

Georgetown University
Sociology 001-20 – Introduction to Sociology*

Summer 2017

Class meets Monday – Thursday; 10:45 am to 12:45 pm

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UPDATED Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:00–2:00 pm; and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to a summer session of Introduction to Sociology! In this course you will learn in numerous ways that *sociology is the systematic study of human society and social life*. This course is designed to be an introduction to the development of sociology, and an examination of the range of concepts, principles, and methods that comprise modern sociology. We will examine important issues and institutions of contemporary society, including culture, socialization, gender, race and ethnicity, education, family, social organization, inequality, and social change. By the session's end, it is anticipated that students will understand the *sociological perspective* and be able to discuss sociological issues using the language of the discipline.

LEARNING GOALS

The following Learning Goals are derived from the Department of Sociology's website:

- ◆ To understand the relationship between social theory and research
- ◆ To apply sociological concepts to real life conditions
- ◆ To examine critically social issues of importance
- ◆ To begin to analyze quantitative and qualitative data
- ◆ To interpret already analyzed data to generate conclusions

→ Ideally, this course will also foster imaginations that envision a more just society.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Newman, David M. 2017. *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*. Brief Edition, 5th ed. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

[Referred to as "**Newman**" in the course and syllabus]

Venkatesh, Sudhir. 2008. *Gang Leader for a Day*. New York, NY: Penguin Books.

[Referred to as "**Gang Leader**"]

Occasional handouts and items posted to Blackboard

CLASS POLICIES

1. **Attend class.** This is part of being a self-regulating student.
 - a. There is a demonstrated positive relationship between classroom involvement and grades!
 - b. Attendance will be taken regularly; you are responsible for ensuring that your name has been included in the daily attendance.
 - c. Excessive absences (10%—excused or unexcused) may lead to a lowered grade.

2. **Engage with the class.** You must eliminate distractions in order to do this.
 - a. Do this by reading, thinking, writing, and speaking.
 - b. Working on other courses during class will result in an absence
 - c. Using electronic devices during class will result in an absence.
 - d. Habitual lack of preparedness will be considered when final grades are computed.
 - e. Overall, attendance and your contributions to the class make up 10% of your grade.

3. **Complete your work on time.** I will provide deadlines for your assignments.
 - a. Make sure you are set up for **printing** (and stapling) your written assignments before they are due.

4. Demonstrate *academic integrity* (see the University's policy below).

5. **Take notes using paper and a pen/pencil.** Computer laptops are not allowed during regular class sessions unless there is an assignment or activity that requires them. Again, phones or any other device are also not allowed during class. Any other exceptions to this policy will be announced in advance.

→ Please put your phones on *silent* (not vibrate), and keep them put away during class (and this will demonstrate that you are a self-regulating student).

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC HONOR SYSTEM

Standards of academic integrity are set forth in the University's **Honor Code**, and all students are bound by the Honor Code. In other words, you must *do your own work*, use proper citations when necessary, and not give or receive inappropriate assistance. By registering, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Code, and you are obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by the Code.

You may review a copy of GU's Honor Code at: <http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/honor-code>.

Violations of academic integrity will not be treated lightly, and disciplinary actions will be taken should such violations occur. For example, cheating, plagiarism, recycling of one's own or another's paper are considered violations of the Code and will have serious consequences for your standing at the University.

POLICY ON INSTRUCTIONAL CONTINUITY

The following policy is for maintaining instructional activities during unforeseen campus disruptions:

Instructional activities will be maintained during any University "closure." In the possibility of an interruption of face-to-face instruction, instructional continuity will take place via online and/or out-of-class assignments. During a campus closure, all course members must honor the regular class schedule. Students must remain available for synchronous distance instruction.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

In this course you are expected to complete all assigned work. Weekly quizzes and the final exam will cover readings, lectures, written assignments, videos, class exercises, and discussions. They will include multiple choice and essay questions. The final exam will have some cumulative content. To enhance academic integrity, all students are expected to remain in the classroom during examinations. In the event of a documented emergency, make-up exams will be held after the last week of the course and will contain all essay questions.

No extensions will be granted without prior proper documentation. Therefore, you should email me or provide a hard copy of your reason for missing a quiz or test, for example. Without this documentation, graded work will be penalized accordingly.

GRADING

Writing Assignments	35%
1. [Observation Research] (5%)	
2. [Organizational Research] (10%)	
3. Essay on <i>Gang Leader for a Day</i> (20%)	
Weekly Quizzes (4 at 10%)	40%
Final Exam	15%
<u>Attendance/ Contributions/ Homeworks</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100 points

GRADING STANDARDS

Evaluation of each student's performance in this course will be guided by the following criteria:

A = Excellent work in fulfillment of all course requirements with constant improvement and superb quality.

B = Very Good work in fulfillment of all course requirements with some improvement during the semester.

C = Satisfactory work in fulfillment of all course requirements and little improvement during the semester.

D = Assigned work is Not Satisfactory or not completed.

F = Unsatisfactory work and failure to meet minimum course goals and requirements.

