Course Objectives:
This course is an introduction to the ‘study of society’ and to what C. Wright Mills called the “sociological imagination”: a way of locating in socio-historical context the events, relationships, and social phenomena that shape individual lives and the collective experience. In the next ten weeks we will explore the major theoretical issues and methodological approaches that constitute sociological inquiry. Topics of discussion will include socialization, stratification and inequality, race and ethnicity, families, and education. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on using the lens of the sociological imagination to interpret these issues. In doing so, our goal is to unpack how we have constructed society and how society has in turn shaped us.

Student Learning Outcomes:
The Department of Sociology and Anthropology has specified six student learning outcomes (SLOs) that we want students to acquire. In this course, our focus is on the following three:

✓ Learning how to connect information about historical and contemporary socio-cultural phenomena;

✓ Applying sociological theory to analyze socio-cultural phenomena;

✓ Drawing upon your understanding of historical and contemporary socio-cultural phenomena to engage the world.

Required Course Materials:
Several journal, magazine, and newspaper articles can be downloaded from the course’s Moodle page. The following three books are also required, and they can be purchased from the Carleton Bookstore:


Assignments and Evaluation:
Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on the following activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 page mini essay</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profile a Sociologist (15 points total)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Work</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group met with instructor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociological Autobiography (25 points total)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Draft</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Draft</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Policy on late work:* The ten week term is short and falling behind is a recipe for disaster. Get your assignments done on time. In general, I do not accept late work and I do not give makeup exams.

Grades will be assigned according to the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt;94-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt;90-88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&lt;88-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>&lt;84-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt;80-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>&lt;78-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>&lt;74-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt;70-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&lt;68-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FREE Resources for Students**
Take advantage of the FREE resources that will improve your educational experience!

For your presentation, I strongly recommend that you make an appointment with the coaches from the Speakeasy to help you plan your presentation and delivery!

[http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/speakeasy/](http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/speakeasy/)

Don’t forget about the Writing Center! Again, go early and often to take advantage of these resources. Trust me, after college, you will have to start paying for these things out of pocket so soak up as much as you can now!

[http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/writingcenter/](http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/writingcenter/)

Get to know your professors! Carleton will pay for you to take two professors per term to lunch at the college dining hall. I imagine that this is an under-utilized perk of your tuition dollars. Take advantage of it.
Reading Tips
Please read the day’s assigned materials before class, and be an active and critical reader. We’ll all benefit if you engage the readings, take lots of notes, and bring your thoughts to class along with copies of the readings. At the very least you should be able to talk about the “who, what, when, where, why, and how” of each reading. To help get the most out of your readings, Paul and Elder (2008) recommend asking the following questions:

1. Can I summarize the meaning of this text in my own words?
2. Can I give examples from my own experience of what the text is saying?
3. Can I generate metaphors and diagrams to illustrate what the text is saying?
4. Can I connect the core ideas in this text to other core ideas I understand?
5. What is clear to me and what do I need clarified?

Academic Integrity
In line with Carleton’s policy on academic integrity, it is assumed that the student is the author of all coursework. Please refer to Carleton’s full policy for additional information or see me if you have questions. http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity/

Please also see this helpful post on plagiarism from the blog Everyday Sociology
http://www.everydaysociologyblog.com/2011/05/writing-sociology-papers-how-not-to-plagiarize.html

Disability Services for Students
I am happy to work with students who need additional academic accommodations. Please let me know early in the semester so that we can work out a plan together.

Attendance/Class participation/Respectful use of electronic devices
Just showing up to class is not sufficient. You are encouraged to speak up, raise questions and take risks. There is no such thing as a stupid question!

Students who are consistently tardy or miss three or more classes will forfeit their participation grade. I am a reasonable person so should you have an extenuating circumstance and the documentation to verify it (i.e. a note from a doctor, class dean, etc.), we can work something out.

It should go without saying but in addition to being present, students should refrain from inappropriately using electronic devices during class time.

