Sociology 211  
Fall 2008  
Introduction to Sociology

Monday lecture at noon in PSYCH 105  
Wed/Fri or Tue/Thursday conferences in ETC 205

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The following books can be purchased from the Reed College Bookstore:

Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and The Spirit of Capitalism
Michael Burawoy, Manufacturing Consent
Robert Dahl, Who Governs?

These and other course readings have been placed on reserve at the library. Please consult the sociology department website for links to on-line syllabi for Sociology 211 as well as other departmental offerings: http://academic.reed.edu/sociology/

Most journal articles are available through JSTOR, a web-based archive of academic journals that is available at any networked computer on campus (http://www.jstor.org/). JSTOR can also be located through the Reed College Library web page. Note that only one or two paper copies of electronically available "JSTOR" articles have been placed on reserve. Using JSTOR means you don’t have to wait for reserve articles to be returned, and it wastes less paper.

Readings and written assignments: This is a lecture and discussion based course. The class will challenge you to reexamine classical questions (e.g., what caused the industrial revolution, why did industrialization create new kinds of racism, sexism) in order to push you to clearly articulate sociological efforts to test alternative theories empirically. The readings are demanding and require intensive examination of a broad variety of issues and methods. You are likely to encounter strong opinions and it is inevitable that at least some of these opinions will make you or your classmates uncomfortable. You will be expected to strike a healthy balance in conference between arguing your own position on these issues, listening to others, and helping the class as a collectivity to explore how the sociologists you read defend their approaches. Each member of the class is expected to abide by the Reed Honor principle, according to which you must both take responsibility on yourself to think about how your actions and words affect others, and share responsibility with your peers for enabling the class as a whole to achieve its highest intellectual aims without alienating or marginalizing anyone. Your regular attendance at lectures and active participation in conference are necessary for the class to work. Themes and approaches will shift considerably from one week to the next, and in-class discussions will be necessary for you and your colleagues to demonstrate to each other how they fit together. Written work will include a mid-term exam, occasional computer labs and a final exam. We will expect written work to be submitted on time.
Reading Assignments

Week 1 Thinking sociologically

9/3

9/5


• Charles Warriner, "Groups Are Real" (reserve folder) OR on line (go to library webpage, [http://library.reed.edu/](http://library.reed.edu/); select "Databases & Other Catalogs", then select “JSTOR”, search JSTOR for Charles Warriner, "Groups Are Real," *American Sociological Review)*

Week 2 Marx: The Study of Industrial Capitalism

9/8 Lecture (PSYCH 105)


9/10


9/12

• Michael Burawoy, *Manufacturing Consent*, chapters 4-5 (HD6955 .B85)

Week 3 Weber: The Study of Domination and Rationalized Authority

9/15 Lecture (PSYCH 105)

  "Prefatory Remarks," pp.149-164;
  "Religious Affiliation and Social Stratification," pp. 3-12;
  "Calvinism," pp. 53-80;
  "Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism," pp. 103-125
• All other editions, translated by Talcott Parsons:
  "Author's Introduction," pp. 13-31;
  "Religious Affiliation and Social Stratification," pp. 35-46;
  "The Spirit of Capitalism," pp. 47-78;
  "Calvinism," pp. 95-128;
  "Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism," pp. 155-183

9/17

• Michael Burawoy, Manufacturing Consent, chapters 6-7 (HD6955 .B85)

9/19
• Michael Burawoy, Manufacturing Consent, chapters 11-12 (HD6955 .B85)

• Lauren Edelman, "Legal Environments and Organizational Governance," American Journal of Sociology (JSTOR)

Week 4 Durkheim: The Study of Social Solidarity

9/22  Lecture (PSYCH 105)
• Emile Durkheim, Suicide (HV6545 .D813 1951a or HV6545 .D96 S2 1951)
  "Book 2," chapters 1-2, pp. 145-70;
  "Book 2," chapter 3, section I, pp. 171-80
  "Book 2," chapter 3, section IV, pp. 197-216

9/24  Emile Durkheim, Suicide (HV6545 .D813 1951a or HV6545 .D96 S2 1951)
  "Book 2," chapter 4, pp. 217-228;

  "Book 2," chapter 1, sec. 1 (first 3 pages only, pp. 100-103 [ready only through the first paragraph on page 103]);
  "Book 2," chapter 7, sec. 1, 2, 3 (pp. 207-225)

