

Sociology 211: The Sociological Enterprise
Fall 2009

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 1-2:15pm
Classroom: Sewell Social Sciences Building 6104
Course Website: <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~omirosa/211/211.html>

Instructor: Oriol Mirosa
Office: Sewell Social Sciences Building 8142
Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:30-3:30pm or by appointment
email: omirosa@ssc.wisc.edu

Sociology explores social life in a scientific way. It attempts to go beyond common sense, as it questions our basic assumptions about how the world works and it looks for empirical evidence to support its claims. Sociology involves a certain way of thinking about and looking at society. Although the sociological approach can be described and explained in fairly simple terms, developing the ability to think sociologically requires exposure to sociological research and extensive practice. This is precisely what this course is about. We will explore several areas of sociology, review their main theories, and study how they explain particular cases, both in the US and internationally. Of course, it is impossible to cover all areas of sociology, or to review them in considerable detail, in the mere 15 weeks of this class. However, I am hoping that by the end of the semester you will have a good sense of the kind of work that sociologists do, you will have learned valuable insights about the world that surrounds us and, more than anything else, you will be excited about the discipline and encouraged to explore it further.

Assignments and workload

The best way to develop your sociological imagination is to be exposed to sociological work, and to practice thinking sociologically. Therefore, this class involves a lot of reading. There are 100-125 pages to read each week, although some weeks the figure is higher. In order to ensure that you do the reading and come to class, each Thursday, at the beginning of our session, there will be a short quiz that will ask a few multiple choice or true/false questions about the readings for the week or the material presented in the previous lectures. The idea behind the quizzes is not to make you memorize the readings, but to make sure that you do them in a meaningful way. Hence, as long as you read the assigned materials carefully and pay attention in class, you should have no problem getting the quizzes right. In total, we will have 13 quizzes in class, and I will drop the two lowest grades.

In order to practice thinking sociologically, the other assignment for the class will consist of three short papers (about three pages long, typed and double spaced). I will give you four assignment options throughout the course of the semester, and you can choose which three you want to do. The goal of the assignments will be for you to reflect upon some of the topics discussed in class and to make coherent and innovative arguments that show me how you are thinking sociologically. If you decide to do the first three assignments and you are not happy with one or more of your grades, I will allow you to do the fourth one and, if you get a higher grade than in any of the other ones, I will drop the lowest grade. I will post details about the assignments in the course website in due time.

The grading scheme will be the following:

11 quizzes	x	10 points each	=	110 possible points
3 short papers	x	30 points each	=	90 possible points

This scheme seeks (and rewards) hard work and consistency. If you come to class and do the readings you should have no problem passing the course. Another reward of consistency is that there is no midterm or final exam.

Class participation, office hours, email

Although the setting of this course is not conducive of discussion, I want to encourage you to ask questions and make comments in class. Part of thinking sociologically involves questioning and being critical of what you are told (even by instructors and authority figures!), and therefore you should be able to interrupt me and ask questions during the course of the lectures. In fact, I am planning on leaving some time for questions and discussion at the end of each session, so be prepared to be active and not just sit back and listen.

Another aspect of participation are the office hours. You should see them as a resource to which you have access in order to seek clarification, discuss issues both with the material and the functioning of the class, or simply to make your views known about specific topics and readings. Use them!

You can also contact me by email at any point during the semester. I will try to reply to your messages promptly. However, you should always allow 24-72 hours for my replies. Therefore, you should not wait until the last minute to ask me important questions – for instance regarding the short papers, as you might not get an answer before the deadline. Plan ahead!

Cheating

I know that most of you will work very hard in this class. That is why I find extremely disrespectful, not to me but to your classmates who are making a big effort, when someone tries to take a shortcut and cheat in a quiz or plagiarize in a paper. Therefore, I will be inflexible with cheaters. If I catch you cheating, I will fail you, report you to the dean, and recommend your expulsion, so do not do it.

Be aware that there are two ways to commit plagiarism:

- by reproducing verbatim (or almost verbatim) another author's words, without using quotation marks and/or without providing a citation; or
- by using another author's ideas (even if you don't use their precise words) without providing a citation.

