

## **Culture and Society**

Soc 389R – Special topics

Spring 2013

East Village 257

Instructor: Dr. Diogo L Pinheiro

Office hours: T/Th 12:30-1:30 or by appointment

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The objective of this course is to introduce students to the main ideas in the sociology of culture. We start by asking such questions as What is culture? How does it affect everyday life? We then explore the foundation for sociological thought by examining how classical theorists, such as Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, understand culture. These theorists will be brought into modern focus by investigating contemporary issues. Finally, we examine how culture influences the enactment of social activities and the existence of social groups. Thus, we will deal with such issues as how certain factors and the important role of the audience shape cultural production and understandings. Thus, we will deal with such questions as “How can something as ephemeral as tastes matter for inequality?” and “How do people in one group define themselves as distinctive from others?”

### **Course Readings:**

- 1- Readings on Electronic Reserve
- 2- Class notes on Blackboard

It is your responsibility to complete all the required readings before class and be prepared to contribute to class discussion. Please note that some days the reading assignment is heavier than others, so plan adequate time to complete the readings before class. If you are having problems finding the specified reading on reserve, or if you are having problems accessing Blackboard, let me know as soon as possible.

## Course Requirements

- 1- Attendance and participation:** Lectures and class discussions are integral components of this class. While lectures will make up the majority of time spent in class, student participation is encouraged and, in many instances we will have class discussions in which students will participate constructively. Attendance is expected, and excessive tardiness will not be tolerated. Students arriving more than 10 minutes late will be allowed to sit in class, but will be considered absent for that day. Also, class discussions are to be conducted in a respectful and tolerant manner. Offensive behavior will not be tolerated.

Attendance and participation will also be components of your final grade. Students with more than 2 unexcused absences will have a point deducted from their participation grade for each additional absence. Participation will include debating and presenting your views in class.

- 2- Paper:** You will have to write an 8-to-10 page paper for this class. This paper will be completed over the course of the semester. You must pick a subject by February 28<sup>th</sup>, and you must submit an outline of the paper by March 28<sup>th</sup>. The final paper is due on April 25<sup>th</sup>, electronically.
- 3- Tests:** This class will have 3 tests during the semester. They may include multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions. We will have review sessions prior to each test, and students should come prepared for those.
- 4- Grade Distribution:**

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Tests: 60% (20% each)

Paper: 25%

- 5- Letter Grades:**

Percent grade	Letter Grade
93-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
60-66	D
0-59	F

## Course Policies:

**Late Assignments** - It is crucial that you turn in all assignments on time. Assignments are to be turned in on the specific date. Specific deadlines will be distributed well in advance with the instructions for every assignment. Thus, all unexcused late assignments will be penalized one half letter grade (for example, A to A-) per day including weekends.

**Academic Honesty:** All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the policies of Oxford College with respect to conduct and academic honesty. Anyone engaging in acts that violate these policies, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be referred to the Honors Council. More information on Oxford's honor code can be found at [http://oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current\\_students/Academic/academic-success/student-honor-code/](http://oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current_students/Academic/academic-success/student-honor-code/)

**Disability Statement:** Students with disabilities that require class accommodations must contact the Office of Disability Services (Ph. 770-784-8415; URL <http://www.ods.emory.edu/>) to obtain proper documentation. I strongly encourage you to make sure that everything is in order early in the semester. In order for to provide the necessary accommodation, Oxford must receive proper documentation early in the term.

**Disruptive class behavior:** As previously stated, disruptive class behavior will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with in accordance to Emory University regulations. Disruptive class behavior includes use of offensive language, being offensive to others, and any behavior that negatively affects the learning environment.

**Make-Up Policy:** My permission is needed to make-up exams and the short assignments. If you are going to miss an exam or assignment, please make every effort to notify me before the missed class and to gather appropriate material to justify your absence. If you are unable to notify me before the class/due date, please try to have a friend, roommate, etc. contact me via e-mail and inform me of your absence. A mutually convenient time will be arranged for you to make up the assignment. Makeup assignments will only be allowed in a situation of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency, etc.). A note from the Dean will be required to make up the final exam.

**Other Policies:** Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.

***The use of cell phones and/or pagers is not permitted in this class. Please turn OFF your phones and pagers before entering the classroom. This counts towards participation***

**Class Schedule (Subject to change – any changes will be announced in class and on blackboard):**

Part I – What is culture?

January 15<sup>th</sup> : Introductions

January 17<sup>th</sup>

Wendy Griswold. 2009. *Cultures and Societies in a Changing World*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Chapter 1 (Culture and the Cultural Diamond)

January 22<sup>nd</sup>

Allison J. Pugh. 2011. "Distinction, Boundaries or Bridge?: Children, Inequality and the Uses of Consumer Culture." *Poetics* 39: 1-18.

