

SOCIOLOGY 100.14
INTRODUCTION to SOCIOLOGY
2011-2012

Dr. R. Bantjes
Annex Rm 9B
Tel: 867-2479

Office hours: Monday 2:15-3:15; Tuesday 10:45-12:30; Thursday 10:15-12:05

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Sociologists study how people create society and are created by it. This course introduces basic concepts and methods of sociology and demonstrates their use in analysing human societies. The focus will be on social, economic, and political life in contemporary Canada. Sociological approaches will be critically evaluated in light of their utility for understanding, and for modifying, social realities.

The course will provide conceptual tools for the social or natural scientist interested in improving her/his understanding of human society and social behaviour. It will also provide a foundation for students interested in pursuing further studies in sociology.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Bourgois, Philippe and Jeffrey Schonberg. 2009. *Righteous Dopefiend*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Plus readings made available through the Moodle outline.

COURSE WORK and EVALUATION:

Participation (16-30%) Participation in forums and in class (including attendance) The total is 30%, but your total will be reduced proportionally to 23% if you do the October or February quiz, and to 16% if you do both quizzes.

October Quiz (October, 2101) (7%) The quiz is meant as a 'second chance' for those who are not contributing adequately to the forums and in-class discussions. Most students will NOT have to write the October Quiz.

December Exam (December, 2010) (15%) **Research Project** (March 10, 2011) (20%) February Quiz (February 17, 2011) (7%)

The quiz is meant as a 'second chance' for those who are not contributing adequately to the forums and in-class discussions. Most students will NOT have to write the October Quiz. Final Exam (April, 2011) (35%)

OUTLINE:

• **8 September - 14 September**

Introduction

Grossberg, Lawrence. "[Cultural Studies, the War against Kids, and the Re-Becoming of US Modernity](#)." *Postcolonial Studies* 6(3):327-49.

-  [Understanding Grossberg Forum](#)

This week 15 September - 21 September

Making Social Order

Solnit, Rebecca. 2009 "[Prelude: Falling Together](#)" *A Paradise Built in Hell: the Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disasters*. New York: Viking. (10 pp.)

Solnit, Rebecca. 2009 "[A Millennial Good Fellowship: The San Francisco Earthquake](#)" *A Paradise Built in Hell* (57 pp.)

Concepts: interactional order, coercive order, ideology, market relations /community relations, anarchism, altruism, mutual aid

Questions: How do authorities expect people to act in crises? How do they actually act? Why is there a difference between expectations and reality? Why is disaster sociology relevant in the 21st century?

-  [Understanding Solnit Forum](#)

22 September - 28 September

Making Social Order

Bourgois, and Schonberg. 2009. "Everyday Addicts" *Righteous Dopefiend*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Bourgois, and Schonberg. "Introduction." "A Community of Addicted Bodies" *Righteous Dopefiend*

29 September - 5 October

Making Social Order

Geiser, Saul. 2001 "[Goffman: Rituals of Interaction](#)." *Conflict, Order and Action Readings in Sociology*. 3rd ed. Ksenych, Edward and David Liu. eds. Toronto, Ont: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Concepts: definition of the situation, social role, performance of self, team, front-stage vs backstage, giving vs giving off impressions, micro-level analysis, ritual

Questions: List and describe the techniques that 'teams' use to construct and maintain a 'definition of the situation.' What is Goffman's conception of human nature and self-identity?

-  [Understanding Goffman Forum](#)

6 October - 12 October

Making Social Order

Boellstorff, Tom. 2008. "Community." *Coming of Age in Second Life*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

13 October - 19 October

Given Social Order: Cultural

Harris, Marvin. 1974. "[Mother Cow](#)." *Cows Pigs Wars and Witches*, New York: Random House.

Concepts: culture, system, interdependence, latent function, functionalism, self-interest vs social interest, cultural materialism, environmental adaptation

Questions: What are the latent functions of cow worship?

-  [Understanding Harris Forum](#)

20 October - 26 October

The Sociological Imagination

Mills, Charles W. 1959. "[The Promise](#)" *The Sociological Imagination*. New York, Oxford University Press.

Concepts: sociological imagination, personal trouble /public issues, structural explanations, linking macro-level and macro-level analysis

Questions: What does Mills think the promise of sociology is? What are the great structural changes facing us in the 21st century?

-  [Understanding Mills Forum](#)

27 October - 2 November

Structures of Power: Bureaucracy

Weber, Max. 1946. "[Bureaucracy](#)." *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, ed H. H. Gerth and C. W. Mills. New York: Oxford University Press. (13 pp.)