If you have any doubts, you should consult the University's website dealing with academic misconduct: <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>

Required texts

There is no textbook for this class. I want you to read sociological research, and therefore I will provide you the context and theories for each particular topic in the lectures so that you can focus on reading actual research. As I said before, there is a lot of reading to do for this class. Most of the readings can be found in the packet available at Bob's Copy Shop, located at 616 University Avenue, between Lake

and Frances (the packet has two volumes). I have also placed online pdf versions of the readings in e-reserves, which you can find on the 'Academics' tab in the My UW Madison portal (my.wisc.edu). Given the large amount of reading, and in order to make the printed packets less ominous, recommended readings are only available online. The course packet contains only the required readings.

Besides the reading packet, there are four books from which we will be reading extensively, and therefore could not be included in the packet. You can buy them at Rainbow Bookstore (426 W Gilman St, just off State St), and they are also on reserve at the College Library:

- Barbara Ehrenreich. 2008. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By In America*. Holt Paperbacks. ISBN-13: 978-0805088380.
- Aldon Morris. 1986. *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement*. Free Press. ISBN-13: 978-0029221303.
- Nancy Ammerman. 2005. *Pillars of Faith: American Congregations and Their Partners*. University of California Press. ISBN-13: 978-0520243125.
- Jeff Chang. 2005. *Can't Stop, Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation*. Picador. ISBN-13: 978-0312425791.

As I mentioned above, there is no textbook required for the class. However, I am aware that different people have different learning styles, and for some being able to read the lecture contents from a textbook (either before or after the lecture) is the best way to absorb the material. Therefore, I have also ordered copies of a general sociology textbook at Rainbow in case you want to use it to complement and reinforce what I say in class. The textbook is:

- Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, and Richard Appelbaum. 2007. *Introduction to Sociology*. W. W. Norton & Co. (6th edition). ISBN-13: 978-0393929218.

For each topic covered in the class that has a corresponding chapter in the textbook, I have indicated the chapter next to the topic title after the acronym GDA – e.g. *Deviance and Crime* (GDA 7) means that chapter 7 of the Giddens, Duneier and Appelbaum textbook deals with the 'deviance and crime' topic that we will explore in class.

Calendar of sessions and readings

Introduction

Thu. 9/3

- Wright Mills. 1961. "The Promise" in *The Sociological Imagination*. Grove Press, pp.3-24.
- P. Berger. 1963. "Sociology as a Form of Consciousness" in *Invitation to Sociology*. Garden City, NJ: Doubleday, pp.25-53.
- H. I. Wilenski. 2005. "Can Social Science Shape the Public Agenda?" *Contexts* 4(2): 41-47.

What Is Sociology? / Classical Sociology (GDA 1)
Tue. 9/8 & Thu. 9/10

- E. Durkheim. 1964. *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: Free Press, pp. xxxvii-xl, 1-13).
- E. Durkheim. 1951. *Suicide. A Study in Sociology*. New York: Free Press, pp.41-53.
- M. Weber. 2001. "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" in M. Anderson, K. Logio and H. Taylor (eds) *Understanding Society*. New York: Wadsworth, pp.366-370.
- K. Marx and F. Engels. "The Manifesto of the Communist Party" in E. Howard (ed.) *Classic Readings in Sociology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, pp.12-19.

Recommended: M. Weber. 1958. "Science as a Vocation" in *Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Oxford University Press, pp.129-156.

Inequality, Stratification and Class (GDA 8)
Tue. 9/15 & Thu. 9/17

- E. Wolff. 2007. "Top Heavy" in J. Skolnick and E. Currie (eds) *Crisis in American Institutions*. New York: Pearson, pp.95-103.
- A. Hacker. 2001. "Who has how much and why" in J. Macionis and N. Benokraitis (eds) *Seeing Ourselves*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, pp.194-200.
- D. Wessel. 2007. "As rich-poor gap widens in the U.S., class mobility stalls" in J. Skolnick and E. Currie (eds) *Crisis in American Institutions*. New York: Pearson, pp.121-126.
- W. Domhoff. 2000. "Bohemian Grove" in D. Newman (ed) *Sociology Readings*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, pp.234-242.
- M. Duneier. 1999. *Sidewalk*. New York: FSG, pp.157-187.
- C. Collins and F. Yeskel. 2005. *Economic Apartheid in America*. New Press, pp.38-64.
- K. Bradbury and J. Katz. 2002. "Are Lifetime Incomes Growing More Unequal? Looking at New Evidence on Family Income Mobility" *Boston Federal Reserve Bank Regional Review* Q4, pp.2-5.
- L. Kenworthy. 2007. "Is Equality Feasible?" *Contexts* 6(3), pp.28-32.
- K. Edin and L. Lein. 2000. "Making Ends Meet" in D. Newman (ed.) *Sociology Readings*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, pp.267-282.

