SOC. 195-001 HONORS SEMINAR: 
AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY 
THROUGH AMERICAN AND IRAQI SOCIETIES

Time: MW 10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon
Place: 4155 LS&A
Instructor: Fatma Müge Göçek
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Office: 4207 LS&A
Phone: 647-4228
Office Hours: M 3 – 5 p.m.

This class is designed specifically to introduce you to the field of sociology through the study of two societies that are of deep concern to us at the moment, one because we live in it and the other because we fight in it: namely, the American and Iraqi societies. The purpose of the course is to gain insight into how to approach and analyze sociologically the American and Iraqi societies that are alternately portrayed as being structurally and culturally very different from one another on the one hand, yet very similar to one another on the other.

Each week commences with an outline on the topic that summarizes the pertinent sociological points as well as a summary of the significant aspects of the assigned readings. The outline will be available on the CTools website ahead of time so as to provide guidance to the readings; I shall also try to have it available during the lecture. The students are expected to do the readings on a weekly basis as they will be tested on them.

The course requirements comprise the following:

I. Midterm Examination (30%): In-class examination on 3 November 2010 Wednesday selected from among the study questions submitted by you, compiled by me and handed out the week before.

II. Final Paper (30%): On any pertinent topic of your choice; I shall distribute hand-outs on how to go about writing the final paper. The Final Paper is due via e-mail on 20 December 2010 Monday at midnight.

III. Surprise Quizzes (40%): Given throughout the course to make sure you stay on top of the readings.

COURSE SUMMARY OUTLINE

| September 8 W  | Introduction            |
| 9/13 M        | Issues of Our Times    |
| 9/15 W        | Issues of Our Times    |
| 9/20 M        | The Sociological Lens  |
| 9/22 W        | The Sociological Lens  |

Sociological Approaches to Society:

| September  8 W | Introduction        |
| 9/13 M        | Issues of Our Times |
| 9/15 W        | Issues of Our Times |
| 9/20 M        | The Sociological Lens |
| 9/22 W        | The Sociological Lens |

| October  4 M  | I. Social Conflict  |
| 10/6 W        | Social Conflict    |
| 10/11 M       | II. Social Consensus |
| 10/13 W       | Symbolic Interaction |
| 10/18 M       | FALL BREAK         |
| 10/20 W       | Film on Iraq       |
| 10/ 25 M      | IV. Critical Interrogation |
| 10/27 W       | Critical Interrogation; midterm study questions handed out |
| November 1 M  | NO CLASS; midterm study break |
| 11/3 Wednesday | IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION |

Sociological Dimensions of Society:

| 11/8 M        | i. Gender and Sexuality |
COURSE READING OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION
(9/8) W
The U.S. Experience in Iraq through Political Cartoons
The Doonesbury Cartoon: B.D. in Iraq

ISSUES OF OUR TIMES
(9/13) M
Newton, Julianne. 2007.

Trudeau, Gary. 2007.


“A Rough Road for Recruiters in 2005.” Objector. 3-5 [2]


(9/15) W
“Despite Rise in Overall Poverty in 2004, Gaps between Races, Social Groups and Gender Continue to Drop.” [2]


“Us and them: The State of the Union and the Axis of Evil.” Logos 1.2: 42-52. [10]


THE SOCIOLOGICAL LENS

(9/20) M

Mills, C. Wright. 1999.


(9/22) W


SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO SOCIETY:
I. THROUGH SOCIAL CONFLICT

(9/27) M

Mills, C. Wright. 2002.


(9/29) W

Harris, Jerry. 2008.

“‘We Exist To Fight:’ The Killing Elite and Bush II’s Iraq War.” Social Analysis 49/1: 190-7. [7]

II. THROUGH SOCIAL CONSENSUS

(10/4) M

Durkheim, Emile. 1999.


(10/6) W
Ritzer, George. 2002.


III. THROUGH SYMBOLIC INTERACTION

(10/11) M

Berger, Peter and T. Luckmann. 1996.


(10/13) W


(10/18) M  Fall Break -- NO CLASS

(10/20) W  Film on Iraq

IV. THROUGH CRITICAL INTERROGATION
(10/25) M


(10/27) W  MIDTERM STUDY QUESTIONS HANDED OUT/SENT ELECTRONICALLY


DIMENSIONS OF SOCIETY:
I. GENDER AND SEXUALITY

(11/8) M

Williams, Christine L. 1999.


(11/10) W
Martin, Patricia and R. Hummer. 1996.

Sherman, Nancy. 2010.


II. RACE AND ETHNICITY

(11/15) M

Hacker, Andrew. 1996.

(11/17) W


Popp, Richard and Andrew Mendelson. 2010.

(11/22) M Film on Iraq

(11/24) W THANKSGIVING RECESS

III. POLITICS AND THE STATE
(11/29) M


(12/1) W


IV. ECONOMY AND THE MARKET
(12/6) M


(12/8) W


(12/13) M Conclusion

(12/20) Monday FINAL PAPERS DUE electronically at midnight.