

Introduction to Sociology
920:101:R4 (Tillett Hall 110)
Rutgers University, 2001
Tue—9:50-11:10am/ *11:45-12:40pm
Fri—9:50-11:10am

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Besides being an academic discipline, sociology provides tools for students to analyze and understand how social structures shape our everyday life, hence allowing us to challenge and potentially change the social environment in which we live. This class maintains that only by questioning the accepted assumptions about social life could we begin to see the light of change for a better future. Throughout the semester we will examine how society shapes us and how we can change society; accordingly, we will orient the class toward 2 themes:

- 1) *Social Reproduction*
 - 2) *Social Change*
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Required Books

- 1) **Sociological Ideas: Concepts and Applications** (4th edition) by William Levin (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1994)—*This is a basic textbook. Short and easy read.*
- 2) **Ain't No Makin' It: Aspirations & Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood** by Jay MacLeod. (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995).

The theme of this book is social reproduction: It “provides an intricate picture of how poverty circumscribes the horizons of young people and how, at the societal level, the class structure is reproduced.” This is a depressing book; nonetheless, it shows how resistance is possible even under most restrictive conditions.

- 3) **Freedom Summer** by Doug McAdam (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988).

This is a story of social change in 1964 during the civil rights movement when over 1,000 volunteers head to Mississippi to register black voters. This book shows not only how the volunteers' activism has changed the racial relations in America, it also illustrates how the personal trajectories of the volunteers were changed by their own actions.

- 4) **All other supplementary readings can be downloaded from the class's website:**
<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~kingto>

All books are available at:
Recto & Verso Bookshop
90 Albany Street, New Brunswick
[Tel: (732)247-2324]

Requirements

- 1) Establish a Rutgers EDEN e-mail account for our communication.
- 2) Complete all reading assignments BEFORE coming to class (Approximate time: 1.5 to 2 hours per class).
- 3) You will be asked to prepare an answer for ONE short question about the readings and to present your answer VERBALLY during class time. You can e-mail me first to see whether you are on the right track. Your insightful answers will be credited (**15%**). If you are absent that day, send me the answer through e-mail no later than the next class (Approximate time: 20 minutes per question).
- 4) There will be one MID-TERM (**15%**) but NO final exam. No make-up examination will be offered without legitimate documented reasons.
- 5) There will be TWO major writing assignments. The first one will be a 5-page long reflective paper (**10%**) and the second one a 10-page social analysis (**10%**). Late papers will be accepted with 5 points (on a 100 point scale) taken off every day of delay. You will be presenting the second paper at the end of the semester (**5%**). Guidelines will be provided.
- 6) On specific days of the week (see page 7), you are required to send me, via e-mail, one short paragraph (no more than 50 words) of social analysis based on the CONCEPTS OF THE WEEK (**30%**). If you have trouble accessing e-mail, write your paragraph down in your sociology pocket book (an item required by the class) and show me the write-ups in class for credits (Approximate time: 20 minutes per concept). EXTRA CREDITS will be given (**0.5%** for each extra paragraph on a different concept).
- 7) Class work and other short home assignments will be incorporated to your final grade (**10%**).
- 8) You need to take good notes and your notebook (no binders please) will be collected FOUR times throughout the semester (due dates indicted by ** in the course schedule). Good notes will be credited (**5%**).
- 9) I will schedule personal conferences with each of you to discuss your final projects and other issues that matter to your study.
- 10) Attendance is mandatory. Absences are excused only for legitimate reasons documented by writing. You will receive an AUTOMATIC FAIL (F) for more than 3 unjustified absences.

Evaluations:

A = 90% or above
B+ = 85% to 89%
B = 80% to 84%
C+ = 75% to 79%

C = 70% to 74%
D = 60% to 69%
F = Below 60%

THEME I: SOCIAL REPRODUCTION

Book: *Ain't No Makin' It* (MacLeod)

DATE	Topic	Readings	Concepts
WEEK 1: FUNDAMENTALS			
9/4/01	Sociological Imagination	No	Sociological Imagination; Troubles & issues; Biography & history.
9/7/01	Culture	1) MacLeod pp. 3-7; 25-29 2) Levin pp. 123-132	Culture; subculture; symbols; norms; values; social interaction; practices.
WEEK 2: GROUP AND SOCIALIZATOIN			
9/11/01	Solidarity	1) MacLeod pp. 34-37; 40-49 2) Levin pp. 177-180; 227-235	Mechanical & organic solidarity; social structure; roles; achieved & ascribed status
9/14/01	Family	1) MacLeod pp. 50-60 2) Levin pp. 249-257	Institutions; Functions; Socialization; Primary & Secondary groups; Kinship
WEEK 3: STRUCTURE OF STRATIFICATION			
9/18/01**	Work	1) MacLeod pp. 61-73 2) Levin pp. 301-308	Occupational structure; social mobility; stratification; life chance; prestige; status
9/21/01	Class	1) MacLeod pp. 74-81 2) Supplementary Reading: Marx	Marxism; relations of production; class; ideology; conflict; false consciousness.