Recommended: E. O. Wright. 1994. *Interrogating Inequality*. Verso, pp.32-50.

Recommended: C. Jencks. 2002. "Does Inequality Matter?" *Deadalus* Winter, pp.49-65.

Inequality in Education (GDA 16)
Tue. 9/22 & Thu. 9/24

- J. Kozol. 1991. "Other People's Children" in *Savage Inequalities*. New York: Crown Publications, pp. 40-82.
- P. Cookson and C. Persell. 1996. "Preparing for Power" in S. Ferguson (ed.) *Mapping the Social Landscape*. Mayfield Publishing Co., pp.517-527.
- J. Macleod. 1995. *Ain't No Makin' It*. Boulder: Westview Press, pp.3-10, 83-111.
- J. Matthews. 2006. "Dropout Data Raise Questions on Two Fronts." *Washington Post*. May 23rd.
- J. Rosenthal. 2006. "Precisely False vs. Approximately Right: A Reader's Guide to Polls." *New York Times* August 27.

- S. Bowles and H. Gintis. 2001. "Education and Inequality," in J. Macionis and N. Benokraitis (eds.) *Seeing Ourselves*. Prentice Hall, pp.356-362.
- S. Gould. 1992. "Racist Arguments and IQ" in *Ever Since Darwin*. New York: Norton, pp. 243-247.

Recommended: J. Kozol. 2005. *Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America*. Three Rivers, pp. 39-62, 175-181.

Work (GDA 14)

Tue. 9/29 & Thu. 10/1

- B. Ehrenreich. 2002. *Nickel and Dimed: On (not) getting by in America*. New York: Henry Holt. "Introduction", chapters 1, 3, and "Evaluation."
- S. Greenhouse. 2002. "City Feels Early Effects Of Plant Closing in 2004" *New York Times* December 26th.

Recommended: J. Fraser. 2001. *White-Collar Sweatshop: The Deterioration of Work and Its Rewards in Corporate America*. Norton, pp.58-74.

Race (GDA 11)

Tue. 10/6 & Thu. 10/8

- M. Omi and H. Winant. 1986. "Racial Formation" in *Racial Formation in the United States*. New York: Routledge, pp.57-69.
- G. Sandor. 1996. "The 'Other' Americans" in S. Ferguson (ed.) *Mapping the Social Landscape*. Mayfield Publishing, pp.46-52.
- H. Dalton. 2002. "Failing to see" in P. Rothenberg (ed.) *White Privilege*. Worth Publishers, pp.15-18.
- L. Stanton. 2007. "Love is colorblind" *Washington Post*, June 7.
- H. B. Johnson and T. Shapiro. 2003. "Good Neighborhoods, Good Schools: Race and the 'Good Choices' of White Families" in A. Doane and E. Bonilla-Silva (eds) *White Out: The Continuing Significance of Racism*. Routledge, pp.173-187.
- J. O. Horton. Interview for PBS's *Race - The Power of an Illusion*.
- J. Loewen. 1996. "Gone With the Wind" in *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. Touchstone, pp.131-163.
- D. Roediger. 1992. "Gook: The Short History of an Americanism," *Monthly Review* 43(10), pp.50-55.
- A. Krueger. 2002. "What's in a Name? Evidently Plenty If You Are Looking For a Job" *New York Times* December 12th.
- D. Zirin. 2005. "Gone With the Wind? Sports, Race, and the Modern Athlete" in *What's My Name, Fool? Sports and Resistance in the U.S.* Haymarket, pp.147-183.
- N. Thrupkaew. 2002. "The Myth of the Model Minority" *The American Prospect* April 8th, pp.38-41.
- D. Tomaskovic-Devey and P. Warren. 2009. "Explaining and Eliminating Racial Profiling" *Contexts* 8(2), pp.34-39.

