

**Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 1101
M/W/F 10:05 - 10:55 AM
Van Leer Building, Room 200**

Dr. Amy V. D'Unger

Office: 215 D.M. Smith Building

Office Hours: M 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

W 9:00 – 10:00 AM

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& by appointment

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Introduction:

The objective of this course is to provide you with a general survey of the field of sociology. More importantly, this course also aims to provide you with a way to think about and understand the social world and your place in it. Therefore, the lectures, readings, and assignments will focus on understanding basic social processes and how you can apply them to everyday events, both small and large, and both personal and political.

With this in mind, we will begin the course by focusing on the development of the “self” and identity, as well as the rules that guide interaction between individuals. Then, in the second part of the course, we will examine how large-scale social changes and the organization of society affect us as individuals. In part of three of the course, we will focus on how institutions and interaction create and reproduce social inequality. In the final part of the course, we will see how all of this applies to contemporary U.S. society.

Texts:

There are three **REQUIRED** books for this class:

- Collins, Randall. 1992. *Sociological Insight: An Introduction to Non-Obvious Sociology, Second Edition.*
- Henslin, James M. 2005. *Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings, Thirteenth Edition.*
- MacLeod, Jay. 1995. *Ain't No Makin' It: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood, Second Edition.*

These books are all available at the Engineer's Bookstore, located at 748 Marietta Street.

In addition, there are several required readings throughout the semester that are on reserve. They are indicated with an asterisk, the author's name, and the title of the selection. You can access and print out these articles via the library's on-line reserve system OR via WebCT in the folder labeled “Course Reserve Readings.”

Course Requirements:

(1) **Short assignments:** Students will complete four short assignments. Each assignment will be posted on WebCT and is to be turned in on the due date, via WebCT. Due dates are listed on the syllabus reading schedule, on the assignment postings, and on the WebCT calendar. *More assignments may be added at the discretion of the professor.* These assignments will cumulatively count for **15%** of your final grade.

(2) **Examinations:** There will be three exams for this course. The first exam is scheduled for February 12, the second exam is scheduled for March 16, and the final exam is scheduled for April 30 at the date and time pre-scheduled by the registrar. Each of these exams will require students to draw on course readings, lectures, and discussions. The three examinations will cumulatively count for **80%** of your final grade.

(3) **Participation:** Because of the large size of the class, participation will consist of class attendance. Attendance will be taken on most class days and will count for **5%** of your final grade. Excused absences will not be counted against you. You will be responsible for signing in at the beginning of each class period on the attendance lists posted near the door.

Accommodating Disabilities:

If you have or acquire any sort of condition that may require special accommodation(s), please inform me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (e.g., not the day of an exam) so that we may make the appropriate arrangements. Proper documentation from the ADAPTS Office will be required. Please contact them to get more information on available services and accommodations, as well as documentation requirements. They can be reached via the web at <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/index2.htm>.

Academic Conduct:

All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the policies of the Georgia Tech Honor Code with respect to conduct and academic honesty. Anyone engaging in acts that violate these policies, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be penalized. For more information on the Honor Code, see <http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/Honor/>.

Make-Up Policy:

My permission is needed to make-up assignments. (Having work/exams in another class will NOT get you my permission.) If you are going to miss an assignment, please make every effort to **notify me before the missed class** and to gather appropriate material to justify your absence (e.g., a note from your physician if you are ill). 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. Make up 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.

*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. Those who violate this policy will be asked to leave the class for the day.*

So, How Can I Succeed in This Course?

- (1) Attend class and be on time--there is nothing more disruptive to your learning than missing class and there is nothing more disruptive to other students than individuals who come in late and interrupt the lecture and class discussion.
- (2) Do the reading!!! It will help you to participate in class as well as succeed on the exams.
- (3) Notes, notes, notes. Take notes on each of the readings. What is the main point of the article/chapter? What is the theory trying to explain? How can this be integrated with other material discussed in class and the texts? etc. etc. *These notes will be valuable study tools for the exams.* Also, study in groups--other may pick up on material that you overlooked, and vice-versa.
- (4) The reading load varies for each class. Anticipate days with heavy reading and START EARLY.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS (SUBJECT TO REVISIONS/ADDITIONS)

*****In addition, there is a possibility for guest speakers and/or additional films during the semester.***

READINGS KEY:

--Readings from the Henslin reader, *Down to Earth Sociology*, are indicated by the author(s)' name, the title of the selection, and "Henslin," followed by a number, in parentheses. The number in parentheses is the number of the reading in the Henslin reader.

