

Department of Sociology
University of Georgia
SOCI 3850 Sociology of Occupations
Fall 2008

Class Meetings: MWF 1:25-2:15 (Call # 02-635)
MWF 2:30-3:20 (Call # 12-636)

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Course Description

Four objectives motivate the organization of this course: (1) Examine the centrality of work and its social organization to individuals and social institutions (2) Analyze and critique theoretical frameworks of the sociological analysis of occupations and work. (3) Exercise basic methodological tools of sociological inquiry. (4) Integrate these contributions into individual perspective and practice.

Topics will include: work and its meaning; social theories of work; recruitment and socialization; careers; work and well-being; gender and work; deviance; and trends across the occupational structure.

Format

The format of the course will be combination discussion and lecture. There will also be films and a semester-long independent research project in which each student will conduct a comparative study of two occupations of the student's own choosing.

Readings

The required readings for the course are listed on the course schedule and are available to download on WebCT.

Requirements

1. Preparation for class discussion of the required reading. To assess preparation, there will be five quizzes at random points throughout the semester. The quizzes will be short (normally a few questions) and will be based strictly on the assigned reading for that day. Quizzes will usually be given during the first 10 minutes of class. Because they are random, there are no make-ups. The lowest quiz score will be dropped, resulting in the four top quizzes counted toward the final grade (15%).
2. Research Project (25%). A research project, which will involve interviewing a single member of two occupations of a student's choice (e.g., a butcher and a surgeon); participating in discussions over the course of the term about your research-in-progress and reporting your progress to the class; a research paper

presenting, analyzing, and interpreting your results; and a brief class presentation. More details will be supplied on a handout.

The Research Project includes the mid-semester submission of an interview protocol and interview tapes—due dates listed on the assignment sheet. Credit for the interview protocol and tapes will be given only if they are submitted in hard copy on or before the listed due dates.

3. Exams (60%). There will be three exams that will consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short-answer questions. The exams will cover all of the reading assignments; the lectures; class discussions; and films up to the date of the exam. All of the exams are non-cumulative. Make-up exams will be given only under circumstances of illness or emergency; written proof may be required before a request for a make-up exam is granted.

Grades

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A: 93% and above
- A-: 90%-92%
- B+: 87%-89%
- B: 83%-86%
- B-: 80%-82%
- C+: 77% - 79%
- C: 73%-76%
- C-: 70%-72%
- D: 60%-69%

A grade of C- or lower will not count toward major coursework. Students in the Franklin College must earn a grade of “C” or better in major required courses.

Please note that all academic work must conform to UGA’s Honor Code and its Academic Honesty Policy. It must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Attendance Policy

- Attendance is taken every day by signing your name on the class roster.
- It is each student’s responsibility to sign their names on the list each day.
- Students who miss more than four classes are administratively withdrawn.
- No distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences.
- If you leave before the end of a class, you forfeit attendance and any quiz that day.

Withdrawals

Withdrawals that occur before the midpoint of the semester—including administrative withdrawals for non-attendance—will receive the grade of W. In accordance with University policy, withdrawals that occur after the midpoint of the

semester—including administrative withdrawals for non-attendance—will receive the grade of WF.

General Classroom Etiquette

The functioning of a class depends upon everyone’s cooperation and courtesy.

- Take care of all necessary business before coming to the classroom. Unless it is an emergency, refrain from exiting and entering the room once class has begun—this is distracting to other students and the instructor.
- Avoid private conversations during lecture—this is disruptive to others taking notes.
- Cell phones, the Red and Black, any non-class item must go away during the class period. The use of a laptop for taking notes is a revocable privilege – not a right.
- Overall, treat other students in the class and the instructor in ways you would like to be treated by them.

How can I succeed in this course?

Students who have done well in this class in the past tend to practice two basic techniques: the creation of notes on the assigned readings; and participation in discussion. I recommend that you do the reading as soon as you can before the day it is assigned, and then skim it once more before class. You will find class discussions more meaningful if you spend time writing out the central ideas of a reading, the questions it addresses, and the questions it raises in your mind (including things you don’t understand). These practices constitute engaged learning and increase the likelihood you will do well.

What practices predict poor performance? Disengagement in class; nonattendance, failure to read; reading moments before class; taking comfort in highlighters. In general, the more passive you are about learning, the less likely it is that you will get much out of the course or do well.

Topics and Assignments

The outline below is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Unit I: How do sociologists think about, study, and conceptualize occupations?

