

Sociology 101 Introduction to Sociology  
Fall Semester, 2003 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

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*Instructor:* Dr. Thomas W. Neumann

*Office Hours:* 205B Language Hall (Oxford Campus)  
T, Th ca. 0830-0930  
M, W, F ca. 0800-0830, 0930-1020

If you think that you are having problems or are, in some way, confused, please come in and see me. Even if you are not having problems, you are more than welcome to stop by anyway. A course like this is just that: A path charted through an intellectual region of much greater range. It is pleasant at times just to sit back and discuss the landscape.

### *Course Objectives*

Sociology examines how groups of people organize themselves and interact, both amongst themselves and with other groups of people. Sociology has always had two goals: Understanding how societies really work; and checking to see if commonly held beliefs about the how and why of social behavior are, indeed, true. Historically, many sociologists also have sought solutions to what they have seen as social problems. Thus, Sociology emerged not just as the study of how people organize themselves, but as a field that might be able to solve social problems.

The course aims to provide a basic understanding both of the concepts of Sociology, as well as of how the societies of the United States and similar Western nations are configured. As part of this, your awareness of how your own society works will allow some measure of protection from exploitation while enhancing your ability to effect change where and when it is needed. By the end of the class, you should be able to go on to more advanced classes in Sociology, should that be your desire.

To do all of this, we will look first at how sociological research is done and how societies are structured. Once we have a sense of how the basic societal "engine" is set up, we will look at ranked societies, with particular emphasis on the United States. The issue becomes one of social inequality and the various forms that it takes. After looking at the features of inequality, we will explore several of the major social institutions, particularly how they are set up and what they attempt to achieve.

### *Course Requirements: Tests*

Three tests must be taken to receive full credit for the class. Each test will focus on its particular segment of the course. These tests will be given on 29 September, on 27 October, and during the scheduled final-exam period on Thursday 11 December from 0900 - 1200.

The College asks us to remind you that the Honor Code is in force at all times, and that you are to be familiar with it (see *Oxford College of Emory University 2003-2004 Catalog*, pp.98-101).

### *Course Grading*

Grading for the course will use the +/- system discussed on p.86, *Oxford College of Emory University 2003-2004 Catalog*. The table below gives the anticipated grading scale. Final authority for interpretations and grading rests with the instructor.

<i>Anticipated Test Scores and Grade Equivalents</i>	<i>Level of Work Quality and Command of the Information</i>
A = 100 - 87	Outstanding and superior work for a student in a top-tier national university
A- = 86 - 83	
B+ = 82 - 78	Above-average work for a student in a top-tier national university
B = 77 - 73	
B- = 72 - 70	
C+ = 69 - 67	Average work, that is, work that would be expected of any student in a top-tier national university
C = 66 - 63	
C- = 62 - 60	
D+ = 59 - 58	Below-average work for which credit for knowing some of the material still should be given, even though it is not quite as solid as might have been hoped
D = 57 - 50	
F [=N] = < 50	Credit for knowing the material cannot be given based upon evidenced work

### *Attendance*

Regular class attendance and participation will be considered in determining the final grade. Regular attendance -- meaning five or fewer unexcused absences -- may be used to boost border-line grades by a third (e.g., from a B+ to an A-).

*Texts:*

Henslin, James M. 2003. *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. Sixth edition. Allyn and Bacon, Boston.

Henslin, James M. 2003. *Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings*. Twelfth edition. Free Press, New York.

Organization

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PART 1. THE BASICS: SOCIOLOGY AND HOW SOCIETIES WORK

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I. Sociology: What it is and how it is done

- 27 Aug      A. Introduction and Brief History: Subject Matter  
Read:    Henslin Chapter 1 (pp.2-36)  
             Mills [1959], pp.19-26 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 29 Aug      A. Introduction and Brief History: History
- 3 Sept      B. Sociological Methods and Research: Doing Science and Basic Sociological Theories  
Read:    Henslin Chapter 5 (pp.129-153)  
             Scully & Marolla [1985], pp.48-64 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*  
             Jacobs [after 1997], pp.65-73 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 5 Sept      B. Sociological Methods and Research: The Research Process

II. How Societies are Set Up

- 8 Sept      A. Culture: Definitions and Features  
Read:    Henslin Chapter 2(pp.37-64)  
             Miner [1956], pp.79-83 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*  
             Caplow [1984], pp.109-117 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 10 Sept     A. Culture: Language & Values, Universals, Relativity
- 12 Sept     B. Socialization: Developmental Theories  
Read:    Henslin Chapter 3 (pp.65-96)  
             Eder [1995], pp.155-161 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*  
             Tannen [1994], pp.175-180 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 15 Sept     B. Socialization: More on Developmental Theories, Agents of Socialization
- 17 Sept     C. Social Structure and Social Groups: Social Structure  
Read:    Henslin Chapters 4 (pp.97-128)
- 19 Sept     C. Social Structure and Social Groups: Social Groups