Recommended: J. Loewen. 1996. "Red Eyes" in *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. Touchstone, pp.91-129.

Segregation and Urban Life

Tue. 10/13

M. Pattillo. 2007. "The Black Bourgeoisie Meets the Truly Disadvantaged" and "Conclusion" in *Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City*. University of Chicago Press, pp.81-110, 297-307.

V. Bajaj and F. Fessenden. 2007. "What's behind the race gap?" *New York Times* November 4th.

Recommended: M. Pattillo. 2007. "Avenging Violence With Violence" in *Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City*, chapter 7. pp.259-295.

Recommended: D. Massey and N. Denton. 1993. "The Continuing Causes of Segregation" in *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*. Harvard University Press, pp. 83-114.

Socialization and Gender (GDA 4)

Thu. 10/15

T. Curry. 1999. "Socialization, Pain, and the Normalization of Sports Injury" in J. Charon (ed.) *The Meaning of Sociology*. Prentice Hall, pp.45-54.

B. Thorne. 1993. "Crossing the Gender Divide" and "Lip Gloss and Goin' With: Becoming Teens" in *Gender Play*. New York: Routledge, pp.111-156.

E. Madriz. 2000. "Nothing Bad Happens to Good Girls: Fear of Crime in Women's Lives" in D. Newman (ed.) *Sociology Readings*. Pine Forge Press, pp.332-345.

Gender and Inequality (GDA 10)

Tue. 10/20

K. Crenshaw. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color" *Stanford Law Review* 43(6), pp.1241-1299.

Thu. 10/22

A. Hacker. 2002. "The Gender Gap: Contours and Causes" in J. Charon (ed) *The Meaning of Sociology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, pp.372-381.

D. Zirin. 2005. "Taking Care of T.C.B.: Sports, Sexism and Gay Bashing" in *What's My Name, Fool? Sports and Resistance in the U.S.* Haymarket, pp.185-217.

P. Martin and R. Hummer. 1989. "Fraternities & Rape on Campus" *Gender and Society* 3(4), pp.457-473.

Recommended: E. A. Armstrong, L. Hamilton and B. Sweeney. 2006. "Sexual Assault on Campus" *Social Problems* 53(4), pp.483-499.

Tue. 10/27

A. Crittenden. 2002. "The Mommy Tax" in *The Price of Motherhood*. pp.87-109.

C. Williams. 1992. "The Glass Escalator" *Social Problems* 39(3), pp.253-267.

S. Katz. 2003. "The Importance of Being Beautiful" in J. Henslin (ed.) *Down to Earth Sociology*. New York: Free Press. 12th ed. pp.313-320.

- S. Dillon. 2007. "Sorority Evictions Raise Issue of Looks and Bias" *New York Times* February 25th.
- I. Niranjana. 2006. "Weight of the World" *Smithsonian* 37(5), p.104.

Social Movements (GDA 13)

Thu. 10/29

- D. S. Meyer. 2003. "How Social Movements Matter" *Contexts* 2(4), pp.30-35.
- J. Freeman. 1973. "The Origins of the Women's Liberation Movement" *American Journal of Sociology* 78(4), pp.792-811.
- B. Epstein. 2001. "What Happened to the Women's Movement?" *Monthly Review* 53(1), pp.1-13.
- V. Taylor and N. Whittier. 2001. "The New Feminist Movement" in M. Anderson, K. Logio and H. Taylor (eds) *Understanding Society*. New York: Wadsworth, pp.490-498.

Tue. 11/3 & Thu. 11/5

- A. Morris. 1984. *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Free Press, Introduction, Chapters 1-3, 10.

Sociology of Religion (GDA 17)

Tue. 11/10 & Thu. 11/12

- E. Durkheim. 1995. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Free Press, pp. 44, 208-14.
- K. Marx. 1957. "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right" in *Marx and Engels on Religion*. Moscow: Foreign Languages Pub. House, pp.41-43.
- M. Weber. 1930. *The Protestant Ethic & the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: G. Allen Ltd., pp.180-183.
- M. Weber. 1968. *Economy and Society*. Bedminster Press, pp.481-8.
- N. Ammerman. 2005. *Pillars of Faith*. Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 8.

