

Sociology 152 (c): Social Relations and U.S. Cultures
Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00-9:50, 389 Upham Hall

Professor Stephen Lippmann

Office: 366 Upham Hall

Office Hours: 2:00-4:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment

Phone: 529-8515

Email: lippmas@muohio.edu

Course description and objectives: This course will introduce you to Sociology—the scientific study of human interaction, group behavior and dynamics, institutions, culture, and a wide variety of other topics—with a special emphasis on American culture and society. We will focus on several important areas of sociological theory and research, including social structures, social inequality, and social institutions. The primary objectives of this course are to (1) introduce students to core ideas and methods of sociology, (2) enhance students' understanding of contemporary social issues, and (3) encourage students to think critically and reflectively about the social world in which we live.

Student responsibilities and course organization: To accomplish these objectives, we will rely heavily on class discussions and group work. In order for these activities to work successfully, you must *do each reading prior to the class in which it will be discussed, attend class regularly and be ready to contribute any questions, comments, or ideas that you have about the readings.* **Don't be afraid to read with a dictionary at your side. If you don't understand a word, skipping over it won't help you understand the reading or expand your vocabulary!** Because you are adults, attendance will not be graded. However, regular class attendance will undoubtedly improve your understanding of the course material and performance on the assignments.

Course Guidelines

Arrive to class on time, and I won't keep you late. Deal?

Turn off your cell phones!

Read the newspaper and sleep before you come to class.

Hand in assignments on time.

Treat your classmates with respect

Familiarize yourself with the new course withdrawal policy

(www.miami.muohio.edu/documents_and_policies/handbook/)

Readings: There are three books required for the course. I have placed orders for these books at the Miami Bookstore. The books are:

Margaret L. Anderson and Howard F. Taylor. *Sociology: Understanding a Diverse Society*. (4th edition).

Jay MacLeod. *Ain't No Makin' It: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Eric Klinenberg. *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Other readings are available on electronic reserve via blackboard, and are indicated with a "BB" on the syllabus.

Assignments

Quizzes (10%)- Throughout the semester, we will have 12 in-class quizzes that will cover the readings and in-class material from the *previous* class session. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes, but you can drop your lowest two grades leaving a total of 10 quiz grades.

Homework exercises (40%)- During each of the four main units in the course, you will complete an exercise that will allow you to delve more deeply into a topic we've covered in class. We will discuss these in greater detail in class.

Assignment 1: Due Thursday, September 7th

Assignment 2: Due Thursday, October 3rd

Assignment 3: Due Tuesday, October 24th

Assignment 4: Due Tuesday, November 21st

Mid-term exam (25%)

Final exam (25%)- The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and a few short essays.

Grading: Personal emergencies, mechanical failures, and illnesses affect us all, often at the worst possible times. However, I must hold everyone in the class to the same standards. Late work loses 2 points per calendar day (regardless of the reason for lateness). Missed exams and work not submitted by semester's end receives a grade of zero. I do not offer extra credit assignments; every student will be graded on the same basis for the same work. Therefore, be sure to plan ahead and begin your assignment well before their due dates. If you begin to fall behind in any of the course requirements, you should take action early on to remedy the situation rather than during the last week of classes when it's too late! Both Miami University and I take academic honesty very seriously. Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Please be familiar with Part V, Sections 01.501-502 of the Miami University Student handbook regarding academic integrity.

A	92-100
A-	90-91
B+	88-89
B	82-87
B-	80-81

C+	78-79
C	72-77
C-	70-71
D+	68-69
D	62-67
D-	60-61
F	59 and below

Contact: The best way to contact me is via email. My address is lippmas@muohio.edu, and I check this frequently throughout the day. Also, feel free to call me in my office.

I can also be reached during my office hours. If these times are not convenient, I am happy to set up another time that works better for you. I encourage you to make use of my office hours to raise specific questions or concerns you have about the class as they arise. Don't wait until it's too late!!! Also, feel free to stop by and chat about anything that's on your mind.

We will be conducting a lot of course business via blackboard. Please familiarize yourself with this resource and check it out regularly.

SCHEDULE

Course introduction

Tuesday, August 22—course introduction

Why are we here?

Thursday, August 24— “The Untouchables” and “The Quiet Crisis” pp. 237-275 in *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*. By Thomas L. Friedman. New York: FSG. 2005. BB

What is sociology and how do we “do” it?

Tuesday, August 29—Thinking Sociologically

C. Wright Mills. 1959. “The Promise.” Chapter 1 in *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press. BB

Earl Babbie. 2004. “Sociology: An Idea Whose Time Has Come.” *Sociological Perspectives* 47: 331-38. BB

Thursday, August 31—Sociological Research

A&T Chapter 2. “Doing Sociological Research.”

Instructions for assignment #1 handed out in class

Tuesday, September 5—*No class*

Social Structures and Social Control

Thursday, September 7—Socialization
A&T Chapter 4. “Socialization.”

