

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 1101-A

Georgia Institute of Technology

Tuesday/Thursday, 12:05 pm – 1:25 pm

Institute of Paper Science and Technology, Rm. 109

**Instructor:** Jennifer Singh, MPH, PhD

**Office:** Old Civil Engineering Building, G-22

**Office Hours:** T/Th, 10 – 11 AM or by appointment

**Phone:** 404-894-7445

**Email:** Please contact me through the T-Square course site

**Teaching Assistant:** Brian Jirout

**Office:** Old Civil Engineering Building, G-41

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** An overview of sociology that emphasizes the social nature of human behavior, including an introduction to culture, social structure, socialization, deviance, stratification, family, gender, education, health, economics and social change.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**<sup>1</sup>:

- Learn to think sociologically by grasping what the “social” entails and the interactions between individuals and macro level forces.
- Gain an understanding of various sociological perspectives, including core sociological concepts, theories, and research methodologies.
- Develop complex and critical thinking skills by being aware of multiple perspectives (e.g., historical, international, cross-cultural) and moving beyond obvious explanations or surface understandings.
- Recognize various social inequalities, both in the United States and globally, by tying stratification into social structures and individuals’ location in those structures.
- Recognize that social concepts and phenomena (e.g., race, gender, sense of time, or human nature) are actively reflective of social forces and structures, which consequently vary over time and across societies.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Persell, C.H., Pfeiffer, K.M., & Syed, A. 2008. “How Sociological Leaders Teach: Some Key Principles.” *Teaching Sociology* 36:108-124.

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

Conley, Dalton. *You May Ask Yourself*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York, W.W. Norton & Company. Available at Georgia Tech Book Store and at the Engineer's Bookstore.

Additional student resources such as study guides, quizzes, etc. available at:  
<http://wwnorton.com/college/soc/conley3/full/welcome.aspx>

\*\*There will be additional readings, which will be available through T-square/Resources/

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Reading and Class Participation (5%)**

Reading represents the major assignment for this class. I expect each of you to come to class prepared to discuss, question and clarify each reading assignment. Every student is expected to read **all** the course material, view videos, attend lectures, and participate in class discussions and class exercises. To get full credit, each student must post at least 1 song, image, article, or short video on Pinterest board before Nov. 26. Dr. Singh will invite you to join the Sociology Music and Image Board. You must establish a Pinterest account at: <https://pinterest.com/>

### **Attendance, Pop Quizzes, In-class Assignments (10%)**

Attendance will not be taken, however, there will be pop-quizzes and in-class assignments throughout the semester. These cannot be made up unless you have an excused absence as defined by the University Senate (serious illness, illness or death of a family member, university related trips, major religious holidays).

### **Short Assignments (20%)**

There will be five short written assignments worth 25% of your grade. Late assignments will not be accepted. Details of the assignments will be distributed and returned on T-square/assignments.

### **Assignment Dates (Due at noon on T-square):**

Assignment 1: Aug. 29, 2013

Assignment 2: Sept. 12, 2013

Assignment 3: Oct. 17, 2013

Assignment 4: Nov. 14, 2013

Assignment 5: Nov. 26, 2013

### **Exams (65%)**

There will be 3 in-class exams consisting of multiple-choice and true/false questions (35-50 questions). The duration of the exams will be 75 minutes. Each exam will cover approximately one-third of the course assigned readings, lectures, discussions, exercises and films. Although the exams are not comprehensive, I assume that knowledge obtained in readings, lectures, etc. is cumulative. The last exam will be 50 questions (15 questions cumulative). Make-up exams will not be given unless you have an excused absence as

defined by the University Senate (serious illness, illness or death of a family member, university related trips, major religious holidays or other reasons approved in advance by instructor). If you miss an exam due to an excused absence, please contact me immediately to reschedule the test. **Please be on time for exams.**

**Exam Dates**

**Exam 1:** October 1, 2013

**Exam 2:** November 5, 2013

**Exam 3:** December 10, 2013 – 11:30 am – 2:20 pm

**EVALUATION AND GRADING**

<b>Graded Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage of grade</b>	<b>Keep Track of your Grade</b>
Participation	5%	(your grade X .05) = a
Pop Quizzes, In-class Assignments	10%	(your grade X .10) = b
Short Assignments (5)	20%	(your grade X .20) = c
Exam #1	20%	(your grade X .20) = d
Exam #2	20%	(your grade X .20) = e
Exam #3	25%	(your grade X .25) = f
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>(a+b+c+d+e+f) = your grade</b>

**Course grade: 90-100=A 80-89=B 70-79=C 60-69=D Lower than 60=F**

**ACADEMIC HONOR CODE**

Academic Integrity Statement: Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. The immediate objective of an Academic Honor Code is to prevent any Students from gaining an unfair advantage over other Students through academic misconduct. The following clarification of academic misconduct is taken from Section XIX Student Code of Conduct, of the Rules and Regulations section of the Georgia Institute of Technology General Catalog: Academic misconduct is any act that does or could improperly distort Student grades or other Student academic records. Such acts include but need not be limited to the following:

- Possessing, using or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in an academic course;
- Substitution for, or unauthorized collaboration with, a Student in the commission of academic requirements;
- Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or person, without adequate credit notations indicating authorship (plagiarism);
- False claims of performance or work that has been submitted by the claimant;
- Alteration or insertion of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit;
- Deliberate falsification of a written or verbal statement of fact to a member of the Faculty so as to obtain unearned academic credit;
- Forgery, alteration or misuse of any Institute document relating to the academic status of the Student.

