

Introduction to Sociology
The College of New Jersey
Sociology 101 Section 06
Spring 2008
Mon/Thur 12:30-1:50 SB #321

Len Albright
Office Hours: Mon 11-12 or by Appt.
856-313-8473
albright@tcnj.edu

Why do women earn less than men for comparable work? Why are some cities filled with abandoned houses, while in other cities a 1-bedroom apartment costs \$400,000? How do medical doctors gain our trust? Why do fertility rates vary by race and ethnicity? How are new technologies like Facebook and I-Phones changing the way we communicate with each other? Why is graffiti considered a crime but the white picket fence an American ideal? These are the types of questions asked by sociologists.

In this class, students will learn the tools and perspective to understand the world from a sociological point of view. Students will be introduced to the basic foundations of sociology, including its development as a field of inquiry, early sociological theory, and methodology. Students will investigate how culture, class, race, gender, family, education, and government interrelate to create their day-to-day experience of being alive. Special attention will be paid to both the local and global forces that shape social life.

Class Objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of the sociological perspective.
2. Develop an understanding of key concepts in sociology and their application to sociological phenomena.
3. Understand the logic and practice of conducting sociological research.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the functioning of society and its institutions.
5. Develop the ability to recognize the impact of social issues on your life and how that knowledge can provide you with tools and perspectives with which to approach the world.

Disability Disclosure Statement

Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible or contact the Office of Disability Services at 609-771-2571 or yamiolko@tcnj.edu.

Required Readings

****Please note the edition number****

Introduction to Sociology. 6th Edition. 2007. Giddens, Anthony; Mitchell Duneier; and Richard P. Appelbaum. New York, NY: W.W. Norton Publishers.

Readings for Sociology. 5th Edition. 2005. Massey, Garth. New York, NY:W.W. Norton Publishers.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Class sessions will consist of a combination of lecture, discussion, short films, and other multimedia presentations. Students should come to class having read all of the assigned readings for that day and should be prepared to answer/ask questions and discuss the session topic. Students will be evaluated through the following course requirements, which should be completed under the guise of the TCNJ Honor Code:

Attendance and Class Participation (10%)

Class attendance will be taken for each class session. Students are expected to attend each class session and engage in active discussion. Please notify me in advance if you will be missing a class session for a health related appointment, illness, or other engagement.

Please turn off cell phones before the beginning of class. Students whose cell phones ring in class will receive no points for that day's class participation.

Short Assignments (30%):

There will be 3 short assignments due over the course of the semester. Each assignment will be worth 10% of your grade. Each assignment must be at least 2 pages long double-spaced, but can certainly be longer if needed. Students are free to choose when they hand-in each assignment and in what order they are completed, although only one assignment can be handed in per week. I will not accept assignments via email, a paper copy must be given to me in class on the **MONDAY** of the relevant week. Each assignment should draw on and make explicit connections to themes found in the week's readings. These assignments are intended partly to demonstrate that you have completed the week's readings. For example, an assignment handed in on 2/11 should draw on the readings on culture.

Assignment #1: Find a recent newspaper article that elaborates on the week's theme. For example, an article about a labor strike on a farm would be suitable for the 4/14 session on labor. Please print out or attach the article. Discuss how the article relates to the session theme and issues raised in the week's readings. How is the issue discussed in the article sociological? Evaluate the author's argument based on your knowledge of "good" sociological inference.

Assignment #2: Go to a public place, e.g. park, coffee shop, student center. Observe people's interactions or lack thereof for 1 hour. To what extent are interactions in this place structured by the session topic? To what extent are they not? How might interactions in this place be different if society were different?

Assignment #3: Observe a meeting of group in which you belong, e.g. sports team workplace, religious group, club, family, circle of friends. Pick an aspect of the group interaction relating to the week's theme, and describe/analyze how it is relevant to the nature of the group's functioning. What are the positives and negatives of this influence on the group?

Take-Home Midterm Examination (30%)

The midterm will be a take-home exam, distributed on 3/6 and due on 3/20. The exam will consist of short answers and essays dealing with topics and themes covered during the first eight weeks of class.

Final Examination (30%)

The final examination will be in-class and will cover weeks 10-15, although students will be expected to draw connections to themes and subjects discussed during the first half of the semester. The exam will consist of short answers, multiple choice, and short essays. I will gladly hold a review session if the class so desires.