- A letter grade will be assigned for each of the grading components, using the University's standard grading system (A, A-, B+, etc.). The final grade will be weighted as per the percentage distribution given above.
- Papers and written answers are evaluated on the basis of comprehensiveness and precision, effective and persuasive argument, organization, evidence of editing, and use of (reference to) course materials.
- All papers should include full citations, in proper academic format of all sources used and consulted.
- Written work submitted after the deadline will not be accepted and the grade F will be entered for that particular assignment. Papers may not be rewritten or resubmitted for extra credit.
- No Incomplete Grade will be given for this course except in cases of **documented** reasons of health or emergency beyond the student's control.

Some Helpful Tips Regarding Grades

1) If you are having trouble in this course, please come and see me sooner rather than later. That is one reason I have office hours. *Sooner*: there is a chance we can work together to make things better. *Later*: there is an excellent chance that you will be stuck with a lower grade than you would like.

2) Please do ****NOT**** ask me to give you a higher grade than you earned because: a) you are on academic probation; b) you need it to maintain a scholarship; c) you have any other special circumstance; d) you have never before gotten a grade below an *A* in any of your classes. I do not *give* grades; rather, you earn the grade you receive. Remember, those grades were not plucked out of thin air. And I did not *give* you that grade – you *earned* it!

3) One last note on grades: Focus less on your grade and more on learning! This way, you will experience less stress, enjoy the course more, and probably learn more while you're at it.

GUIDELINES FOR THE ASSIGNMENTS

Written assignments will be evaluated according to the following criteria: (1) organization, (2) logic and coherence, (3) clarity and effectiveness in presentation, (4) thoroughness, (5) thoughtfulness, and (6) originality.

All papers and assignments are to be **formatted** according to the following:

Margins (top, bottom, and sides) are to be 1"	Page numbers
Font size is 12 pt.	Stapled
Double-spaced	Bibliography (when required)

Again, typed assignments should adhere to the formatting requirements above. Guidelines stipulating page length and due dates will be provided for each assignment. Make sure you consult your notes and the texts before doing the assignments as they deal with a particular topic in the course. I expect your assignments to show how you understand the sociological concepts being studied and can apply them in each project.

THE WRITING CENTER

If you would like some guidance on tackling your writing assignments I strongly encourage you to visit the **Writing Center** [in Lauinger Library 217A]. Check the website for the Writing Center's summer hours and to schedule an appointment.

"The Writing Center offers assistance in topic development, general organization, guidance on paper revisions, and specific or recurring structural problems with writing. Consultants are not trained to proofread papers for grammar or spelling errors, but rather to help individuals improve their own critical thinking, revision, and editing skills."

Visit writingcenter.georgetown.edu for more information.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Please bring the relevant books (and syllabus) to class. *Everyone* is expected to be an active class participant (and it counts toward your 10%)! The class sessions will consist of lectures, group exercises and discussions, and occasional films to maximize various ways of learning. Classes will not be a regular summary of the readings; this means that you are to be prepared by doing the readings before class. There could be random and unannounced in-class writing. **Reminder:** **Any student who using unauthorized electronic devices during class will be marked absent.**

Week 1: July 10 to July 13

Monday, 7/10

- Welcome to the class! Discussion of course requirements, expectations, and assignments.
- Introduction to the course
 - What is **Sociology**?
 - **Lecture:** Looking at the Social World—The Sociological Perspective

Tuesday, 7/11

- Lecture/Reading on Sociology: **Newman text, Ch. 1** (Read for Tuesday)
 - **Handout:** Sociological Theory
 - **Class exercise:** Observation of faculty doors

Consider: 1) Of the three major theoretical perspectives, which one would you apply to an area of social life? Why? 2) Considering the macro- and micro-level approaches in sociology, which one best explains college life?

Wednesday, 7/12

- Social Research: **Newman, Ch. 2** (for Wednesday)
 - **In-class:** types of sociological research
 - **Campus/Georgetown Observation Research** assigned (due next Monday)

Consider: 1) What are the basic steps for conducting social research? 2) Distinguish between independent and dependent variables. 3) Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Thursday, 7/13

- Culture: **Newman, Ch. 3** (for Thursday)
 - **Handout:** McDonaldization

- **Quiz #1**

Consider: 1) In addition to a society's dominant values, what are the main values of Georgetown University? 2) How do you distinguish ethnocentrism and cultural relativism? 2) Are you a member of any subcultures? What features does your group have that make it a subculture?

Week 2: July 17 to July 20

Monday, 7/17

- Social Structure and Social Interaction: **Newman, Ch. 4**
 - **Homework:** Dramaturgy and Selfies
 - **Observation Research assignment** due

Consider: 1) What is the social structure and what are its elements? 2) What is the difference between status and role? 3) Is stigma or embarrassment significant to college students?

Tuesday, 7/18

- Socialization: **Newman, Ch. 5**
 - **Application:** Media as agent of socialization

Consider: 1) Name two agents of socialization who have influenced you the most. How and why? 2) Can you pinpoint their influence on your attitudes, beliefs, values, or other orientations to life?