**Working with other students:** Unless specifically identified as group work, all assignments are to be completed alone.

**Cheating:** Cheating off of another person's test or quiz is unethical and unacceptable. Cheating off of anyone else's work is a direct violation of the GT Academic Honor Code, and will be dealt with accordingly.

Unauthorized use of any previous semester course materials, such as tests, quizzes, homework, projects, and any other coursework, is prohibited in this course. Using these materials will be considered a direct violation of academic policy and will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.

For any questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult me, the teaching assistants, or visit [www.honor.gatech.edu](http://www.honor.gatech.edu)

### **CLASSROOM CONDUCT**

- Do not talk during lecture, while other students are asking questions, or during movie/video presentations.
- Please **silence** cell phones, and **turn off** iPods, or other electronics during class.
- Computers are allowed in class to take notes only. Please refrain from using e-mail, Facebook, You-Tube, or any other non-related electronic material. It disrupts not only your learning but also the learning of those around you. If it becomes apparent that you are using your computer in class to surf the web and are disengaged in class, I will ask you to close your computer and you will no longer be able to bring it to class.
- Late arrivals & early departures disrupt not only me, but also other students; therefore, if you know you will be late or need to leave early—please talk to me *before* class (or email me).
- Since this course discusses controversial issues, I expect you to respect and listen to everybody's opinions and perspectives. I value and respect your contributions. Please do the same for others in the class. Our class is a space free of sexist, racist or other offensive comments.

### **ACCOMODATIONS**

Students with disabilities needing reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Office of the Dean of Students, ADAPTS Disability Services Program is available to assist us with the reasonable accommodations process. More information at: <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/index.php>.

## READING AND CLASS SCHEDULE

Read all assigned material before coming to class and be ready to discuss.

**The instructor reserves the right to make changes as needed.**

<b>Date</b>		<b>Reading Assignment</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Aug. 20	T	Introduction to course: What is Sociology?	Read Syllabus
<b>PART 1: USING YOUR SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION</b>			
Aug 22	TH	Text - Ch. 1: Sociological Imagination (p. 3-15)	
Aug 27	T	Text - Ch. 1: Sociological Imagination (p. 16-28)	
Aug 29	TH	Text – Ch. 1: Sociological Imagination (p. 29-39) T-square: “The Promise” by C.W. Mills	<b>Assignment 1 Due:</b> Sociological Imagination
Sept 3	T	Text – Ch. 2 Methods	Take class survey available on T-square/assignments (counts as in-class assignment)
Sept 5	TH	Text - Ch. 3: Culture and Media (p. 75-94) T-square – “McDonald’s in Hong Kong”	
Sept 10	T	Text - Ch. 3: Culture and Media (p.94-113)	
Sept 12	TH	Culture and Digital Technology T-Square: Readings TBD	<b>Assignment 2 Due:</b> Online survey and short paper on culture and smartphones
Sept 17	T	Text - Ch. 4: Socialization and the Construction of Reality (p.117-136)	
Sept 19	TH	Text – Ch. 4: Socialization and the Construction of Reality (p. 136-149) T-square: “Police Accounts of Normal Force”	
Sept 24	T	Text – Ch. 6: Social Control and Deviance (p. 187-203)	
Sept 26	TH	Text – Ch. 6: Social Control and Deviance (p. 203-233) T-square: “The Pathology of Imprisonment”	
Oct 1	T	<b>Exam 1: Ch. 1-4 and 6</b>	
Oct 3	TH	Text - Ch. 7. Stratification (p. 239-240 and p.250-275)	
Oct 8	T	Text - Ch. 8: Gender (p. 279-300)	

Oct 10	TH	Gender and Inequality – Reading TBD	
Oct 15	T	<b>NO CLASS: FALL BREAK</b>	
Oct 17	TH	Text - Ch. 8: Gender (p. 309-321)	<b>Assignment 3 Due:</b> Gender Roles and TV
Oct 22	T	Text - Ch. 9: Race (p. 326 – 347)	
Oct 24	TH	Text – Ch. 9: Race (p. 348-371)	
<b>*****OCT 27 LAST DAY TO WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS*****</b>			
Oct 29	T	Text – Ch. 11: Health and Society (p. 409-432)	
Oct 31	TH	Text – Ch. 11: Health and Society (p. 433 – 445)	
Nov 5	T	<b>EXAM 2: Ch. 7, 8, 9 and 11</b>	
<b>PART 3. BULIDING BLOCKS: INSTITUTIONS OF SOCIETY</b>			
Nov 7	TH	Text - Ch. 12: Family (p.452-474)	
Nov 12	T	Text - Ch. 12: Family (p.474 – 491) Text – Ch. 13: Education (p. 496-505)	
Nov 14	TH	Text – Ch. 13: Education (p. 512 – 533)	<b>Assignment 4 Due:</b> Education Statistics
Nov 19	T	Text - Ch. 14: Capitalism & the Economy (p. 537-560)	
Nov 21	TH	Text - Ch. 14: Capitalism and the Economy (p. 560-579)	
Nov 26	T	Text - Ch. 17: Science, the Environment, and Society	<b>Assignment 5 Due:</b> Social Change
Nov 28	TH	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Dec 3	T	Text - Ch. 18: Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change	
Dec 5	TH	Course wrap up: Bring in Laptops and conduct course evaluation	
Dec 10	T	<b>FINAL EXAM – Ch. 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18 – 11:30 am – 2:20 pm</b>	