Week 5  Social Stratification

9/29 Lecture (PSYCH 105)

- David Grusky, "The Contours of Social Stratification" (reserve folder)

10/1

- Melvin Tumin, "Some Principles of Stratification," American Sociological Review (Click on link to JSTOR)

10/3

- William J. Wilson, The Declining Significance of Race, ch. 1, 3 5 (E185.W73 1980)
- Michael Piore, "The Dual Labor Market" (reserve folder)

Week 6  Mead, Goffman and the Study of Symbolic, Face-to Face Interaction

10/6 Lecture (PSYCH 105)

- George Herbert Mead, Mind Self and Society from the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist (edited by Charles W. Morris). Select items #1, #3, #5, #7, #12 of "Part III: The Self" at the following website:
  http://www.brocku.ca/MeadProject/Mead/pubs2/mindself/Mead_1934_toc.html
  Transcripts of Mead's lectures, including most of the above, may also be found in George Herbert Mead, On Social Psychology (edited by Anselm Strauss) (B945.M47 S6) as follows:
  "The Self and the Organism," pp. 199-209;
  "Play, the Game and the Generalized Other," pp. 216-228;
  "The 'I' and the 'Me'," pp. 228-233
  "Mind as the Individual Importation of the Social Process"
  "A Contrast of Individualistic and Social Theories of Self," pp. 241-246

10/8

- West and Zimmerman "Doing Gender" Gender and Society (1987) (JSTOR)

10/10

- Elijah Anderson, Streetwise: Race, Class, And Change In An Urban Community, Chapters 6 and 8 (HN80.P5 A53 1990)
Week 7  Simmel and the Study of Social Networks

10/13  Lecture (PSYCH 105)

10/15  
  •  **Take-Home Exam distributed in class on Wednesday, October 15**

10/17  
  •  **Take-Home Exam due by 3:00 p.m. Friday, October 17**

Week 8  FALL BREAK

Week 9  Empirical social science: The General Social Survey, Variables Typologies

10/27 Lecture (PSYCH 105)

10/29 Computer Lab (ETC 205)
  •  Browse the codebook for the General Social Survey (GSS)1972-2000 Cumulative Datafile (http://webapp.icpsr.umich.edu/GSS/)

10/31 Computer Lab (ETC 205)

Week 10  Empirical social science: Linking Cause and Effect

11/3 Lecture (PSYCH 105)

Key resources for the next two weeks:
  •  Ivy Lee and Minako Maykovich, "Organizing and Describing Nominal and Ordinal Bivariate Data." chapter 4 in *Statistics, A Tool for Understanding Society* (reserve)

READ ONE of the following:
  •  Frederick Gravetter and Larry Wallnau, "Correlation and Regression." chapter 16 in *Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences* (reserve)
11/5 Computer Lab (ETC 205)
    • Review Monday's reading

11/7 Computer Lab (ETC 205)
    • No reading

**Week 11  Empirical social science: Controlling for extraneous variables**

11/10 Lecture (PSYCH 105)
    • No reading

11/12 Computer Lab (ETC 205)
    • No reading

11/14 Computer Lab (ETC 205)
    • No reading

**Week 12 The Social Construction of Order**

11/17 Lecture (PSYCH 105)
    • Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann, *The Social Construction of Reality*, chapter II section 1, pp. 47-92 (BD175 B4)

11/19

11/21

**Week 13 Political Sociology**

11/24 Lecture (PSYCH 105)

11/26
    • Robert Dahl, *Who Governs?* pp. 115-140; 163-165; 184-189; 305-310 (JS 1195.2 .D2 on reserve)

11/28 Thanksgiving Holiday
Week 14 Social Movements and Change

12/1 Lecture (PSYCH 105)

• Alexandra Hrycak, "The Coming of 'Chrysler Imperial': Ukrainian Youth and Rituals of Resistance," *Harvard Ukrainian Studies* (1997) (reserve or via the following: http://academic.reed.edu/sociology/faculty/hrycak/)

12/3


12/5


Week 15 Wrap up

12/8 Lecture (PSYCH 105)

12/10 LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Final exam due Friday, DECEMBER 12 at 5:00 p.m.

*Reed College policy: No work for fall courses may be submitted after DECEMBER 18*