

Introduction to Sociology (101)

Department of Sociology

Rutgers University

Spring 2015

Instructor: **Muqaddas Pulotova**

Meeting time: TF 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM.

Course location: [BE-221](#)

Office hours: Thursday 09.15am to 10:35am and by appointment

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Course description and objectives:

Sociology is the systematic, scientific study of patterns and processes of social life. This social science uses various methods to develop body of knowledge about human society. Individual behavior is shaped by interpersonal relationships, group belonging, culture and interrelations with social institutions. Therefore, sociology covers micro (individual agency) and macro (social structure) levels of analysis and touches of all its major aspects such as economic, political, religious, familial, criminal and many others. The sociological perspective helps students develop critical thinking because this approach encourages critical analysis of society. While taking a global perspective this course will introduce students to the major sociological theories, approaches, methods, and concepts for the sociological analysis of human societies. The ultimate goal of this course is to equip students with the knowledge that will help them think sociologically, understand key sociological ideas and find their applicability in contemporary world.

Attendance, Class Participation, and Assignments:

Students are required to attend all lectures. Attending the class means coming to the class on time, staying for the entire session and participating in class discussions. Points will be allocated based on class participation (10 % of the final grade). If you fail to attend lectures regularly and fail to do assigned work it will reduce your final grade. Active participation is encouraged during the class. This entails reflecting on the readings, participating in the

class discussions, making presentations and individual assignments. We will be watching movies in the class. As an assignment you will have to write reflections on movies that we will watch in the class. I expect you to make an analysis of the movie and write 1-2 paragraphs. Use your sociological imagination and ask sociological questions. Assignments must be posted in Sakai (Discussion and Private Messages -> Class Discussions-> "Name of the Movie") by Monday morning (preferably by Sunday 5:00pm).

Required text books:

There is one required book for this course:

1. Ferrente, Joan. Sociology: A Global Perspective, 9th edition. (Wadsworth, 2013).

And two recommended books:

2. Mitchell Duneier, Sidewalk (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999)
3. Eve L. Howard, ed., Classic Readings in Sociology, 4th edition (Wadsworth, 2004).

These books are available from campus and online retailers. Additional readings may be assigned during the session. Scanned copies of additional readings will be posted in Sakai website. **It is your responsibility to check Sakai and your e-mail regularly.** It will be beneficial for you to print out required readings and bring them to the class.

Assigned readings should be read prior to each lecture. To make the most of this course, you should reserve a great deal of your time to prepare for this class. Please complete the readings prior to the class for which they are assigned, so that you are able to participate fully in class discussions. For details see class schedule.

Grading and course evaluation:

Each exam will feature multiple choice questions. Your grade for this course will be based on three closed-books, closed-notes exams, each worth 30% of your grade. Make-up exams will only be allowed under extraordinary and appropriately documented circumstances. Exams will not be returned and question from a previous test may appear on future tests. Grades will be posted on Sakai website. Exam answers for the first two tests will be discussed in the class.

As it was mentioned above for class participation you can gain 10% of your final grade. Thus, your grade will consist of following:

Attendance and participation	10%
First Mid-Term Exam	30%
Second Mid-Term exam	30%
Final exam	30%

Grades for this course are non-negotiable and will be assigned according to the following scale:

Grade	Point Range
A	90-100%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84%
C+	75-79%
C	70-74%
D	60-69%
F	$\leq 59\%$

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES.

Academic misconduct: Academic misconduct may involve: cheating, fabrication; facilitating academic dishonesty; plagiarism; denying others access to information or material.

Classroom integrity: The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. To facilitate such an environment, students and faculty must act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Thus, behavior that distracts students and faculty is not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, leaving and returning, leaving early without permission, discourteous remarks, and other behaviors specified by individual instructors. Courteous and lawful expression of disagreement with the ideas of the instructor or fellow students is, of course, permitted.

If a student engages in disruptive behavior, the instructor, following the University Code of Student Conduct, may direct the student to leave class for the remainder of the class period. Instructors may specify other consequences in their syllabi. Serious verbal assaults, harassment, or defamation of the instructor or other students can lead to university disciplinary proceedings. The University Code of Student Conduct is at <http://policies.rutgers.edu/PDF/Section10/10.2.11-current.pdf>.

