

SOCIOLOGY 221: CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Fall Semester 2022

M/W 2:30-3:45

White Hall 110

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The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course.

****PLEASE READ THE SYLLABUS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ASK TA OR PROFESSOR ANY QUESTIONS****

COURSE OVERVIEW

In this course, we survey major themes and questions in cultural sociology. We do so in four sections:

1. **Introduction:** We start with a bit of existentialism and then use a documentary *Maya Lin: Strong and Clear Vision* to illustrate how cultural sociology analyzes a cultural object and its meanings.
2. **Cultural Meanings and Theories:** In this section, we introduce major theoretical approaches to the sociology of culture.
3. **Culture and Civil Society:** In this section, we discuss various topics related to civil society and culture, including culture in the public sphere, as norms of interaction in civic life, in civic engagement, and in undemocratic contexts.
4. **Collective Memory:** This section will lead us to think about how various societies and groups think about the past and how the past is still living with us in the present, including in stories, memorials, and politics.
5. **Culture and disaster:** This section will be focused on how cultural sociology can provide us an insightful perspective on disasters, a pressing global issue.

Readings

1. **Wendy Griswold.** 2013. *Cultures and Societies in a Changing World*. 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage (abbreviated *CSCW* in syllabus). (Emory Library online e-book)
2. **Other e-books:** are available through Emory Library website
3. **Journal articles** can be downloaded from the library's website.
4. **Scanned readings** (scanned book chapters) will be distributed via Canvas.

My Teaching Philosophy

Reading is essential to education. Read every reading carefully, before class, and re-read after class. If you intend to take this class by playing some “non-reading tricks” (attending class, hearing lecture and other students’ discussions, and drawing what you hear to say a few random words to “participate”), this course is NOT for you. If you are busy in extra-curricular activities in order to put things on your resume but pay significantly less attention to class

reading, please read the following article by Professor Bill Hurst at Northwestern and rethink about what is important for you: “End the Extracurricular Arms Race” (<http://goo.gl/KBPzvx>).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

Attendance is required and **15 points**. The instructor/TA will take attendance in the beginning/end of each class. Students who participate in University-sanctioned events, or have illness, or have emergency must inform the instructor in advance with appropriate documents. They also must make up any work they missed. **Students who miss one (1) class without reasons will only get 12.5 for attendance credit. Students who miss two (2) classes will only get 10; those who miss more than two will not get any attendance credit.**

Exams or Essays

There will be **four exams or analytical essays**. Each exam or essay covers a section. Each exam is worth **10-20%** of the final grades (the first exam will be worth 20% because it covers broader theoretical content). Each exam consists of multiple-choice questions, short answers, and essay questions. All exams are open-book. The analytical essay will be about a movie and/or readings and address some important issues pertaining to the content of the course.

Final Exam

We will have a take-home, final exam, in which students need to address some broader issues common to different parts of the course. A few potential questions will be given to students before the exam, and the final questions will be announced two days before the due date. The final exam is worth **35%** of the final grade.

Grades

Requirements	Grades
Attendance	15
Exam or Analytical Essay	50
Final Exam	35
Total	100

RULES AND POLICIES

Communication

- **Read this syllabus carefully before asking questions.**
- I will also send periodic Canvas announcements and/or emails about any further course information. **Please read all the written communications thoroughly!**
- Please respect the division of labor between TA and instructor. If you have questions about requirements and syllabus and have already read written communications carefully, then feel free to ask TA. If you have questions about course content, please ask me directly.
- **Do NOT ask/email me questions that I have already answered** in a course document or via posted announcement/emails. I will not respond to these questions.
- My TA and I generally try to respond to emails **within 24 hours**.

Conduct

Please be mindful of the general code of conduct that you would use in any classroom setting. I expect us all to be respectful of one another.

- Please do not arrive late to class.
- Once in class, please refrain from carrying on private conversations with your neighbor(s). This is distracting for everyone else in the room.
- Please refrain from texting, checking Facebook, or any other non-class activities during all class meetings. If you are found to be engaging in these activities, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class.
- Using cell phones is NOT permitted in this class.

Missed Classes

You are responsible for missed material. Please get notes from one of your classmates. After you have read all of the missed material, if you still have questions, please come to my office hours.

Video/Audio

You may not video or audiotape lectures without my express consent.

Extra Credit

There are no extra credit assignments available in this course.

Make-Up Policy

Makeup exams will *only* be allowed in a situation of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency, university activities allowed by the administrations).

Academic Integrity

Students who are admitted to Emory College of Arts and Sciences agree to abide by the provisions of the Honor Code: <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>

Access and Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and have anticipated barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, or presume having a disability (e.g. mental health, attention, learning, vision, hearing, physical or systemic), and are in need of accommodations for this semester, we encourage you to contact the Office of Access, Disability Services, and Resources (ADSR) to learn more about the registration process and steps for requesting accommodations. If you are a student that is currently registered with ADSR and have not received a copy of your accommodation notification letter within the first week of class, please notify ADSR **immediately**.