January 24<sup>th</sup>

Anne E. Lincoln and Michael Patrick Allen. 2004. "Double Jeopardy in Hollywood: Age and Gender in the Career of Film Actors, 1926-1999." *Sociological Forum* 19: 611-631

Part II - Classic Approaches to Culture

Marx

January 29<sup>th</sup>: Introduction to Marx

Wendy Griswold. 2009. *Cultures and Societies in a Changing World*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Chapter 2, pages 21-34

January 31<sup>st</sup> : Media and Ideology

Ashley Mears. 2010. "Size Zero High-End Ethnic: Cultural Production and the Reproduction of Culture in Fashion Modeling." *Poetics* 38: 21-46.

February 5<sup>th</sup>

Kathy Peiss. 1998. Chapter 5, "Promoting the Made-up Woman," in *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture*. New York: Owl Books.

February 7<sup>th</sup>

Viviana Zelizer. 1978. "Human Values and the Market: The Case of Life Insurance and Death in 19th Century America." *American Journal of Sociology* 84: 591-610

February 12<sup>th</sup>:

1<sup>st</sup> Test

February 14<sup>th</sup>:

Wendy Griswold. 2009. *Cultures and Societies in a Changing World*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Chapter 2, pages 35-43

Tracy Scott. 2002. "Choices and Constraints: Protestantism, Gender, and the Meaning of Work." *Internatl Journal of Sociology & Social Policy* 22

Status and Culture

February 19<sup>th</sup>

Aversa, Alfred. 1990. When Blue Collars and White Collars Meet at Play: The Case Of The Yacht Club. *Qualitative Sociology* 13(1):63-83.

February 21<sup>st</sup>

Robin Leidner. 1991. "Selling Hamburgers and Selling Insurance: Gender, Work and Identity in Interactive Service Jobs." *Gender and Society* 5: 154-177.

February 26<sup>th</sup>

Karen Aschaffenburg and Ineke Maas. 1997. "Cultural and Educational Careers: The Dynamics of Social Reproduction." *American Sociological Review* 62:573-587

Durkheim

February 28<sup>th</sup>: Introduction to Durkheim

Robin Wagner-Pacifici and Barry Schwartz. 1991. "The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial: Commemorating a Difficult Past." *American Journal of Sociology* 97:376-382, 385-389, 392-410.

Ritual, Culture, and Community

March 5<sup>th</sup>

Wesley Shrum and John Kilburn. 1996. "Ritual Disrobement at MardiGras: Ceremonial Exchange and Moral Order." *Social Forces* 75: 423-458.

March 7<sup>th</sup>

Mark Mizruchi. 1985. "Local Sports Teams and Celebration of Community: A Comparative Analysis of the Home Advantage." *Sociological Quarterly* 26(4):507-518.

March 19<sup>th</sup>

Review for test 2

March 21<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> Test

Part III: Culture and Society

Cultural Capital: Lifestyles and Social Reproduction

March 26<sup>th</sup>

Paul DiMaggio. 1991. "Cultural Entrepreneurship in Nineteenth-Century Boston: The Creation of an Organizational Base for High Culture in America."

March 28<sup>th</sup>

Annette Lareau. 2002. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families." *American Sociological Review* 67: 747-776.

Culture, Organizations, and Work

April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Gary Alan Fine. 2006. "Shopfloor Cultures: The Idioculture of Production in Operational Meteorology." *The Sociological Quarterly* 47:1-19.

April 4<sup>th</sup>

Clawson, Mary Ann. "WHEN WOMEN PLAY THE BASS Instrument Specialization and Gender Interpretation in Alternative Rock Music." *Gender & Society* 13.2 (1999): 193-210.

Globalization and Culture

April 9<sup>th</sup>

J. Breidenbach/I. Zukrigl, "The Dynamics of Cultural Globalization"(reserves)

April 11<sup>th</sup>

Burnett, Robert. "The global jukebox" chapt. 1 (reserves)

## Culture and Identity

April 16<sup>th</sup>

Carla D. Shirley. 2010. "'You Might Be a Redneck If...': Boundary Work among Rural, Southern Whites." *Social Forces* 89: 35-62.

April 18<sup>th</sup>

Natasha Kumar Warikoo. 2007. "Racial Authenticity among Second Generation Youth in Multiethnic New York and London." *Poetics* 35: 388-408.

## Culture and Technology

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Claude Fischer. 1988. "Gender and the Residential Telephone, 1890-1940: Technologies of Sociability." *Sociological Forum* 3:211-233.

April 25<sup>th</sup>

Review for final