Concepts: bureaucracy, office farming, corruption, accountability, separation of office and incumbent, division of labour, ...bureaucratization, state, violence, authority
Questions: How does Weber's theory of bureaucracy relate to Solnit's anarchism?

-  [Understanding Weber Forum](#)

3 November - 9 November

Structures of Power: Panopticism

Bentham, Jeremy. 1791 *Panopticon or, the Inspection-House*. Dublin: Thomas Byrne.

Concepts: natural policing, face-to-face community, rural-urban, surveillance, the crowd, retribution vs rehabilitation, autonomization of power, internalization

Questions: Is there community in large cities? If so, is it different from community in small places? If so, how?

Exercise: Panopticism in Antigone

-  [Understanding Bentham Forum](#)

10 November - 16 November

Structures of Power: Market

Smith, Adam. 1776. [1776] "[The Division of Labour](#)" *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. Project Gutenberg. [Just read chapters 1 and 2]

Concepts: division of labour, selfish individualism, market logic, liberal-ism, neo-liberal-ism, social Darwinism, naturalisation of the social, ideology

Questions: What are the examples of market logic in the responses to disasters? Can markets organize all social relationships?

-  [Understanding Market Relations Forum](#)

17 November - 23 November

Structures of Power: Class and Structural Change

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1848. [2004] *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Project Gutenberg. [Read Part I Bourgeois and Proletarians]

Concepts: capitalism, uprooting, reserve army of labour, class position, alienation, exploitation, class consciousness, class solidarity, bourgeoisie, proletariat, petty bourgeoisie, managers, semi-autonomous wage earners, small employers, globalization,

Questions: Is class relevant in the 21st century?

-  [Understanding Marx and Engels Forum](#)

24 November - 30 November

Structures of Power: Class and Structural Change

Finkel, Alvin. 1977. "Origins of the Welfare State in Canada." *The Canadian State: Political Economy and Political Power*, ed Leo Panitch. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

-  [Class Categories Questionnaire](#)

1 December - 7 December

Review

8 December - 14 December

Study

15 December - 21 December

Break

22 December - 28 December

Break

29 December - 4 January

Break

5 January - 11 January

Structures of Power: Labour Markets

Bourgois, Philippe and Jeffrey Schonberg. 2009. "Making Money." *Righteous Dopefiend*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

12 January - 18 January

Structures of Power: Labour Markets

Klein, Naomi. 2000. "Threats and Temps." *No Logo*. Vintage Canada ed. Toronto: Random House.

19 January - 25 January

Structures of Power: States and Populations

Wacquant, Loic. 2009. "Social Insecurity and the Punitive Upsurge." *Punishing the Poor the Neoliberal Government of Social Insecurity*. Durham NC: Duke University Press.

26 January - 1 February

Structures of Power: States and Populations

Moon, Claire. 2011. "The Crime of Crimes and the Crime of Criminology: Genocide, Criminology and Darfur." *The British Journal of Sociology* 62(1):49-55.

2 February - 8 February

Deviance and Biopower

Abraham, John. 2010. "Pharmaceuticalization of Society in Context: Theoretical, Empirical and Health Dimensions." *Sociology* 44(4):603-622.

9 February - 15 February

Deviance and Biopower

Bourgois and Schonberg. "Treatment" *Righteous Dopefiend*

16 February - 22 February

Break

23 February - 29 February

Gender and Sexuality

Boellstorff, Tom. 2008. "Personhood." *Coming of Age in Second Life*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

1 March - 7 March

Gender and Sexuality

Bourgois and Schonberg. "Falling in Love" *Righteous Dopefiend*.

8 March - 14 March

Race and Racism

Bourgois and Schonberg. "Intimate Apartheid." *Righteous Dopefiend*.

15 March - 21 March

Structures of Power: The Built Environment

Winner, Langdon. 1986. "[Do Artifacts Have Politics?](#)" *The Whale and the Reactor: a Search for Limits in an Age of High Technology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (20pp.)

Concepts: sociological imagination, social structure, built environment, structural inequality, race, class, structural racism

Questions: How is social advantage /disadvantage built into modern cities?

-  [Understanding Winner Forum](#)

22 March - 28 March

Structures of Power: The “Natural” Environment

McKibben, Bill. 2010 “A New World.” *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*. Toronto: Knopf Canada.

29 March - 4 April

Review