Students who have accommodations in place are encouraged to coordinate sometime with your professor, during **the first two weeks** of the semester, to communicate your specific needs for the course as it relates to your approved accommodations. All discussions with ADSR and faculty concerning the nature of your disability remain confidential. For additional information regarding ADSR, please visit the website: equity.emory.edu/access.

Reading and Teaching Schedule

Section	#	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments or Activities
Introduction	1	Aug 24	Introduction	No	
	2	Aug 29	Maya Lin	NYBooks pieces online: Maya Lin. Making the Memorial. http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2000/11/02/making-the-memorial/ Martin Filler. The Quiet Power of Maya Lin http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2016/09/29/the-quiet-power-of-maya-lin/	
Culture Meanings and Theories	3	Aug 31	Basics of Cultural Sociology	CSCW: Chapter 1.	
	4	Sep 7	Marxian Theory	1. CSCW. Chapter 2 Cultural Meaning (pp.19-32) 2. <i>Scanned Reading</i> : German Ideology	
	5	Sep 12	Weberian Theory	1. CSCW. Chapter 2 Cultural Meaning (Culture and Meaning in Weberian Sociology, pp.35-39) 2. <i>Scanned reading</i> : Basic Sociological Concepts	
	6	Sep 14	Durkheimian Theory	1. <i>CSCW</i> . Chapter 3 Culture as Social Creation (Durkheim and the Social Production of Culture, pp.49-55) 2. <i>Scanned reading</i> : Classifying Things from <i>Primitive Classification</i> Émile Durkheim; Marcel Mauss 3. <i>Scanned reading</i> : <i>Elementary Forms of Religious Life</i> .	
	7	Sep 19	Culture as a Toolkit	1. <i>CSCW</i> . Chapter 2. Cultural Meaning (Meaning systems or a tool kit? Pp.39-40) 2. <i>Article</i> Culture as a Toolkit 3. <i>Scanned reading</i> : Thick Description.	
	8	Sep 21	Culture as Interaction Ritual and Norm	Goffman. Interaction Ritual. TBD Randall Collins. TBD. Gary Alan Fine	
	9	Sep 26	Production of Culture	CSCW. Chapter 4 The Production (from the beginning to “Horizons of Expectations.” Pp.71-89).	
	10	Sep 28	Stratification and Culture	Pierre Bourdieu. <i>Distinction</i> . Excerpt.	
	11	Oct 3		In-class Exam: first section	

Civil Society and Culture	12	Oct 5	Introduction	<i>The Culture of Democracy</i> . Introduction	
	13	Oct 12	The public sphere	<i>The Culture of Democracy</i> Chapter 2	
	14	Oct 17	Associations	<i>The Culture of Democracy</i> Chapter 3	
	15	Oct 19	Civic engagement	<i>The Culture of Democracy</i> Chapter 4.	
	16	Oct 24	Civil society in undemocratic contexts	<i>The Culture of Democracy</i> Chapter 5	
	17	Oct 26		<i>In-class Exam: Section 2</i>	
	18	Oct 31	Introduction	TBD	
Collective Memory	19	Nov 2	Monuments & Statures	(E-book) Blight. <i>Race and Reunion</i> (Chapter 8 The Lost Cause and Causes Not Lost)	
	20	Nov 7	Individual narratives	(E-book) Xu. <i>Chairman Mao's Children</i> . Chapters 1-2	
	21	Nov 9	Politics of Memory	Documentary: <i>The Silence of Others</i>	
	22	Nov 14		Nguyen. <i>Nothing Ever Dies</i> . Chapters 2 and 4 Movie: Apocalypse Now	Analytical essay due In-class discussion
Culture and Disaster	23	Nov 16	Meanings and framing of disaster	(Article) McCormick, Lisa. 2020. "Marking time in lockdown: heroization and ritualization in the UK during the coronavirus pandemic." <i>American Journal of Cultural Sociology</i> 8 (3):324-351.	
	24	Nov 21	Communitas and cultural trauma	(E-book) Oliver-Smith, Anthony. 2019. "The Brotherhood of Pain: Theoretical and Applied Perspectives on Post-Disaster Solidarity." In <i>The Angry Earth: Disaster in Anthropological Perspective</i> , edited by Anthony Oliver-Smith and Susannah M. Hoffman, 156-172. New York: Routledge (scanned) Eyerman, Ron. 2015. <i>Is This America?: Katrina as Cultural Trauma</i> . Austin, TX: University of Texas Press	
	25	Nov 28	Popular perceptions of disasters	(Scanned) Clarke, Lee. 2006. <i>Worst cases: terror and catastrophe in the popular imagination</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press	
	26	Nov 30	Commemoration and disaster	(Article) Xu, Bin. 2018. "Commemorating a difficult disaster: Naturalizing and denaturalizing the 2008 Sichuan earthquake in China." <i>Memory Studies</i> 11 (4):483-497.	

	27	Dec 5		TBD	Analytical Essay and In-class discussion
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