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| 9 January | What are the course goals and requirements? |
| 12 January | Why should we study occupations?
<i>Film: The Souls of New York</i>
Assignment and discussion of research projects |
| 14 January | What is work? What are occupations?
Dunier: “The Men Without Accounts” |
| 16 January | What does work mean to people now and in the past?
Selected readings from <i>Gig: Americans Talk About Their Jobs</i> |

- 19 January Martin Luther King Holiday
- 21 January What is the division of labor? How has it changed over time?
Hodson and Sullivan: "The Evolution of Work"
- 23 January How do sociologists study work?
Hermanowicz: "The Great Interview"
- 26 January How is work structured under capitalism?
Marx: "Alienated Labor"
- 28 January (continued)
Taylor: "Fundamentals of Scientific Management"
Braverman: "The Division of Labor"
- 30 January How does technology influence the experience of work?
Head: "On the Digital Assembly Line"
- 2 February How do organizations structure work?
Weber: "Bureaucracy"
Jackall: "The Social Structure of Managerial Work"
- 4 February (continued)
Rogers: "Just a Temp"
- 6 February How do occupations structure work? Why are some considered "elite"?
Sutherland: "The Professional Thief"
- 9 February (cont)
- 11 February Test
- 13 February Interview protocol workshop
Research description & protocol due today

Unit II: What is life like on the inside of an occupation?

- 16 February Recruitment: How do individuals "end up" in particular occupations?
Perry: "San Francisco Scavengers"
- 18 February (cont)
No reading
- 20 February Socialization: How do occupations "initiate" new members?
Film: *The Making of a Physician*

- 23 February (cont)
- 25 February Discussion of Film
Dressel & Peterson: "Becoming a Male Stripper"
- 27 February Socialization (cont): What is a rite of passage?
Zurcher: "The Naval Recruit Training Center"
- 2 March What is a career? What does it tell us?
Faulkner: "Career Concerns and Mobility Motivations of Orchestra Musicians"
- 6 March Occupational Deviance: What is it? What is its social basis?
Dabney and Hollinger: "Illicit Prescription Drug Use Among Pharmacists: Evidence of a Paradox of Familiarity"
- 9-13 March Spring Break
- 16 March Dirty work: How do people cope with doing society's dirty work?
Thompson & Harrod: "Topless Dancers: Managing Stigma in a Deviant Occupation"
- 18 March Test Review
- 20 March Test II
- 23-27 March Term projects:
Fieldwork Interviewing/No Class
- 30 March Term projects: What makes a great paper?
Interview tapes/transcripts due.

Unit III: What are the dominant trends across the occupational structure?

- 1 April The Routinization of Emotions?
Leidner: "Over the Counter"
- 3 April (cont)
- 6 April The Deprofessionalization of Everyone?
Rogers: "Lawyers for Rent"
Van Hoy: "The Organization of Mass Production Law"
- 8 April Do we work too much? Too little?
Schor: "Time Squeeze: The Extra Month of Work"

10 April	Work and family: A tug-of-war? Gerson: <i>The Changing Contours of Women's Place</i>
12 April	Outsourcing: Middle-class drain or Third World Gain? Film: <i>The Other Side of Outsourcing</i>
15 April	(cont) Greenhouse: "Outsourced and Out of Luck"
17 April	The American Dream: Under siege? Newman: "American Nightmares"
20 April	TBA
22 April	Test III
24-30 April	Becoming Scholars of Work: Student Presentations
May 4:	Term Project Due Date

The Department of Sociology has a Human Rights Committee for the resolution of student grievances. Any student registered for a sociology course at the University who feels that he or she has not been treated in a fair or professional manner by an instructor is advised to follow these procedures:

- 1) The student should discuss his or her problems with the instructor of the course, unless extenuating circumstances prohibit such discussion.
- 2) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance, the student should then discuss the problem with the Head of the Sociology Department.
- 3) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance to the student's satisfaction, the student may request the activation of the Human Rights Committee by submitting a letter to the Chair of the Committee.

The Human Rights Committee will have the responsibility of investigating all charges in accordance with procedures on file in the Sociology Department, copies of which are available to students. The Committee will also have the responsibility of making recommendations in writing to the Head, copies of which will be made available to the student and instructor. The Department Head will review the recommendations, and make a decision, in writing, with copies to the student and instructor. Any appeal of that decision must be made to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.