III. Basic Societal Operations

- 22 Sept     A. Social Interaction and Social Networks  
Read:    Henslin Chapter 6 (pp.155-184)  
             Goffman [1959], pp.118-128 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*

- 24 Sept B. Bureaucracies and Formal Organizations  
Read: Henslin Chapters 7 (pp.185-210)
- 26 Sept C. Deviance and Social Control  
Read: Henslin Chapter 8 (pp.211-241)  
Meyer [1970], pp.253-260 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 29 Sept \*\*\*\*\* FIRST TEST MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER \*\*\*\*\*
- Class meetings = 13 (excluding test)*  
*Reading = 240 pages main text, 79 pages readings*

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## PART 2. SOCIAL INEQUALITIES: HOW AND WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL FITS

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### I. Inequalities Based Upon Overall Social Status

- 1 Oct TEST DEBRIEFING  
A. Social Stratification: Types of Sociopolitical Complexity  
Read: Henslin Chapter 9 (pp.243-274)  
Katz [undated], pp.313-320 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*  
Gans [1971], pp.340-348 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 3 Oct A. Social Stratification: Types and Theories
- 6 Oct A. Social Stratification: Maintenance
- 10 Oct B. Social Class in the United States: Dimensions and Basic Structure  
Read: Henslin Chapters 10 (pp.275-306)  
Coleman [1982], pp.215-227 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*  
Ehrenreich [1999], pp.365-378 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*  
Higley [1988?], pp.347-358 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 15 Oct B. Social Class in the United States: Impact on Life, Mobility
- 17 Oct B. Social Class in the United States: Fussell's American Class System

### II. Inequalities Based Upon Specifics of Biology or Culture

- 20 Oct A. Sex and Gender  
Read: Henslin Chapter 11 (pp.307-340)
- 22 Oct B. Race and Ethnicity: Concepts and Patterns  
Read: Henslin Chapter 12 (pp. 341-378)  
Page [undated, but after 1991], pp.331-339 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 24 Oct C. Stratification Based Upon Age  
Read: Henslin Chapter 13 (pp.379-407)
- 27 Oct \*\*\*\*\* SECOND TEST MONDAY 27 OCTOBER \*\*\*\*\*
- Class meetings = 9 (excluding test)*  
*Reading = 165 pages main text, 56 pages readings*

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PART 3. SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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I. Institutions Involving Where People Meet the Physical World

- 29 Oct TEST DÉBRIEFING  
A. Science and Technology: Growth  
Read: Leidner [1993], pp.475-485 in
- 31 Oct A. Science and Technology: Science as a Social Process
- 3 Nov B. The Economy  
Read: Henslin Chapter 14 (pp.409-438)
- 5 Nov C. Medicine and Health Care: Social Patterns  
Read: Henslin Chapter 19 (pp.563-565)  
Chambliss [undated, but after 1987], pp.434-446 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 7 Nov C. Medicine and Health Care: Cultural Differences in Western Medicine
- 10 Nov D. Population and Demography: Basic Principles  
Read: Henslin Chapter 20 (pp.597-632)
- 12 Nov D. Population and Demography: Population Trends

II. Institutions Involving Learning then Living One's Place in Society

- 14 Nov A. The Family (This is to prepare you for Thanksgiving; good luck!!): Kinship Systems  
Read: Henslin Chapter 16 (pp.467-502)  
Hochschild [1997], pp.379-389 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 17 Nov A. The Family: Kinship Systems (con'd), Residence and Marriage Patterns
- 19 Nov A. The Family: Functions
- 21 Nov B. Education  
Read: Henslin Chapters 17 (pp.503-532)  
Thorne & Luria [1986], pp.162-174 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*  
Gracey [undated, but about 1957], pp.390-404 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*  
Dyer [1985], pp.458-469 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 24 Nov C. Politics and the State (Remember to be *diplomatic* over the Thanksgiving break.)  
Read: Henslin Chapters 15 (pp.439-466)  
Hunt [1985], pp. 447-457 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*

III. Institutions Involving Values and Understanding of How the World is Suppose to Work, and Reactions When It Does Not Work as It is Suppose to Work

- 1 Dec A. Religion: Definition and Types  
Read: Henslin Chapter 18 (pp.531-562)  
Harris [1978], pp.425-433 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 3 Dec A. Religion: Theoretical Perspectives

- 5 Dec            B. Collective Behavior and Social Movements: Definitions, Crowds  
Read:   Henslin Chapter 21 (pp.633-664)  
         Miller [1997], pp.496-512 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*  
         Smith & Belgrave [1995], pp.513-523 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 8 Dec            B. Collective Behavior and Social Movements: Other Forms of Collective Behavior
- \*\*\* Unscheduled \*\*\*    C. Social Change  
Read:   Henslin Chapter 22 (pp.665-688)  
         Savells [1990], pp.486-495 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 11 Dec           \*\*\*\*\* THIRD TEST THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 0900 - 1200 \*\*\*\*\*
- Class meetings = 16*  
                         *Reading = 280 pages main text, 112 pages readings*
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