** Notebook Due

DATE	Topic	Readings	Concepts
WEEK 4: THE IDEA OF MERITOCRACY			
9/25/01 Paper guideline distributed	Education	1) MacLeod pp. 88-9760 2) Levin pp. 83-91	Manifest & latent functions; meritocracy; hidden curriculum; socialization; values.
9/28/01	Deviance	1) MacLeod pp. 97-110\ 2) Supplementary Reading: Merton	Ideology; the bell curve; cultural capital; social reproduction; deviance
WEEK 5: THE IDEA OF THE SELF			
10/2/01	Self and Others	1) MacLeod pp. 113-124 2) Levin pp. 160-164	Looking-glass self; self-esteem; self-fulfilling prophecy
10/5/01	Self and Society	1) MacLeod pp. 124-134 2) Levin pp. 391-396	Generalized other; I and Me; Agency; Anomie
WEEK 6: SOCIAL REPRODUCTION THEORY			
10/9/01	Structure and Agency	1) MacLeod pp. 11-23	habitus; structure & agency
10/12/01	Concluding THEME I	1) MacLeod pp. 135-150	<i>NO NEED TO TURN IN SHORT SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSES AFTER FRIDAY</i>
<i>THE FIRST PAPER IS DUE ON <u>OCTOBER 12, 2001</u></i>			
WEEK 7: MID-TERM WEEK			
10/16/01	Review for the Mid-term		<i>NO NEED TO TURN IN SHORT SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSES</i>
10/19/01**	Mid-Term Examination		

** Notebook Due

THEME II: SOCIAL CHANGE

Book: *Freedom Summer* (McAdam)

DATE	Topic	Readings	Concepts
WEEK 8: MACRO PROCESSES			
10/23/01 paper guideline distributed	Economic Institutions and Demographics	1) McAdam pp. 11-19 2) Levin pp. 281-287	Institutions; demographic transition; baby boom; birth rates;
10/26/01	Political Institutions and Bureaucracy	1) McAdam pp. 19-24 2) Levin pp. 193-199	Power; power elite; state; bureaucracy; alienation; mass society
WEEK 9: HUMAN AGENCY (Personal conference week)			
10/30/01	Motivation of Action	1) McAdam pp. 53-65	Agency; social networks; rational choice; social exchange;
11/2/01	Construction of Reality	1) McAdam pp. 66-77 2) Supplementary Reading: Berger and Luckmann	Intersubjectivity; interaction; reality;
WEEK 10: RACE AND SOCIAL CHANGE			
11/6/01	Construction of Race	1) McAdam pp. 77-96; 96-105 2) Levin pp. 323-331	race; ethnicity; prejudice; discrimination
11/9/01	The American Civil Rights Movement	1) McAdam pp. 116-136 2) McAdam pp. 145-160	

DATE	Topic	Readings	Concepts
WEEK 11: GENDER and SOCIAL CHANGE			
11/13/01**	Construction of gender	1) McAdam pp. 105-115 2) Supplementary reading:	Sex & gender; glass ceiling
11/16/01	The American Women's liberation movement	1) McAdam pp. 178-185 2) Supplementary reading:	Feminism.
WEEK 12: THANKSGIVING WEEK			
11/21/01 (Wed)	Concluding Theme II	1) McAdam pp. 161-178	<i>NO NEED TO TURN IN SHORT SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSES</i>
11/23/01—Thanksgiving Holiday			
WEEK 13: BECOMING A SOCIOLOGIST			
11/27/01	Doing Sociology I: Content Analysis	1) Levin pp. 39-51	<i>NO NEED TO TURN IN SHORT SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSES</i>
11/29/01	Doing Sociology II: Survey Research	1) Supplementary reading: The Organization of Sexuality	
WEEK 14: PRESENTATIONS			
12/4/01	Student Paper Presentations		
12/7/01			
12/11/01**			
<i>THE SECOND PAPER IS DUE ON DECEMBER 11, 2001.</i>			

** Notebook Due

Schedule of the week

	We will meet in class	Complete assigned readings and prepare the answer for my question	Send me a short paragraph on a selected concept of the week
Monday		Yes	
Tuesday	Yes		Yes
Wednesday			Yes
Thursday		Yes	
Friday	Yes		Yes
Saturday			Yes
Sunday			
Total Hours per week expected	3 Hours 35 minutes	4 to 5 Hours	80 minutes (deadline: 12 midnight)