--Readings from *Sociological Insight: An Introduction to Non-Obvious Sociology* by Randall Collins are indicated by the author's name, the title of the chapter, and Collins/chapter number in parentheses.

--Readings with an asterisk are on reserve. They can be accessed and printed out via the library's on-line reserve system OR via WebCT in the "Course Reserve Readings" folder. These readings are indicated by the author's name, the title of the selection, and the designation "on reserve" in parentheses.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT DUE</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
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Part I: Society and the Individual—Meaning and Behavior

January 8	Introduction and Welcome	read the syllabus!
January 10	Understanding Social Behavior Berger, "Invitation to Sociology" Henslin, "What is Sociology?" Mills, "The Promise"	(Henslin 1) (Henslin 2) (Henslin 3)
January 12	Understanding Social Behavior Hunt, "Police Accounts of Normal Force"	(Henslin 42)
January 15	<i>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observed, No Class</i>	

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January 17	How Do We “Do” Sociology? Henslin, “How Sociologists Do Research” Scully and Marolla, “Riding the Bull at Gilley’s” Jacobs, “Dealing Crack” <i>Assignment #1 Due: Rules and Meanings</i>	(Henslin 4) (Henslin 5) (Henslin 6)
January 19	The Social Construction of Reality Miner, “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” *Kelman and Hamilton, “The My Lai Massacre”	(Henslin 7) (on reserve)
January 22	The Social Construction of Reality Meyer, “If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger, Would You?”	(Henslin 22)
January 24	The Social Construction of Reality Chagnon, “Doing Fieldwork Among the Yanomamö” Hall and Hall, “The Sounds of Silence”	(Henslin 8) (Henslin 9)
January 26	The Social Construction of Reality Henslin and Biggs, “Behavior in Public Places”	(Henslin 19)
January 29	Norms, Statuses, & Roles: Behavior Henslin, “Eating Your Friends is the Hardest” Harris, “India’s Sacred Cow”	(Henslin 23) (Henslin 41)
January 31	Norms, Statuses, & Roles: Behavior Guest Speaker, Gary Yourofsky of ADAPTT Chambliss, “The Saints and the Roughnecks” *Nibert, “Toward a Sociological Analysis of Animal Oppression”	(Henslin 25) (on reserve)
February 2	Norms, Statuses, & Roles: Identity <i>Video: “Quiet Rage”</i> Zimbardo, “The Pathology of Imprisonment”	(Henslin 26)
February 5	Norms, Statuses, & Roles: Identity Tannen, “But What Do You Mean?” Rosenhan, “On Being Sane in Insane Places”	(Henslin 16) (Henslin 27)
February 7	Socialization: The Development of Self Davis, “Extreme Isolation” Thorne and Luria, “Sexuality and Gender in Children’s Daily Worlds” <i>Assignment #2 Due: The Violation of Norms</i>	(Henslin 12) (Henslin 15)

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February 9	Socialization: Gender Henslin, "On Becoming Male" Eder, "On Becoming Female" Lawson, "Attacking Nicely"	(Henslin 13) (Henslin 14) (Henslin 17)
February 12	Examination #1	
<i>PART II: Social Institutions—Society and Economy</i>		
February 14	Society as Ritual Collins, "The Nonrational Foundations of Rationality" *Foley, "The Great American Football Ritual"	(Collins, chapter 1) (on reserve)
February 16	Society as Ritual: Religion Collins, "The Sociology of God"	(Collins, chapter 2)
February 19	Society as Ritual: Deviance & Crime Collins, "The Normalcy of Crime" *Becker, "Becoming a Marihuana User"	(Collins, chapter 4) (on reserve)
February 21	Society as Ritual: Crime Waves *Best, "The Myth of the Halloween Sadist"	(on reserve)
February 23	Society as Ritual: Perceptions of Crime *Donziger, "The Real War on Crime" Assignment #3 Due: Criminal Activities	
February 26	The Origins of the Market Economy *Weber, "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism"	(on reserve)
February 28	The Rise of Capitalism, Alienation, and Anomie Leidner, "Over the Counter at McDonald's" Mills, "From the Village to the Factory"	(Henslin 44) (Henslin 47)
<i>PART III: Social Inequality</i>		
March 2	The Principles of Inequality Video: "A Class Divided" Henslin, "Social Inequality"	(Henslin, pp. 317-322)
March 5	The Pervasiveness of Inequality Katz, "The Importance of Being Beautiful"	(Henslin 28)

