do take attendance in sections (see below) and it counts toward your grade. Third, your TA is your lifeline, so carefully cultivate this relationship. They will be responsible for teaching a third of the course material, but will do so by using active and collaborative learning techniques that should keep you awake. The TAs will work closely with me to write exams, and will assist in determining your final grade.

Grading Policy: Students who want an A grade must demonstrate they have mastered 90 percent of the course material. Students who score 87-89 will receive a B+, 84-86 a B, 80-83, a B-, and so on. Students must score at least 60 percent to pass the course.

One third of your final grade will be determined by your score on the midterm exam and another third by your performance on the final exam. The final exam is not cumulative. The final third will be based on your performance in your discussion section. We allow each student to miss one discussion section without penalty, but the absence must be excused. If the student misses more than one section, a penalty will ensue, whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Students missing more than three discussion sections (more than a third of the total), even if these absences are excused, will fail the discussion section part of the course. In practical terms, what this means is that even if you receive perfect scores on the midterm and final exams, your final grade will be a D. If your exam scores are not perfect, you'll probably fail the course. There will be no exceptions to these policies for individual students, as this is unfair to others who abide by the rules.

Exam Format: We will draw test questions from both lectures and the text (about half and half). Note, though, that you are responsible for all material presented in lectures, regardless of whether it is also in the text. The same goes for the text (you are responsible for all assigned text material even if it is not referred to in class).

The midterm exam is in two parts: a mixed-mode, in-class exam (multiple choice, short answer) and a take home essay. The essay assignment will be due on the Monday following the midterm exam (hand it in at the beginning of class). You must take the midterm exam at the scheduled time. We will not accept late midterm essays. Essay assignments must be submitted in hardcopy. *Electronic submissions are not acceptable.*

The final exam is also in two parts, but you will complete both during the final exam period. Again, there will be a mixed-mode exam (multiple choice, short answer) and a number of short essay questions. The final exam must also be taken at the scheduled time. No early exams will be given under any circumstances, so make your travel plans accordingly.

Discussion Sections: In week one, TAs will assign students to permanent groups. These groups will complete five group assignments during the course of the quarter. Students will be graded both as a group and individually, as each student will submit an independent written report on Exercises 2-4. The group work is why section attendance is so important.

Here is the schedule of events.

STUDYING SOCIOLOGY

September 8	The Birth of a Discipline	
<i>Section Assignment: Assign Students to Permanent Groups. Attendance Mandatory</i>		
September 13th	What Sociology Is	Chapter 1
September 15th	Asking Questions the Sociological Way	Chapter 2
<i>Section Assignment: Begin Exercise 1 (Who Am I?)</i>		

THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

September 20th	The Power of Culture	Chapter 3
September 22 nd	Socialization and Social Roles	Chapter 4
<i>Section Assignment: Discuss Exercise 1. Short Papers Due. In-Class Discussion.</i>		
September 27 th	Film: TBA	
September 29 th	Performing Social Roles	Blackboard #1
<i>Section Assignment: Begin Exercise 2.</i>		

October 4 th	Doing Things Together I: Interaction	Chapter 5
October 6 th	Doing Things Together II: Groups	Chapter 6
<i>Section Assignment: Discuss Exercise 2. Short Papers Due. In-Class Presentations</i>		

October 11 th	What is Normal and What is Deviant?	Chapter 7
October 13 th	Deviance and Conformity	
<i>Section Assignment: Begin Exercise 3.</i>		

STRUCTURES OF POWER

October 18 th	Class, Status, and Power	Chapters 8 and 9
October 20 th	Sexism and Racism	Chapters 10 and 11
<i>Section Assignment: Exam Review</i>		

October 25 th	Midterm Exam	
October 27 th	America Unequal	Blackboard #2
<i>Section Assignment: No Sections</i>		

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

November 1 st	Exam Return	Exam Essays Due
November 3 rd	Work and the Economy	Chapter 14
<i>Section Assignment: Discuss Exercise 3. Short Papers Due. In-Class Presentations.</i>		

November 8 th	The Family	Chapter 15
November 10 th	Transformations in the American Family	Blackboard #3
<i>Section Assignment: Begin Exercise 4.</i>		

November 15 th	Education	Chapter 16
November 17 th	How Families and Schools Reproduce Inequality	Blackboard #4
<i>Section Assignment: Discuss Exercise 4. Short Papers Due. In-Class Presentations.</i>		

November 22 nd	Religion	Chapter 17
November 24 th	The American Religious Economy	

Section Assignment: Begin Exercise 5.

SOCIAL CHANGE

November 29 th	Urbanization	Chapters 19 and 20
December 1 st	The American City	

*Section Assignment: Discuss Exercise 5. **Short Papers Due.** In-Class Presentations.*

December 6 th	Social Movements	Chapter 13
December 8 th	The Anatomy of the Social Movement	
Section Assignment: Exam Review.		

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 21st, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.