

SOCIOLOGY 105: DOING SOCIOLOGY

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Office Hours –Mondays and Thursdays 10-11
or by appointment

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OPEN TO FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ONLY

Why do male and female students participate in class discussions differently? Did the students of color always sit together in your high school cafeteria? Why is Africa so poor? Sociology has answers to all of these questions. The goal of this course is to help you develop your sociological imagination. It is to learn to see the world around you sociologically and to give you tools and concepts to help you analyze what you see. This course is organized around a series of hands-on, in class and before class exercises. Each is designed to introduce students to a different sub-field, to familiarize her with different analytical techniques, and to learn new theories and concepts. Students will work individually, in pairs, and in small groups. Our work will focus on debates and research on religion, globalization, and culture. We will also receive mini-trainings on doing research, writing, and public speaking.

Coming to class on time and prepared and participating actively in class discussions is an important part of the success of this experience. Your grade will be based on your participation (30%) and three short written assignments (20% each), and an individual oral presentation. All late papers will be graded down. Please do not submit your papers by e-mail. Please come to my office hours at least once before the middle of the semester

The following books are on reserve at Clapp Library or are available for purchase at the bookstore.

Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren. *How To Read A Book*. Simon and Schuster

David Brooks. *Bobos in Paradise*. Simon and Shuster

Omar McRoberts. *Streets of Glory*. University of Chicago Press

Peggy Levitt. *The Transnational Villagers*. University of California Press

Tanya Erzen. *Straight to Jesus*. University of California Press

Denise Bielby and Lee Harrington. *Global TV*. NYU Press.

Kathy Davis. *The Making of Our Bodies, Ourselves*. Duke University Press

Katherine Lutz and Jane Collins. *Reading National Geographic*. University of Chicago

Carla Freeman. *High Tech and High Heels in the Global Economy*. Duke University Press

WEEK ONE – SEPTEMBER 8TH INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE AND THE DISCIPLINE

Read and discuss a movie. What are some of the film's sociological themes? How does sociology help us to understand them?

WEEK TWO – SEPTEMBER 15TH THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

- A. Before Class** – Read Part One, Part Two, Chapter 19, and Part Four of Adler and Van Doren's *How to Read a Book*. Bring in an article from the newspaper that you think is about a sociological issue or debate.
- B. In Class** – Class meets in the PC Classroom of the Knapp Reserve Center where we will have a session with Laura Reiner, Research Librarian about how to use the library databases. Then, we will return to class for a lecture and discussion about what sociology is, its methods, and some of the important concepts we will work with during the semester. Newspaper exercise based on the articles students bring in and additional articles I will distribute.

WEEK THREE - SEPTEMBER 22TH THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION- AN EXAMPLE

- A. Before Class** – Read David Brooks' *Bobos in Paradise*. – Introduction and chapters 1, 2, and 5. Spend the afternoon in the town of Wellesley and observe what is bohemian and what is bourgeois about it. What is Brook's main argument? Do you agree? Why? Write a 3-5 page paper on your experiences and analysis. Guidelines to be distributed. **DUE ON OCT. 6TH**
- B. In Class** – In-class lecture on public speaking techniques by a PLTC tutor who will work with our class throughout the semester. Discuss the book and the findings of your observations. Group Exercise – Analyze materials from old WC yearbooks and alumnae materials. What were the cultural expectations then? How do they compare to what Brooks says they are now?

WEEK FOUR – SEPTEMBER 29TH - RELIGION

- A. Before class** – Read Omar McRobert’s *Streets of Glory*. Visit a religious congregation somewhere in the Boston area. Try to copy as many aspects of McRobert’s analysis as you can. What can you tell about who your congregation serves, its political role, and its division of labor in the religious ecology?
- B. In class** – In class presentation by tutors from the writing program. Introduction to the sociology of religion. Discussion of McRoberts book and before class exercise.

WEEK FIVE - OCTOBER 6TH RELIGION CONTINUED

- A. Before Class** – Read *Straight to Jesus*. Collect materials for in-class debate on the “Is homosexuality curable?” and “Should cult members be rescued?” You will be assigned to groups beforehand so you can work together before coming to class.
- B. In Class** – Discuss Book. Continued discussion about topics in sociology of religion. Prepare for and conduct in-class debate.

WEEK SIX – OCTOBER 13TH NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

WEEK SEVEN – OCTOBER 20TH RELIGION AND GLOBALIZATION

- A. Before Class** – Read *The Transnational Villagers*. In teams, visit an urban neighborhood or town with a large immigrant population (I will help you with suggestions) and prepare a socio-demographic profile using census data, newspaper articles, website materials, etc. What can you discover about who lives there and what their lives are like? What can you discover about how their lives compare to the transnational lifestyles that I describe?
- B. In class** - Lecture on globalization and immigration. Discussion of reading. Presentation of team reports. Write a 3-5 page paper based on your findings. Guidelines to be distributed. **DUE ON NOVEMBER 10TH**

WEEK EIGHT – OCTOBER 27TH - GLOBALIZATION

- A. Before Class** - – Read *High Tech and High Heels*. In particular, come prepared to talk about how and why globalization might affect men and women differently.
- B. In Class** – Lecture on globalization and women. Discussion of book and question posed. In-class session with Prof. Kelly Rutherford on content analysis.

WEEK NINE – NOVEMBER 3RD – NO CLASS MAKE UP MOVIE NIGHT AND GUEST LECTURE (DATES TO BE DETERMINED).

WEEK TEN – NOVEMBER 10TH – GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURE

- A. **Before Class** – Read *Reading National Geographic*. Conduct a similar analysis of a *National Geographic* and come prepared to discuss it in class.
- B. **In-Class** – Introduction to the sociology of culture. Discussion of book and before class analyses. Watch film clips of *South Pacific* for in-class analysis.

WEEK ELEVEN – NOVEMBER 17TH GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURE

- A. **Before Class** – Read *The Making of Our Bodies, OurSelves*. Choose another cultural artifact that travels around the world (i.e. a magazine that is published in several different languages in different countries, a form of music, a musician who presents him or herself differently in different contexts). As best you can, trace its journey and transformation. Come prepared to discuss what you learned in class.
- B. **In-Class** - Lecture on global cultural production and consumption. Discuss book and exercise. Policy exercise on global women's rights. Third Assignment Distributed on cultural representations and content analysis includes paper and oral presentation **DUE DECEMBER 5TH**

WEEK TWELVE – NOVEMBER 25TH CULTURE

- A. **Before Class** – Read *Global T.V.* Listen to two talk radio programs that represent different ends of the political spectrum (i.e WBUR versus WBZ). Analyze how they cover the same news items. What differences do you notice in the presentation, discourse, frames, etc that are being used. Come prepared to discuss your findings.
- B. **In Class** – Discuss book and exercise. Guest Lecture by Roman Williams, graduate student at BU.

WEEK THIRTEEN – DECEMBER 1ST CULTURE

- A. **Before Class** – Read short story to be distributed.
- B. **In Class** – Discussion of sociology themes in story. Visit to Davis Museum and session with curator.

WEEK FOURTEEN – DECEMBER 8TH WRAP-UP AND STUDENT PRESENTATIONS – CLASS MEETS AT 12:30 (FOR LUNCH) – 3.

- A. **Before Class** – Prepare your oral presentation based on Assignment 3
- B. **In Class** – Lunch together and student presentations.

