

**SOCIOLOGY 151A:**  
**PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY**  
Fall 2005, MWF 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM  
208 CARSWELL HALL

**Instructor:** Dr. David Yamane, Assistant Professor of Sociology

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**Office Hours:** Monday/Wednesday, 10:00-10:50 AM & 1:00-2:00 PM or by appointment

**Course Web Page:** <http://www.wfu.edu/~yamaned/teaching/151/soc151index.htm>

**Course Description**

Sociologists like to watch people do things with and to one another, and then try to explain how and why they do them. We are the voyeurs of social life. This course invites students to become part of this sociological enterprise of observing and explaining the social world. It presumes no previous exposure to sociology as an academic discipline, though we all bring with us a life's worth of experiences of living in society and we will draw upon those experiences throughout the course.

**Required Text**

David Newman, *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*, Fifth Edition (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2004).

**Course Requirements**

1. Exam #1 (20%)
2. Exam #2 (20%)
3. Exam #3 (20%)
4. Research Paper (20%)
5. Course Preparation Assignments (20%)

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, I expect you to be able to:

- (1) **Describe and defend sociology** as a discipline; that is, to describe what sociologists do and explain why it is important.
- (2) More importantly, **analyze the world**--both broadly and in the everyday--sociologically; that is, in terms of sociological theories and concepts, and employing sociological methods.
- (3) Most importantly, **understand yourself** better by examining your own life and experience using a sociological perspective, what has been called "the sociological imagination."

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are *100 total points* which can be earned in this class. They are distributed as follows:

**EXAM #1 (20 points), EXAM #2 (20 points), and EXAM #3 (20 points):** These in-class exams will each involve short answer and/or essay questions. Exam #1 will cover Chapters 1, 2, & 4 of the textbook; Exam #2 will cover Chapters 5-8, and Exam #3 will cover Chapters 10-12. (Please note: **missed exams cannot be made-up except under extreme circumstances such as serious illness or a death in the family.**)

**RESEARCH PAPER (20 points):** For this research paper, you will observe a social environment, take notes on what you observe, and then subject your observations to a sociological analysis. Detailed instructions follow the course schedule. (Please note: **late papers will be penalized one full grade for each day they are late!**)

**COURSE PREPARATION ASSIGNMENTS (20 points):** It is vital to the success of this course that you do all of the readings and think about the materials **prior** to our class sessions. To facilitate this advance preparation, the instructor will provide various written assignments for you to complete which will be due at the **beginning** of class. The assignments will be made available on the course web site. You will bring **two copies** of your type-written/printed assignment to class: one for the instructor and one for you to refer to in class.

Grading: These assignments will be graded as either satisfactory ("credit") or unsatisfactory ("no credit"). If what you submit reflects a serious attempt to complete the assignment, you will receive credit. If not, you will receive one warning (and an opportunity to submit a revised assignment) before being given no credit on the next unsatisfactory assignment.

There are 20 opportunities to submit these assignments and each satisfactory assignment is worth one (1) point. If you complete 17 or more of the assignments, you will receive 20 points. This bonus system is meant to provide you with a generous margin of error in case you get sick, lazy, etc. Therefore, please do not ask for further consideration.

Note: *If you must miss class for some legitimate reason, let me know and turn in your course preparation work **in advance** of your absence. **Late course preparation assignments** will not be accepted except under extreme circumstances such as serious illness or a death in the family.*

**General Note:** Please keep a copy of every assignment you turn-in and everything that is returned to you graded in case of a clerical error on the part of the instructor, a loss of information stored electronically, or a dog eating the instructor's grade sheet.

## GRADES

The scale for grades based on the number of points earned over the course of the semester is as follows:

A: 95-100	A-: 90-94	B+: 87-89	B: 84-86	B-: 80-83	C+: 77-79
C: 74-76	C-: 70-73	D: 60-69	F: Less than 60		

## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

According to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, individuals with a physical or mental impairment ("disability") are entitled to equal access, integration and the provision of reasonable accommodation by Federally-supported institutions like the Wake Forest University. The University is required to make "academic adjustments" for qualified disabled persons. These adjustments may include modifications to academic requirements as are necessary to ensure that such requirements do not discriminate against a qualified handicapped student. Adjustments may also include modifications to course examinations or other procedures for evaluating students' academic achievement. If these Section 504 protections apply to you, or you think that they might apply to you, please contact the Learning Assistance Center (336.758.5929) within the first two (2) weeks of the semester.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: Horizontal lines indicate no class meeting. Visit the course web site to retrieve the course preparation assignments (a.k.a. "CPA")!!!