Wednesday, 7/19

- Micro-level: Identity: **Newman, Ch. 6**
- **Gang Leader, Ch. 1**
 - Guidelines for the *Gang Leader for a Day* essay (typed) will be provided.

Consider: 1) Identify your in-groups and out-groups. 2) How has peer pressure operated in your life? Think about something that you did not want to do but did anyway because of peer pressure.

Thursday, 7/20

- Families: **Newman, Ch. 7**
- **Quiz #2**

Consider: 1) Why is it difficult to precisely define the term “family”? 2) What recent trends have you seen in marriage and family life in both the U.S. and globally? 3) What are the influences of social class and culture in affecting distinctive characteristics of family life?

Week 3: July 24 to July 27

Monday, 7/24

- Crime and Deviance: **Newman, Ch. 8**
 - **Application:** Environmental crime
- **Gang Leader, Ch. 2**
- **Organizational Research on Eating Establishments** assigned

Consider: 1) What is deviance? Why do sociologists consider deviance to be “relative”? In other words, is it deviance if you don’t get caught? 2) What are some contemporary examples of “deviance”?

Tuesday, 7/25

- **Gang Leader, Ch. 3**

Consider: 1) Why do human groups need norms to exist? 2) What are some of the sanctions human groups use to enforce norms?

Wednesday, 7/26

- Organizations: **Newman, Ch. 9**
 - **Organizational Research on Eating Establishments** due
 - **Gang Leader, Ch. 4**
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Thursday, 7/27

- Social Class: **Newman, Ch. 10**
 - Introduction to Intersectional Theory
- **Quiz #3**

Consider: 1) What determines social class and what are its various components? 2) What are the consequences of social class? 3) How can you compare *your* social class with that of your *family*? 4) How do we recognize social class in organizations?

Week 4: July 31 to August 3

Monday, 7/31

- Race & Ethnicity: **Newman, Ch. 11**
- **Gang Leader, Ch. 5**

Consider: 1) Why are race and ethnicity often confused? 2) What is the concept of a “multicultural identity”? 3) What is the difference between prejudice and discrimination? 4) What are some major issues and debates dominating race-ethnic relations in the United States?

Tuesday, 8/1

- Gender: **Newman, Ch. 12**
- **Gang Leader, Ch. 6**
 - **Class discussion and in-class writing:** How would you describe the research methodology undertaken by Sudhir Venkatesh? What were his major “findings”?

Consider: 1) What is the difference between sex and gender? 2) What is gender stratification? 3) How is gender ‘socially constructed’? 3) What is the current wage gap, and what contributes to this source of inequality?

Wednesday, 8/2

- Population Issues: **Newman, Ch. 13**
 - **Comparison:** countries’ social indicators
- **Gang Leader, Ch. 7**

Consider: 1) Why should we pay attention to the work of demographers? 2) What are some social issues in the news with regard to population changes? 3) Do they represent an increase in “globalization”?

Thursday, 8/3

- Social Change: **Newman, Ch. 14**

Consider: 1) Social change can happen on a small scale or on a large scale. 2) How do social movements represent collective action for social change? 3) Have you ever been a part of a social movement?

- **Quiz #4**

Week 5: August 7 to August 10

Monday, 8/7

- **Gang Leader, Ch. 8**
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Tuesday, 8/8

- **Gang Leader, Ch. 8** (conclude)
 - **Class discussion and in-class writing:** Using the theories in *Think*, is there any taken-for-granted understanding of social life by either Venkatesh or the participants in his study?

Consider: 1) How do we assess global stratification? 2) Which social indicators provide information on a country's "health"? 3) How does the U.S. class system compare to other countries?

Wednesday, 8/9

- Politics

Consider: 1) What are the different reasons for social inequality in the economy and in politics? 2) What is the impact of new patterns in work and leisure? 3) What is the relationship between power and politics?

Thursday, 8/10

- Re-cap: The Sociological Imagination
- Presentation of papers
 - ***Gang Leader for a Day* Essay due**

- **Prepare** for Final Exam and **Course evaluations**
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FINAL EXAM – August 11

Location: (tba) — Time: 10:45 am - 12:45 pm

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVE STUDYING IN THIS CLASS*

To “actively” study a chapter or reading assignment:

1. Be familiar with your textbooks, how they are organized and the various resources in them. List all the words of which you are unsure. Look them up and write down the definitions of the terms. Use the Key Terms or Glossary at the end of each chapter and at the back of the text.
2. Summarize in your own words the author’s main message.
3. Identify the subtopics in the reading.
4. Note the subtopics that you had trouble comprehending or a point that you would like to be clarified.
5. How do ideas in the reading connect with others that have been discussed in class? Do they substantiate, amplify or contradict these?
6. How does the material relate to your own life situation, past, present and future? To your family, work and community?
7. Write down your reaction to and evaluation of the chapter or reading. What questions do you have that remain unanswered?