Sociology 1: Introductory Sociology, Winter 2010
Professor Rogers Brubaker

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Fowler A103B
Course website: http://classes.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view.php?name=10W-SOCIOL1-1

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:15-2:15, Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:15, 232 Haines Hall. You can drop by during these times, but you can also sign up in advance for a particular time by emailing my assistant at wrb@soc.ucla.edu. There is a link to the "Office Hours Appointment Calendar" on the course website; here you can see what times are still free. Please check this calendar before emailing to sign up for an appointment.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to sociological analysis. It does not attempt to provide a comprehensive overview of the discipline; such an overview would require a year-long course. Instead, the course focuses selectively on a few key issues and on developing what C. Wright Mills called the “sociological imagination” – the ability to think sociologically about the social world.

The course begins by introducing the sociological imagination. We will consider what is distinctive about a sociological perspective on the world; examine the idea of the social construction of reality; and discuss the nature of sociological description and explanation.

We next discuss the overall nature and trajectory of the contemporary social world, focusing on the notions of modernity and globalization.

The third section is concerned with questions of identity (“who is what?”) on the one hand and questions of inequality (“who gets what?”) on the other. We discuss the social construction of ethnicity, race, and gender; and we consider patterns, trends, and explanations of inequality.

The final section is concerned with social order and co-ordination. We consider how social order emerges through face-to-face interaction; through patterned choices; through social ties and networks; through institutions such as marriage; and through large-scale organizations.

Enrollment

No new students will be admitted from the waiting list after the first week of class. No PTE numbers will be given out.

Lectures

Lectures will not simply go over the readings; they are an integral part of the course. You will be responsible on quizzes and exams for material presented in lectures.
In consideration for other students, as well as for the instructor, please make sure you that you arrive on time, and do not leave class early. (If you must leave early on a particular occasion, please make sure you sit in an aisle seat at the back of the class.) Cell phones should be turned off and are not to be used for any purpose in class. Laptops may not be used for any purpose other than note-taking.

Lecture slides will be posted on the course website. I will make every effort to post lecture slides by 8am on the day of the lecture, but note that this may not be the final version. If the final version differs, I will post it after the lecture. Lecture slides are not a substitute for lecture notes. They can be useful, however, as a framework for taking notes, so you may want to print out the lecture slides and bring them to class.

As part of a program run by the Office of Instructional Development, lectures will be made available as podcasts on the Bruincast website (http://www.bruincast.ucla.edu/) as a student review resource. (For technical problems with podcasts, please contact bruincasthelp@ucla.edu).

Sections

Sections meet once a week for one hour. Section attendance is mandatory, and attendance will be taken. Sections focus on sharpening and deepening students’ understanding of the readings; clarifying issues raised in lecture; and developing reading strategies and writing skills. There will be some section assignments; these will count toward your section participation grade.

Exams

There will be a midterm and a final exam. The final exam will be cumulative, although more emphasis will be placed on material covered after the midterm. The midterm will be held on Thursday, February 4. The final will be on Monday, March 15th from 11:30am-2:30pm. Make-up exams will be offered only in the case of a medical emergency; this will require a letter from a doctor.

Important note: exams will cover both the lectures and the readings. This includes parts of the readings that are not discussed in lecture, as well as parts of the lectures that are not devoted to the discussion of the readings.

Quizzes

There will be several quizzes, so as to give you a sense of how well you are reading and understanding the material. Quizzes will not be announced in advance; all quizzes will be held at the beginning of lecture. They will count for 10% of the final grade; however, the student’s lowest quiz grade (including zero if the quiz was missed) will not be counted. No credit will be given for those who miss class or are late for class on the day of a quiz. (If a student misses more than one quiz for medical reasons, this will be taken into account only if documented by a doctor’s note.)
**Paper**

There will be one 4-5 page paper (1000-1200 words) assignment. The paper will be due at the beginning of class on Thursday, February 18. The assignment will be posted on the website on Thursday, February 4.

**Grading**

Final grades will be based on the midterm (25%), final (40%), section participation (10%), paper (15%), and quizzes (10%).

Grades for section participation will be based on contribution to class discussion and completion of section assignments. Section grades will be lowered for those who have more than one unexcused absence.

Any request to review the grade received on an exam must be made in writing and must explain in specific detail why the student believes the grade was inappropriate. Review may result in a lower grade, a higher grade, or no change.

**Honors section**

I will conduct an honors section if there is sufficient student interest. Participation in the honors section is in addition to participation in a regular course discussion section. The honors section will meet one hour each week on Friday at 11am, beginning January 8, in Humanities A-30. The honors section, which carries one credit, will be graded separately from the rest of the course, and will require additional work. In addition to participating actively in honors section discussions, students will be required to read a book from a short list of books provided by the instructor and write a 4-5 page (1000-1200 word) paper analyzing the book in relation to other readings done in the course. The grade will be based on class participation (25%) and the paper (75%).

Students interested in enrolling in the honors section (Sociology 89, Seminar 1) should contact me by email ([brubaker@soc.ucla.edu](mailto:brubaker@soc.ucla.edu)) before Thursday, January 7. The email should include a statement of your reasons for your interest in the honors section. Enrollment will be limited to a maximum of 15 students to make possible more intensive discussion.

**Required Readings**

Students are expected to have completed all of the required readings before the relevant lecture or section.