The “default” participation grade is 5 out of 10, so students who actively and productively contribute to class will substantially increase their grades. Egregious absenteeism and tardiness will significantly affect your grade beyond participation points.

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Part 1: What is Sociology?

Monday Apr 1. What is sociology?
- Historical Contexts of Naming – where have all the Mildreds gone?

Wednesday Apr 3. The sociological imagination
- Beamish, “Introduction”
- Introductory Chapter to Essentials of Sociology
- Everyday Sociology: The Beginners Mind

Friday Apr 5. Historical Roots and present day dilemmas
- Roy, “Constructing Historical Reality”
- Berger, P. “Sociology as an Individual Pastime” from an Invitation to Sociology

Due Friday April 5 at the START of class
Two page (Double spaced, Times New Roman Font 12-point font, 1” margin) essay on the narrative that led up to your given name

Monday Apr 8.
- Beamish, The sociological imagination: beyond everyday stocks of knowledge
- Mills: The Personal Experiences and Public Issues

Wednesday Apr 10. The sociological imagination: A life course perspective
- What is the life course?
- Growing up faster, Feeling older

Part 2. Early Life Course: The Intersection of Race, Class and Gender

Friday Apr 12. Birth and Babies
- From Baby Farms to Baby M by Zelizar

Monday Apr 15. Gender in early childhood
- What’s so bad about a boy who wants to wear a dress?
- Excerpts from The Gender Trap by Emily Kane
- What it means to be gendered me

Wednesday Apr 17. Marx and class struggle
- Beamish, Chapters 3-4
- Everyday Sociology Blog – you might be a Marxist
Friday April 19.
• Meet in library

Monday April 22.
• Unequal Childhoods day 1 (Readings TBD)

Wednesday April 24.
• Professor out, watch Poor Kids, a frontline documentary in class

Friday April 26. Unequal Childhoods day 2 (Readings TBD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday April 19</td>
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</table>

**Part 3. Power and Social Relations: A Look at the Teenage Years**

Monday April 29. Weber and interpretive understanding
• Beamish chapters 7 and 8 (you may skip p. 200-216)
• Everyday Sociology: *How our modern lives reflect ‘old fashioned’ theories*

Wednesday May 1. The creation of the teenager
• Freaks Geeks and Cool Kids by Murray Milner

Friday May 3. Review for Midterm
• Midterm evaluations

Monday May 5. No Class, Midterm break

**Wednesday May 8. Midterm in Class**

**Part 4. What are social facts?**
Documenting college life and the age of independence

Friday May 10. Durkheim
• Beamish chapters 5-6
• What makes sociology different by Emile Durkheim

Monday May 13. Race in College
• Race and class matters at an elite college by Elizabeth Aries

Wednesday May 15. Non-traditional unions and the age of independence
• The age of independence by Michael Rosenfeld

Friday May 17. Presentation Day 1
Part 5. Globalization, Marriage and the Family

Monday May 20. Union Formation
  • Marriage, A History by Stephanie Coontz

Wednesday May 22. Globalization and the family
  • The accordion family: Introduction, Chapters 1-2

Wednesday May 22
Part 2 of the sociological biography assignment due at the start of class

Friday May 24. Presentation Day 2

Monday May 27. The Accordion Family (con’t)
  • Read chapter 3, skim chapter 4 (pages 81-93, 114-125), and read chapter 5

Part 6. Aging and Death

Wednesday May 29. Life in an Aging Society
  • Families and Elder Care in the Twenty-First Century
  • The Reluctant Caregiver
  • http://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/20/the-reluctant-caregiver/

Friday May 31. Presentation Day 3.

Monday June 2. Death. The end of the lifecourse.
  • We will watch a frontline documentary on facing death
  • Everyday Sociology: Removed from Death
  • Everyday Sociology: What constitutes a good death?

Final Version of your sociological biography due at the START of class (any paper turned in after 10am will be considered late)

Wednesday Jun 5: Review for Final
  • Life after your sociology class
  • http://www.everydaysociologyblog.com/2011/12/life-after-your-sociology-class.html

Self-schedulable final exam.