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March 7	Gender Inequality Martin and Hummer, "Fraternities and Rape on Campus" *Williams, "The Glass Escalator"	(Henslin 29) (on reserve)
March 9	Racial Inequality Page, "Showing My Color" Ezekiel, "The Racist Mind" Gans, "The Uses of Poverty"	(Henslin 30) (Henslin 31) (Henslin 32)
March 12	Socioeconomic Inequality Morris and Grimes, "Moving Up From the Working Class" Higley, "The U.S. Upper Class" Ehrenreich, "Nickel and Dimed"	(Henslin 33) (Henslin 34) (Henslin 35)
March 14	Socioeconomic Inequality Liebow, "The Lives of Homeless Women" MacLeod, "Social Immobility in the Land of Opportunity" MacLeod, "Social Reproduction in Theoretical Perspective"	(Henslin 21) (MacLeod, chapter 1) (MacLeod, chapter 2)
March 16	<i>Examination #2</i>	
March 19-23	<i>Spring Break, No Classes</i>	
<i>PART IV: Social Institutions of the Contemporary United States</i>		
March 26	The Post World War II Economic Boom *Adler, "Introduction: End of the Line" *Polanyi, "Societies and Economic Systems"	(on reserve) (on reserve)
March 28	The Rise of the "Flexible" Economy *Adler, "On the Border, By the Sea"	(on reserve)
March 30	Outsourcing and Globalization *Adler, "Epilogue: Thank God for NAFTA" *Polanyi, "The Self-Regulating Market and Fictitious Commodities"	(on reserve) (on reserve)
April 2	Changes in the Family Hochschild, "When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work"	(Henslin 36)

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April 4	Changes in the Family *Coontz, “‘Leave it to Beaver’ and ‘Ozzie and Harriet’” *Hochschild and Machung, “Men Who Share the Second Shift”	(on reserve) (on reserve)
April 6	Changing the Rules: State Policy and Politics *Winders, “The Roller Coaster of Class Conflict”	(on reserve)
April 9	Poverty and Behavior MacLeod, “Teenagers in Clarendon Heights”	(MacLeod, chapter 3)
April 11	Poverty and Behavior MacLeod, “The Influence of the Family” MacLeod, “The World of Work”	(MacLeod, chapter 4) (MacLeod, chapter 5)
April 13	Poverty and Behavior MacLeod, “School”	(MacLeod, chapter 6)
April 16	Education and Social Mobility MacLeod, “Leveled Aspirations” MacLeod, “Reproduction Theory Reconsidered” <i>Assignment #4 Due: Poverty</i>	(MacLeod, chapter 7) (MacLeod, chapter 8)
April 18	Education and Social Mobility MacLeod, “The Hallway Hangers” MacLeod, “The Brothers”	(MacLeod, chapter 9) (MacLeod, chapter 10)
April 20	Education and Social Mobility Gracey, “Kindergarten as Academic Boot Camp” MacLeod, “Conclusion”	(Henslin 38) (MacLeod, chapter 11)
April 23	Education and Social Mobility *Kozol, “Savage Inequalities”	(on reserve)
April 25	Wrap Up and Review	
April 27	Wrap Up and Review	

****The final exam will be held in-class on Monday, April 30th from 2:50-5:40 PM.*

How the Final Grade Will be Determined:

Three Examinations	80%	A	90-100
Four Short Assignments	15%	B	80-89
Attendance	+ 5%	C	70-79
	100%	D	60-69
		F	0-59