The Introduction to Sociology has 6 primary objectives: 1) to expose students to “sociological imagination” and enable them to distinguish it from psychological approaches and explanations; 2) to introduce participants to central founders of sociology and their theories; 3) to evaluate the relevance of those theories empirically in contemporary settings; 4) to establish the link between micro level activities and macro structures; 5) to expose various dimensions of structured inequalities central to sociologists such as class, race, and gender; and finally 6) to introduce central issues in sociology of globalization.

Participants are expected to have read the readings before the class and be prepared to raise questions and discuss the topics.

Readings:

Books (available at Bookstore)

Ken Morrison Marx, Durkheim, Weber

Annette Lareau Unequal Childhoods

Saskia Sassen A Sociology of Globalization (not yet available at bookstore)

All readings with the exception of above books will be posted on Moodle
Grading:

Participation (15%)

Mid-term Exam (30%)

Book Report, 5 pages (15%)

Final Exam (40%)

**Week 1.**

Tuesday Jan 7. Introduction


Thursday Jan 9, Foundations of Sociology: Marx, Class and Economy

Ken Morrison *Marx, Durkheim, Weber* (Marx, Class, Materialist Conception of History [The German Ideology]) pp. 42-61

**Week 2.**

Tuesday Jan 14, Marx continued


Thursday Jan 16. Empirical Discussion of Marx and Class: Petite Bourgeoisie, American Class Structure

Joseph Stiglitz The Price of Inequality pp. 1-27.

Week 3.

Tuesday Jan 21. American Class Structure continued
Joseph Stiglitz The Price of Inequality pp. 28-82.

Thursday Jan 23, Empirical Discussion of American Class Structure. Micro level
Annette Lareau Unequal Childhoods pp. 1-103

Week 4.

Tuesday Jan 28, Empirical Discussion of American Class Structure continued
Annette Lareau Unequal Childhoods pp. 233-311.

Thursday Jan 30
Mid-term Exam

Week 5.

Tuesday Feb 4, Foundations of Sociology: Weber

Thursday Feb 6, Weber continued


**Week 6.**

Tuesday Feb 11, Empirical Application of Weber

George Ritzer The McDonaldization of Society (selections)

Thursday Feb 13, Foundations of Sociology: Durkheim

Ken Morrison Marx, Durkheim, Weber (Durkheim, Division of Labor) pp. 158-185.

**Week 7.**

Tuesday Feb 18, Durkheim continued

Ken Morrison Marx, Durkheim, Weber (Durkheim, Suicide) pp. 199-231.

Thursday Feb 20, Structured Inequality: Race or Class

Week 8.

Tuesday February 25, Structured Inequality: Race


Documentary in class Detropia

Thursday February 27, Structured Inequality: Gender


Johnson, Allan “Patriarchy: The System”

Week 9.

Tuesday March 4, Globalization

Saskia Sassen A Sociology of Globalization

Thursday March 6, Globalization continued

Saskia Sassen A Sociology of Globalization

**Book Reports Due**
Week 10.

Tuesday March 11, Final Exam