Class schedule.

Week 1

Jan 20

Jan 23

Course Introduction. Syllabus overview.

Introduction to sociological imagination.

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter One.
- 2) Wright Mills, "The Promise of Sociology" (on Sakai)
- 3) Peter L. Berger, "Invitation to Sociology," (on Sakai)

Week 2

Jan 27

Methods of Research.

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Two, p.
- 2) Mitchell Duneier, Sidewalk. Introduction (on Sakai)

Jan 30

- 1) Greta Krippner, How to Read a (quantitative) Journal Article (on Sakai).
- 2) Rod Taylor, How to Read a Paper: Papers That go Beyond Numbers (qualitative research) <http://www.bmj.com/content/315/7110/740>
- 3) Film: Exploring society. Sociological inquiry.
- 4) Corbin, Strauss, "Grounded Theory Research: Procedures, Canons, and Evaluating Procedures (on Sakai).

Week 3

Classical Sociological Theories.

Feb 3

Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Two

Feb 6

Functionalists Perspective

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Two.
- 2) Dillon, Émile Durkheim (on Sakai).
- 3) Robert Merton, Manifest and Latent Functions (on Sakai).

Week 4

Feb 10

Conflict Theory

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Two.
- 2) Karl Marx, "Manifesto of Communist Party" (on Sakai).

Feb 13

Symbolic Interaction Perspective

	1) Ferrante, Chapter Two. Film: "Two American Families" (PBS Frontline)
<u>Week 5</u> Feb 17 Feb 20	Review Session First Mid-Term Exam
<u>Week 6</u> Feb 24	Culture. 3) Ferrante, Chapter Three. 4) Horace Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" (on Sakai) Film: The Merchants of Cool
Feb 27	Socialization. 1) Ferrante, Chapter Four. 2) George Mead, "The Self" (on Sakai). 3) Film: The Century of the Self.
<u>Week 7</u> March 3	Social Interaction. 1) Ferrante, Chapter Five. 2) Erving Goffman, "The Presentation of Self" (on Sakai).
March 6	Social groups and formal organizations. 1) Ferrante, Chapter Six. 2) Mitchell Duneier, Sidewalk, "The Logics of Habitat" (on Sakai). 3) Film: The dark side of chocolate.
<u>Week 8</u> March 10	Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control 1) Ferrante, Chapter Seven. 2) Roseman, "On being Sane in Insane Places" (on Sakai). 3) Merton, "Social Structure and Anomie" (on Sakai).
<u>Week 9</u> March 24	Social Inequality. Part 1. 1) Ferrante, Chapter Eight. 2) Herbert J. Gans, "The Uses of Poverty" (on Sakai)
March 27	Social Inequality. Part 2. 1) Ferrante, Chapter Eight. 2) Film: Homeless in Loss Angeles. 3) Jonathan Kozol, "Savage Inequalities" (on Sakai).
<u>Week 10</u> March 31	Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration. 4) Ferrante, Chapter Nine. 5) Film: Rabbit in the Moon. 6) W. E. B. Dubois, "The Souls of Black Folk" (on Sakai)
April 3	Review Session

Week 11

April 7

Second Mid-Term Exam

April 10

Gender and Sexualities

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Ten (p. 198-209)
- 2) Acker, "Women and Social Stratification: A Case of Intellectual Sexism."
- 3) Gilman, Women and Economics.

Week 12

April 14

Economics and Politics

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Eleven.
- 2) Mills, "The Power Elite" (on Sakai).
- 3) Film: "The Power of Nightmares: The Rise of the Politics of Fear"

April 17

Family

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Twelve.
- 2) Naomi Gerstel and Natalia Sarkisian, "Marriage: The Good, the Bad, and the Greedy" (on Sakai).

Week 13

April 21

Education.

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Thirteen.
- 2) Film: Project Happiness.

April 24

Religion.

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Fourteen.

Week 14

April 28

Population and Health Care.

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Fifteen.

May 1

Social Change

- 1) Ferrante, Chapter Sixteen.
- 2) Domhoff, "Who Rules America" (on Sakai).
- 3) Film: Life and Debt.
- 4) Lerner, "Modernization" (on Sakai).

Week 15

May 7

Final Exam

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as I see necessary for the good of the class.