

Sociology 101 Introduction to Sociology

Fall Semester, 2002 (Tuesday, Thursday)

Instructor: Dr. Thomas W. Neumann

Office Hours: 205B Language Hall (Oxford Campus)

T, Th ca. 0830-0930, ca. 1315-1345+, by appointment

M, W, F ca. 0830-0930

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 26 September, on 31 October, and during the aptly scheduled final-exam period on Friday 13 December from 1400 - 1700.

Course Grading

Grading for the course will use the +/- system discussed on p.83, *Oxford College of Emory University 2002-2003 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 three or fewer unexcused absences -- will be used to boost border-line grades by a third (e.g., from a B+ to an A-). (**Please note:** Each class meeting will last around 75 minutes. This will result in 150 minutes of class time per week, which is the same as the standard 50-minute Monday-Wednesday-Friday course.)

Texts:

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

Henslin, James M. 2001. *Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings*. Eleventh edition. Free Press, New York.

Organization

PART 1. THE BASICS: SOCIOLOGY AND HOW SOCIETIES WORK

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

- 29 Aug Introduction and Brief History
 Read: Henslin Chapter 1 (pp.2-36)
 Mills [1959], pp.19-26 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 3 Sept Sociological Methods and Research
 Read: Henslin Chapter 5 (pp.129-153)
 Scully & Marolla [1985], pp.45-60 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
 Whyte [1981], pp.61-69 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*

II. How Societies are Set Up

- 5 Sept Culture
 Read: Henslin Chapter 2(pp.37-64)
 Miner [1956], pp.75-79 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
 Caplow [1984], pp.104-112 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 10 Sept Socialization
 Read: Henslin Chapter 3 (pp.65-96)
 Eder [1995], pp.149-155 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*

- 12 Sept Tannen [1994], pp.168-173 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
Social Structure and Social Groups
Read: Henslin Chapters 4 (pp.97-128)
Erikson [1976], pp.218-226 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*

III. Basic Societal Operations

- 17 Sept Social Interaction and Social Networks
Read: Henslin Chapter 6 (pp.155-184)
Goffman [1959], pp.113-123 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 19 Sept Bureaucracies and Formal Organizations
Read: Henslin Chapters 7 (pp.185-210)
- 24 Sept Social Control
Read: Henslin Chapter 8 (pp.211-241)
Meyer [1970], pp.231-237 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*

26 Sept*** FIRST TEST THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER *******

Class meetings = 8 (excluding test)
Reading = 240 pages main text, 87 pages readings

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

I. Inequalities Based Upon Overall Social Status

- 1, 3 Oct Social Stratification
Read: Henslin Chapter 9 (pp.243-274)
Katz [undated], pp.297-303 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
Gans [1971], pp.322-328 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 8, 10 Oct Social Class in the United States
Read: Henslin Chapters 10 (pp.275-306)
Coleman [1982], pp.205-217 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
Kozol [1991], pp.329-337 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
Higley [1988?], pp.338-349 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*

II. Inequalities Based Upon Specifics of Biology or Culture

- 17 Oct Sex and Gender
Read: Henslin Chapter 11 (pp.307-340)
- 22, 24 Oct Race and Ethnicity
Read: Henslin Chapter 12 (pp. 341-378)
Page [undated, but after 1991], pp.314-321 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 29 Oct Stratification Based Upon Age
Read: Henslin Chapter 13 (pp.379-407)

31 Oct *** SECOND TEST THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER *******

Class meetings = 8 (excluding test)

Reading = 165 pages main text, 56 pages readings

PART 3. SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL CHANGE

I. Institutions Involving Where People Meet the Physical World

- 5 Nov Science and Technology
 Read: Ritzer [1992], pp.459-471 in
- 7 Nov The Economy
 Read: Henslin Chapter 14 (pp.409-438)
 Ehrenreich & Fuentes [1981], pp.355-363 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 12 Nov Medicine and Health Care
 Read: Henslin Chapter 19 (pp.563-565)
 Chambliss [undated, but after 1987], pp.418-429 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 14 Nov Population and Demography
 Read: Henslin Chapter 20 (pp.597-632)

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

- 19 Nov The Family (This is to prepare you for Thanksgiving; good luck!!)
 Read: Henslin Chapter 16 (pp.467-502)
 Hochschild & Machung [1989], pp.395-409 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*

Note: It is not scheduled until after Thanksgiving, but you may want to read the Foley (1990) piece, pp. 377-390, in Henslin's reader before the break. I think that you could have a great deal of fun if you have

some
sense of
that
article.

- 21 Nov Education
Read: Henslin Chapters 17 (pp.503-532)
 Thorne & Luria [1986], pp.156-167 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
 Gracey [undated, but about 1957], pp.364-376 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 26 Nov Politics and the State (Remember to be *diplomatic* over the Thanksgiving break.)
Read: Henslin Chapters 15 (pp.439-466)
 Hunt [1985], pp. 431-440 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
 Kelman & Hamilton [1989], pp.441-453 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

- 3 Dec Religion
Read: Henslin Chapter 18 (pp.531-562)
 Foley [1990], pp.377-390 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
 Harris [1978], pp.410-417 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 5 Dec Collective Behavior and Social Movements
Read: Henslin Chapter 21 (pp.633-664)
 Miller [1997], pp.481-496 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
 Smith & Belgrave [1995], pp.497-507 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*
- 10 Dec Social Change OR General Slack
Read: Henslin Chapter 22 (pp.665-688)
 Savells [1990], pp.472-480 in Henslin *Introductory Readings*

13 Dec ***** **THIRD TEST FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER 1400 - 1700** *****

Class meetings = 10

Reading = 280 pages main text, 133 pages readings