WEEK OF...	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
August 22	<b>CH. 1. TAKING A NEW LOOK AT A FAMILIAR WORLD</b>		
		First Class Administration	CPA #1
August 29	<b>CH. 2. SEEING AND THINKING SOCIOLOGICALLY</b>		
	CPA #2	CPA #3	
September 5	<b>CH. 4. BUILDING ORDER: CULTURE AND HISTORY</b>		
	CPA #4	CPA #5	
September 12	<b>EXAM WEEK: NO NEW MATERIAL</b>		
	Exam Review: Bring Questions	EXAM #1 (Chs. 1-2, 4)	
September 19	<b>CH. 5. BUILDING IDENTITY: SOCIALIZATION</b>		
	CPA #6	CPA #7	
September 26	<b>CH. 6. BUILDING IMAGE: THE PRESENTATION OF SELF</b>		
	CPA #8	CPA #9	
October 3	<b>CH. 7. BUILDING SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS: INTIMACY &amp; FAMILIES</b>		
	CPA #10	CPA #11	
October 10	<b>CH. 8. CONSTRUCTING DIFFERENCE: SOCIAL DEVIANCE</b>		
	CPA #12		
October 17	<b>CH. 8 (CONT.) AND RESEARCH PAPERS</b>		
			CPA #13
October 24	<b>EXAM WEEK: NO NEW MATERIAL</b>		
	Exam Review: Bring questions	EXAM #2 (Chs. 5-8)	
October 31	<b>CH. 10. ARCHITECTURE OF STRATIFICATION: CLASS &amp; INEQUALITY</b>		
	CPA #14	CPA #15	
November 7	<b>CH. 11. THE ARCHITECTURE OF INEQUALITY: RACE &amp; ETHNICITY</b>		
	CPA #16	CPA #17	

WEEK OF...	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
November 14	<b><i>THE ARCHITECTURE OF INEQUALITY: SEX AND GENDER</i></b>		
	CPA #18	CPA #19	CPA #20
November 21	<b><i>LET US GIVE THANKS (AND DO RESEARCH PAPERS)</i></b>		
November 28	<b><i>FINALE</i></b>		
	Course Evaluations and Exam Review. Bring your computer.	<b>EXAM #3 (Chs. 10-12)</b>	

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE: December 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM**

**Sociology 151: Principles of Sociology**  
**PAPER ASSIGNMENT**  
**Fall 2005**

**Paper Due: December 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM**

For your paper, you will observe a social environment, take notes on what you observe, and then subject your observations to a sociological analysis.

(1) **Choosing an environment to observe:** Before you begin, you must select a social setting that you want to observe. You can select any setting you wish, but if you follow a couple of suggestions, you may find the assignment easier. First, it may be helpful to select an environment that is not overly familiar to you. For example, if you are Catholic, you might decide to visit a Protestant church service. If an environment is too familiar to you, some important aspects of the social context may blend into the background. Second, you may want to choose an environment in which some things change over time (e.g., people coming and going) or visit two similar environments that differ on one important dimension. For example, you could observe a mall food court during on a weekday when mostly adults are shopping and then on a Friday night when the teenagers take over. Or, returning to the church example, you could attend one service in a predominantly white church and one in a predominantly black church; or one in a rich neighborhood and one in a relatively poor one. If you are having trouble selecting an environment, please talk to me. I get paid to help!

(2) **Observing the environment:** You should spend at least 4 hours observing your environment and taking notes on what you have observed. Depending on the environment you choose, you may have to wait until after you leave the environment to write down your notes.

**Note: You must submit your observation notes with your final paper.**

There will be many important things to observe in your environment. Among these are: the physical environment, important artifacts or objects, what kind of people are there, who interacts with whom, when do people arrive/leave, who says what, are there leaders/followers, and so on. Try to focus on what you think is most interesting sociologically.

(3) **Writing up your paper:** In addition to an introduction and conclusion, your paper should be made up of three parts. (a) First, you should identify your environment and very briefly discuss why you chose it and why you thought it would be sociologically interesting. (b) Second, you should give a synopsis of what you observed. Please give only the broad strokes of what happened—this should only take up a couple of pages. The idea is to make your reader familiar with the environment, not to give a blow-by-blow account of your field work. (c) Finally, select two or three important sociological concepts we have discussed and talk about how they help (or do not help) you to understand what you observed. For example, you could discuss deviant behavior in your setting. Was the presence or lack of deviance important in your setting? Why do you think there was or was not any deviant behavior? Did deviant behavior suggest any underlying class/race/gender conflict in the setting? You should give a sociological explanation of **why** things occurred in the setting as they did and why other things did not occur.

You are welcome but not required to consult outside sources. Your primary textual reference will be Newman's *Sociology*. When referring to this text, be as specific as possible; the more specific, the better. This third part ("c") should make up most of your paper and will be the most pivotal in determining your grade.

(4) **Format:** Papers should be double-spaced, typed/printed in Times New Roman 12 point font with 1 inch margins on all four sides, left justified, and have consecutively numbered pages. When you turn in your paper, there is no need for a plastic theme cover or folder. The first page should be a title page that includes the title of your paper and your name. The second page will be your **Paper Submission Checklist** (which will be available on the course website). Papers with missing or incomplete submission checklists will not be accepted. Start the text of your paper on the following page (the third page you submit but page #1 of your paper). *Do not put your name anywhere on the paper except the title page* (this facilitates anonymity in grading). Spelling and grammar count! Use but do not simply depend on your computer's spell checker! Proofread your paper carefully.

(5) **Length:** About 10 pages. This means 10 double-spaced pages of *text*; your title page, submission checklist, and bibliography do not count in the page total. Please do not try to play tricks with margins and fonts in order to increase or decrease your paper's length. Follow the formatting guidelines given in #4 above.

10 pages is a **guideline**. If you have finished your paper and it is **less than** 10 pages, consider whether you have forgotten any part of the requirements, failed to elaborate any ideas or concepts sufficiently, or left out any descriptive details from your observation. If not, turn in what you have written regardless of the length. If your paper is **more than** 10 pages, consider whether you could organize your paper better or convey your ideas more efficiently. If not, turn in what you have written regardless of the length.