This class has a relatively heavy reading load. Some of the readings are difficult, and will require you to read slowly, take careful notes, and read the text more than once. It is crucial to keep up with the readings; if you do not, you will be unprepared for quizzes and section discussions, you won’t get as much out of lectures, and you are unlikely to do well on exams.
Reading questions will be posted on the course website a week before the readings are to be completed. You should print these out and use them as a guide to reading; you should also bring these to sections. Some questions will be quite specific, designed to make sure you understand key points. Others will be broader questions. Reading questions will be useful as a study guide when you are reviewing for exams; they will also be helpful in preparing for quizzes.


All other required readings (but not the Giddens) will be available through the UCLA library e-reserves system. From [http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?PAGE=rbSearch&DB=local](http://catalog.library.ucla.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?PAGE=rbSearch&DB=local), select the instructor name, department, and course number from the drop-down boxes. Then click on the number to the left of “Electronic Course Reserves Sociology 1 Brubaker.” This will give you access to the PDF files.

Please note that you must have an authenticated UCLA connection to access e-reserves. For information on accessing e-reserves from an off-campus computer, see [http://www2.library.ucla.edu/service/2032.cfm](http://www2.library.ucla.edu/service/2032.cfm)

All required readings should be printed out. Please note that some of the PDF files have been annotated with indications of passages that do not need to be read. When printing from a PC, please be sure to print comments or markups along with document (if you don’t do this, you will not be able to see which parts have been crossed out). Instructions for doing this depend on what version of Acrobat Reader you are using:

Acrobat Reader 5.0: check the "Comments" box in the "print range" section of the print menu.

Acrobat Reader 6.0 : select "Document and Comments" from the drop-down list next to "Print What?" in the print menu.

Acrobat Reader 7.0: select "Document and Markups" (rather than simply "Document") in the drop-down box in the upper right (under "Comments and Forms") of the print menu.

If you don’t have your own printer, readings can be printed at the Social Sciences Computing located at 2041 Public Policy. Students enrolled in social sciences courses receive a $10 (100 pages) printing credit each quarter; for additional printing beyond this, SSC charges 10 cents a page. (For any questions or concerns, please contact kiosk@ssc.ucla.edu).

For logistical questions – for example, problems with the web site, or with accessing readings – please contact my assistant, Kristen Kao (wrb@soc.ucla.edu).
The class website (http://classes.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view.php?name=10W-SOCIOL1-1) includes the following:

- Syllabus and announcements
- Link to office hours appointment calendar
- Reading questions
- Lecture slides
- Newspaper articles on matters of sociological interest

Schedule of lectures and assigned readings

Note: readings are to be completed before the lectures on the dates indicated below. Note also that readings marked with an asterisk have portions of the text crossed out.

Introduction

**Tuesday, January 5th**: Thinking Sociologically  
Mills, The Sociological Imagination, pp. 3-13  
Bauman and May, Thinking Sociologically, pp. 5-12  
*Berger, Invitation to Sociology, pp. 25-42

**Thursday, January 7th**: Social Construction  
*Zerubavel, Social Mindscapes, Chapters 4 (excerpts) and 6  
Best, Damned Lies and Statistics, Chapter 1  
Moynihan et al., “Selling Sickness: The Pharmaceutical Industry and Disease Mongering”

**Tuesday, January 12th**: Sociological Description and Explanation

Modernity

**Thursday, January 14th**: Dimensions of Modernity  
Giddens, Modernity and Self-Identity, pp. 1-34, 70-108

**Tuesday, January 19th**: High Modernity and Personal Identity  
Giddens, Modernity and Self-Identity, pp. 109-126, 133-143, 181-208

**Thursday, January 21st**: Globalization  
*Eriksen, excerpts from Globalization

Identity and Inequality: Who is what and who gets what

**Tuesday, January 26th**: Identity and Diversity  
Jenkins, Social Identity, pp. 1-6, 80-89

**Thursday, January 28th**: Ethnicity and Race  
Cornell and Hartmann, Ethnicity and Race, pp. 1-11, 15-25, 72-101
Tuesday, February 2nd: Gender
Lorber, *Paradoxes of Gender*, pp 13-31
*Harris, *The Nurture Assumption*, 204-212

Thursday, February 4th: Midterm Exam

Tuesday, February 9th: Inequality
*Grusky and Szelenyi, “The Rise and Fall of Benign Narratives About Inequality”
Best, *Damned Lies and Statistics*, pp. 147-152

Thursday, February 11th: Explaining Inequality:
*Charles and Grusky, *Occupational Ghettos*, Chapter 1
Fischer et al., *Inequality by Design*, Chapter 6

Tuesday, February 16th: New Forms of Inequality
*Pettit and Western, “Mass Imprisonment and the Life Course”
*Shachar, *The Birthright Lottery*, pp. 1-8, 10-12

Social Order and Co-ordination

Thursday, February 18th: The Problem of Social Order
Paper due at beginning of lecture

Tuesday, February 23rd: Interaction
Goffman, “The Nature of Deference and Demeanor”

Thursday, February 25th: Choices
*Schelling, *Micromotives and Macrobehavior*, pp. 91-102, 110-115, 124-133

Tuesday, March 2nd: Networks
*Granovetter, “The Strength of Weak Ties”

Thursday, March 4th: Institutions
*Jenkins, *Social Identity*, pp. 127-129
Cherlin, *The Marriage Go-Round*, Chapters 1 and 5

Tuesday, March 9th: Organizations
*Jenkins, *Social Identity*, pp. 136-7
Ritzer, “The ‘McDonaldization’ of Society,” pp. 100-107
*Dimaggio and Powell, “The Iron Cage Revisited,” pp. 63-82

Review and Conclusion: Thursday, March 11th

Final exam: Monday, March, 11:30am-2:30pm