WEEK I. January 24: *Introductions/Overview*

WEEK II. January 28-31: *Sociological Perspectives: From Personal and Private to Public and Social*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 1

Mills, C. Wright, "From the Sociological Imagination" (pp 13-18)

Durkheim, Emile, "What Makes Sociology Different" (pp 19-26)

WEEK III. February 4-7: *Doing Sociology: Turning Observations into Arguments*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 2

Burawoy, Michael, "Public Sociologies" (pp 27-33)

Best, Joel. "Telling the Truth About Damned Lies and Statistics." (pp 52-58)

WEEK IV. February 11-14: *Culture: How Facebook, Starbucks, and The Wire are all Connected*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 3

Kluckholm, Clyde. "Queer Customs (from Mirror for Man)" (pp 73-80)

Hostetler, John A. "From Amish Society" (pp 441-446)

Waters, Mary. "Optional Ethnicities: For Whites Only?" (pp 136-145)

WEEK V. February 18-21: *Socialization: White Picket Fences and Business Casual*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 4 and 5

Messner, Michael, "Boyhood, Organized Sports, and the Construction of Masculinities."
(pp 88-103)

Kelman, H., "The My Lai Massacre: A Crime of Obedience." (pp 34-51)

WEEK VI. February 25-28: *Deviance and Crime: From Street Corners to the Boardroom*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 7

Anderson, Elijah, "The Code of the Street." (pp 171-183)

Shearing, Clifford D. and Phillip C. Stenning. "From the Panopticon to Disney World."
(pp 296-301)

Chambliss, William J. "The Saints and the Roughnecks" (pp 302-315)

WEEK VII. March 3-6: *Stratification, Class Structure, and Poverty*

Take-home Mid-Term will be distributed March 6

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 8, Chapter 16

Reich, Robert B. "What Happened to the American Social Compact?" (210-217)

Eitzen, D. "Upward Mobility Through Sport?" (pp 202-209)

Romero, Mary. "from Maid in the USA." (pp 267-281)

WEEK VIII. March 10-13: *Spring Break, No Class.*

WEEK IX. March 17-20: *Gender: Little Miss Sunshine, the Governator, and Pat*

Mid-Term Due March 20

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 10

Fernea, Elizabeth W. and Robert A. Fernea, "A Look Behind the Veil" (pp 164-170)

Paules, Greta. "Getting and Making a Tip." (pp 193-201)

WEEK X. March 24-27: *Race and Ethnicity: Melting Pots and Salad Bowls*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 11

Brandt, Allan M. "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study"
(pp 59-70)

Stack, Carol B. "Domestic Networks" (pp 371-375)

Ardizzone, Heidi and Earl Lewis, "Love and Race Caught in the Public Eye"
(pp 146-151)

WEEK XI. March 31-April 3: *Family: My Two Dads?*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapters 15

Hochschild, Arlie Russell. "The Emotional Geography of Work and Family Life"
(pp 376-389)

Gupta, Giri Raj, "Love, Arranged Marriage, and the Indian Social Structure"
(pp 355-365)

McDonald, Kim A. "Shared Paternity." (pp 366-370)

WEEK XII. April 7-10: *Health, Aging, and the Body*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 12

Friedan, Betty, "Old Age as a Time for New Opportunities" (486-499)

Additional Reading TBA

WEEK XIII. April 14-17: *Labor and Jobs: McJobs, Minimum Wage, and the Search for the American Dream(job)*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 14

Ehrenreich, Barbara. "Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America."
(pp 228-247)

Thompson, William E. "Hanging Tongues: A Sociological Encounter with the Assembly Line." (pp 390-398)

Ritzer, George. "The McDonald's System." (pp 399-405)

WEEK XIV. April 21-24 *Globalization: Global Cities, iPhones, and the International Marketplace*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 20

Rodriguez, Richard, "Go North, Young Man." (pp 184-190)

Isbister, John. "The Foundations of Third World Poverty" (pp 338-344)

Watson, James L. McDonald's in Hong Kong." (pp 152-163)

McKibben, Bill, "An Alternative to Globalization." (pp 500-507)

WEEK XV. April 28-May 1 Last Day of Class: *Urbanization and Population*

Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 19

Feagin, Joe R. and Robert Parker, "The Rise and Fall of Mass Rail Transit" (pp 290-295)

Wapner, Paul. "Greenpeace and Political Globalism." (pp 477-485)

Final Exam Session: Date and Time TBA