Malcolm Gladwell. 1998. “Do Parents Matter?” *The New Yorker* (August 17). BB
Assignment #1 due.

Tuesday, September 12—Social Interaction
A&T Chapter 5. “Social Interaction and Social Structure.” STOP at page 128.

Thursday, September 14—Social Interaction
Erving Goffman. 1959. Selections from *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. BB

Tuesday, September 19—Groups
A&T Chapter 6, pp. 139-150

Zurcher, L. A. (1970). The Friendly Poker Game: A Study of Ephemeral Role. *Social Forces*, 49, 173-186. BB

Thursday, September 21— Organizations
A&T Chapter 6, pp. 150-163

W. Richard Scott. 2002. “The Subject is Organizations.” Pp. 3-32 in *Organizations: Rational, Natural, and Open Systems*. Prentice Hall. BB

Tuesday, September 26— Organizations (con’t)
George Ritzer. 2004. “An Introduction to McDonaldization.” And
“McDonaldization in a Changing World.” Pp. 1-23 and 185-212 in *The McDonaldization of Society*. BB

Instructions for assignment #2 handed out in class.

Thursday, September 28— Culture
A&T Chapter 3. “Culture.”

Christian Smith. 2003. “Human Culture(s) and Moral Order(s).” chapter 2 of *Moral, Believing Animals: Human Personhood and Culture*. Oxford U. Press. BB

Tuesday, October 3— Culture (con’t)
Bethany Bryson, 1996, “‘Anything But Heavy Metal’: Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes,” *American Sociological Review* 61: 884-899. BB

Roger M. Kern, 1997, "Boundaries in Use: The Deployment of Personal Resources by the Upper Middle Class," *Poetics* 25:177-193. BB

Assignment #2 due.

Thursday, October 5— Deviance
A&T Chapter 7. "Deviance."

Pfohl, Stephen. 1977. "The 'Discovery' of Child Abuse." *Social Problems* 24: 310-323. BB

Tuesday, October 10—**Midterm**

Social inequality

Thursday, October 12—Theories of stratification
A&T Chapter 9. "Social Class and Social Stratification."

Kinsley Davis and Wilbert Moore. 1945. "Some Principles of Stratification." *American Sociological Review*. 10: 242-249. BB

Karl Marx. Chapter one of *The Communist Manifesto*.

"Minor League Umpires Wait for the Big Call." *New York Times*, July 27, 2005. BB

Tuesday, October 17—Class in America
"Shadowy Lines that Still Divide." *New York Times*, May 15, 2005. BB

"Life at the Top in America Isn't Just Better, It's Longer." *New York Times*, May 16, 2005. BB

Ain't No Makin' It. Chapters 1-3.

Instructions for assignment #3 handed out in class.

Thursday, October 19—Class, race, and mobility in America
A&T Chapter 11. "Race and Ethnicity."

Ain't No Makin' It. Chapters 4-8.

Tuesday, October 24—Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity
Ain't No Makin' It. Chapters 9-11

Assignment #3 due.

Thursday, October 26—Inequalities of Gender
A&T Chapter 12. “Gender.”

Tuesday, October 31—Gender (Con’t)
Alice Kessler-Harris. 1991 “The Wage Conceived: Value and Need as a Measure of Women’s Worth.” Pp. 6-32 in *A Woman's Wage: Historical Meanings and Social Consequences*. University Press of Kentucky. BB

Institutions and Social Change

Thursday, November 2—What is an institution?
John W. Meyer and Brian Rowan. 1977. “Institutionalized Organizations: Formal Structure as Myth and Ceremony.” *American Journal of Sociology*. 83: 340-363. BB

Tuesday, November 7—Family
A&T Chapter 15. “Families.”

Thursday, November 9—Religion
A&T Chapter 17. “Religion.”

Tuesday, November 14—Economy
A&T Chapter 18. “Economy and Work.”

Instructions for assignment #4 handed out in class

Thursday, November 16—Urbanization and Population Studies
A&T Chapter 21. “Population, Urbanization, and the Environment.”

Heat Wave skim Prologue and Introduction

Tuesday, November 21—Urbanization and Population Studies (Con’t)
Heat Wave chapters 1 and 2

Assignment #4 due.

Thursday, November 23—*No Class*

Tuesday, November 28—Politics
A&T Chapter 19. “Government and Politics.”

Heat Wave chapters 3 and 4

Thursday, December 30—the Media
Heat Wave chapter 5 (and beyond, if you’re so inclined!!)

Melissa Milkie. 1999. "Social Comparisons, Reflected Appraisals, and Mass Media: The Impact of Pervasive Beauty Images on Black and White Girls' Self-Concepts." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 62: 190-210. BB

Tuesday, December 5—Globalization

Selections from Part Four of *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*. BB

Thursday, December 7—Review and Wrap Up

"11/9 vs. 9/11." pp. 441-469 in *The*

World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century. By Thomas L. Friedman. New York: FSG. 2005

Thursday, December 14, 12:30—**Final Exam**