

SOC 1301.PAC Introduction to Sociology

Spring 2015 Tuesday/Thursday 11:30 – 12:45 p.m. Classroom: GR4.208
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This course provides an overview of the discipline of sociology, including major theoretical and methodological approaches, as well as key foundational concepts and their application to social research and social policy. The course is directed to students in the UTD Partnership in Advancing Clinical Transition (PACT) program, and will emphasize applications of sociology to health, health care, and the medical profession. The class will combine lectures by the instructor with seminar discussion.

Students will learn about 1) the sociological imagination and how it is utilized in sociological theory and research; 2) key theoretical concepts and major methodological approaches in sociology and how they are applied in many of the subfields within the discipline relevant to health, health care, and medicine; and 3) important empirical findings from sociological research and their implications for understanding social institutions and processes within relevant subfields of sociology, particularly health, health care, medicine.

Course requirements include 1) weekly quizzes covering material from the assigned readings and class presentations (40% of the final course grade); 2) two projects that illustrate course material (20%); 3) two papers on the Abraham and Barr books (20%); and 4) a take-home comprehensive final examination (20%). While there is no formal grade for class participation, regular attendance and participation in class discussion (or lack thereof) will be taken into account in determining the final course grade. Information on the exercises, papers, and final examination will be distributed in class at appropriate times.

Primary course readings will be assigned from the three texts listed below, to be supplemented with material posted to McDermott Library's electronic reserves and or eLearning. The three texts are:

Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, Richard P. Applebaum, and Deborah Carr
Essentials of Sociology (5th edition). W. W. Norton, 2015. ISBN 978-0-393-93745-9

Laurie Kaye Abraham, *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Health Care in Urban America*. University of Chicago Press, 1994 ISBN 978-0-226-00139-5

Donald A. Barr, *Health Disparities in the United States: Social Class, Race, Ethnicity, and Health 2nd edition*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014 ISBN 978-1-421-41475-1

The grading scale to be used for the class will be: A+ 97-100, A 93-96, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D+ 60-62, F 59 or less. Students are responsible for understanding and following all university rules for academic honesty as stated in the university catalog; any possible violations will lead to immediate referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary proceedings. Information on university policies related to this class may be found at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

Course Outline

January 13 - 15 The Sociological Imagination

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 1
John B. McKinlay & Sonja M. McKinlay, "Medical Measures and the Decline of Mortality"

January 20 – 22 Culture

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 2
Daniel Delanoe et al. "Class, gender and culture in the experience of menopause. A comparative survey in Tunisia and France"

January 27 – 29 Socialization and the Life Cycle

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology*: chapter 3
Howard Becker, "Becoming a Marijuana User"

February 3 – 5 Social Interaction

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 4
Rene Anspach, "The Language of Case Presentation"
Elliot G. Mishler, "The Struggle Between the Voice of Medicine and the Voice of the Lifeworld"

February 10 – 12 Groups, Networks, Organizations

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 5
Peggy Thoits, "Mechanisms Linking Social Ties and Support to Physical & Mental Health"

February 17 – 19 Deviance

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 6
Carol Klaperman Morrow, "Sick Doctors: The Social Construction of Professional Deviance"
Julius A. Roth, "Some Contingencies on the Moral Evaluation and Control of Clientele: The Case of the Hospital Emergency Service"

February 24 – 26 Inequality

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 7
Bruce Link & Jo Phelan, "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Socioeconomic Health Inequalities"

March 3 – 5 Inequality and Health

Laurie Abraham, *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Health Care in Urban America*, all

March 10 - 12 Gender

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 9
Rene Anspach, "Gender and Health Care"

March 17 – 19 Spring Break

March 26 PAPER ONE (ABRAHAM) DUE

March 24 - 26 Ethnicity and Race

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 10
Tamara Dubowitz et al. "The Latino Health Paradox"

March 31 - April 2 Racial Disparities and Health

Donald A. Barr, *Health Disparities in the United States: Social Class, Race, Ethnicity, and Health*

April 7 – 9 Families

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 11
Reading TBA

April 14 – 16 Education

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 12
Catherine E. Ross & John Mirowsky, "Why Education is the Key to Socioeconomic Differences in Health"

April 16 PAPER TWO (BARR) DUE

April 21 – 23 Sociology of the Body

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 14
Stefan Hirschauer, "The Manufacture of Bodies During Surgery"

April 28 – 30 Urbanization and Demographic Changes

Giddens et al., *Essentials of Sociology* chapter 15
Reading TBA

April 28 TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED

May 7 FINAL EXAMINATION DUE