Deviance and Crime (GDA 7)

Tue. 11/17 & Thu. 11/19

- E. Durkheim. 1982. "Rules for the Distinction of the Normal from the Pathological" in *Rules of the Sociological Method*. New York: Free Press, pp.85-107.
- F. Butterfield. 2002. "Father Steals Best" *New York Times* August 21st.
- W. Chambliss. 1999. "The Saints and the Roughnecks" in J. Charon (ed.) *The Meaning of Sociology*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, pp.275-286.
- D. Rosenhan. 2004. "On Being Sane in Insane Places" in G. Carter (ed.) *Empirical Approaches to Sociology*. Boston: Pearson Press, pp.335-347.
- B. Harcourt. 2007. "The Mentally Ill, Behind Bars" *New York Times* January 15th.
- C. Uggen. 2000. "Work as a Turning Point in the Life Course of Criminals: A Duration Model of Age, Employment, and Recidivism" *American Sociological Review* 67, pp.529-546.
- K. Kingsbury. 2006. "Middle America's Crime Wave" *Time* December 3rd.
- V. Kappeler and G. Potter. 2005. *The Mythology of Crime and Criminal Justice*. Waveland, pp.147-173 (Ch 7).

P. Zimbardo. 2007. "The Psychology of Evil" in *The Lucifer Effect*. New York: Random House, pp.3-22.

Sociology of Culture (GDA 3)

Tue. 11/24

H. Becker. 1999. "Culture: A Sociological View" in J. Charon (ed.) *The Meaning of Sociology*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, pp.238-243.

G. Harkness. 2008. "Hip Hop Culture and America's Most Taboo Word" *Contexts* 7(3), pp.38-42.

J. Chang. 2006. *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*. New York: Picador, pp.10-18, 28-30, 72-82 (skim), 90-107 (skim), 109-125, 127-136, 145-152, 170-179 (skim), 191-194.

Tue. 12/1

J. Chang. 2006. *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*. New York: Picador, pp.203-211, 220-229, 232-236, 236-248 (skim), 248-253, 253-261 (skim), 299-329, 337-353 (skim), 368-399, 417-421, 439-448. 118 pages (36 skim).

Recommended: B. Bryson. 1996. "'Anything But Heavy Metal': Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes" *American Sociological Review* 61, pp.884-899.

Globalization (GDA 20)

Thu. 12/3

D. Martin, J-L. Metzger and P. Pierre. 2006. "The Sociology of Globalization" *International Sociology* 21(4), pp.499-521.

S. Huntington. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72(3), pp.22-49.

Recommended: J. Bhagwati. 2004. "Anti-Globalization: Why?" in *In Defense of Globalization*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp.3-27.

Tue. 12/8

R. Waldinger and M. Lichter. 2003. "Introduction" and "Conclusion" in *How the Other Half Works*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp.3-28, pp.218-233.

A. Hochschild. 2004. "Love and Gold" in Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild (eds) *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. New York: Metropolitan/Owl Books, pp.34-46.

E. Porter and E. Malkin. 2005. "In Minnesota, a Community of Mexican Immigrants Takes Root" *New York Times* September 30th.

J. deParle. 2007. "Migrant Money Flow: A \$300 Billion Current" *New York Times* November 18th.

J. deParle. 2007 "Western Union Empire Moves Cash Home" *New York Times* November 22nd.

E. Malkin. 2007. "Mexicans Miss Money from Up North" *New York Times* October 16th.

Water Provision

Thu. 12/10

E. Swyngedouw. 2005. "Dispossessing H2O: The Contested Terrain of Water Privatization"
Capitalism, Nature, Socialism 16(1), pp.81-98.

G. Haughton. 2002. "Market Making: Internationalisation and Global Water Markets"
Environment and Planning A 34, pp.791-807.

J. Shultz. 2003. "Bolivia's War Over Water" *Democracy Center*:
http://www.democracyctr.org/bolivia/investigations/water/the_water_war.htm

Wrap-Up and Conclusion

Tue. 12/15