

## **Syllabus SC 00101: Introduction to Sociology**

**Abigail Brooks, Instructor**

**Office: McGuinn Hall, 409, x4134**

**Office Hours, T/TH 2-4 or by appointment**

### **Week 1: What is Sociology?**

*Tuesday, September 4: General Introduction*

*Thursday, September 6: “The Sociological Perspective” by James Henslin; “Invitation to Sociology” by Peter Berger; “Sociology and the Social Sciences” by James Henslin; “The Promise,” by C. Wright Mills (All in *Down to Earth Sociology*, edited by James Henslin, section I.)*

### **Week 2: Socialization and Social Construction: Race, Class, and Gender**

*Tuesday, September 11: “ ‘Riding the Bull at Gilley’s’: Convicted Rapists Describe the Rewards of Rape,” by Diana Scully and Joseph Marolla, section II, in James Henslin’s *Down to Earth Sociology*.*

*Thursday, September 14: *Random Family: Love, Drugs and Coming of Age in the Bronx*, by Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, chapters 1-10, pp. 3-102*

### **Week 3: Socialization and Social Construction: Race, Class, and Gender Continued**

*Tuesday, September 18: “Extreme Isolation,” by Kingsley Davis, chapter 12, part IV; “On Becoming Male,” by James Henslin, chapter 12, part IV, both in *Down to Earth Sociology**

*Thursday, September 21: *Random Family*, chapters 11-20, pp. 103-199*

### **Week 4: Socialization and Social Construction: Race, Class, and Gender Continued**

*Tuesday, September 25: Ann Preston, “Address” Seneca Falls Women’s Rights Convention, handout; Mary Inman, “How Different are Men and Women,” handout; “Shortchanging Girls, Gender and Socialization in Schools,” by Peggy Orenstein, handout; “Sexuality and Gender in Children’s Daily Worlds,” by Barrie Thorne and Zella Luria and “But what do you mean? Women and Men in Conversation” by Deborah Tannen, both in *Down to Earth Sociology*, section 1V*

*Thursday, September 27: Random Family, chapters 21-30, pp. 200-298*

## **Week 5: Social Inequalities, Social Structures: Race, Class, and Gender**

*Tuesday, October 2: “The uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay all,” Herbert Gans; “Showing My Color,” Clarence Page; “The Racist Mind” by Raphael Ezekiel in *Down to Earth Sociology*, chapters 30, 31, 32 , section VII.*

*Thursday, October 4: Random Family, chapters 31-44, pp. 299-404 (author’s note and acknowledgements, pp. 405-409, might also be of interest)*

**PAPER #1 DUE**

## **Week 6: Social Inequalities, Social Structures: Race, Class, and Gender Continued**

*Tuesday, October 9: “Fraternities and Rape on Campus” by Patricia Yancey Martin and Robert A. Hummer; “Moving up from the Working Class,” Joan M. Morris and Michael D. Grimes; “The US Upper Class,” Stephen Higley chapters 30, 34, 35, section VII, in *Down to Earth Sociology**

*Thursday October 11: *Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich, chapters 1-2, pp. 1-120.*

## **Week 7: Social Inequalities, Social Structures: Race, Class, and Gender Continued**

*Tuesday, October 16: “I’m here but I’m there: The Meanings of Latina Transnational Motherhood,” by Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo and Ernestine Avila, handout; “Partners in Prostitution,” Katherine H.S. Moon, handout.*

*Thursday, October 18: *Nickel and Dimed*, chapter 3 plus Evaluation, pp. 121-221.*

## **Week 8: Society and the Self: Deviance and Social Control**

*Tuesday, October 23: “The Presentation of Self in everyday Life,” by Erving Goffman, section III, chapter 11, in *Down to Earth Sociology**

*Thursday, October 25: *Is it me or my meds?*, by David Karp, prologue-chapter 3, pp. 1-94.*

## **Week 9: Society and the Self: Deviance and Social Control Continued**

*Tuesday, October 30: “If Hitler asked you to electrocute a stranger, Would you? Probably,” and “Streetwise” by Elijah Anderson, both section V, in *Down to Earth Sociology**

*Thursday, November 1: *Is it me or my meds?*, chapters 4-5, pp. 95-165*

## **Week 10: Society and the Self: Deviance and Social Control Continued**

*Tuesday, November 6: “The Pathology of Imprisonment,” by Philip G. Zimbardo, “The Saints and the Roughnecks,” by William J. Chambliss, both in section VI of *Down to Earth Sociology**

*Thursday, November 8: *Is it me or my meds*, chapters 6-7, pp. 167-229 (Epilogue and Appendix A, pp. 230-261, not required but highly recommended.)*

**PAPER # 2 due**

## **Week 11: Cultures and Ideology: Individualism and the American Dream**

*Tuesday, November 13: “Transnational Dreamers,” by Leah Schmalzbauer, handout.*

*Thursday, November 15: *Families on the Fault Line*, by Lillian Rubin, first 3<sup>rd</sup> completed.*

## **Week 12: Cultures and Ideology: Individualism and the American Dream Continued**

*Tuesday, November 20: “Making it By Faking it” by Robert Granfield, chapter 34, section VII in *Down to Earth Sociology*.*

**THANKSGIVING BREAK NO CLASS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

### **Week 13: Cultures and Ideology: Individualism and the American Dream Continued**

*Tuesday, November 27: “Men who Share the Second Shift” by Arlie Hochschild and Anne Machung, chapter 38; “The Great American Football Ritual,” by Douglas E. Foley, chapter 40, both in section VIII of *Down to Earth Sociology**

*Thursday, November 29: *Families on the Fault Line*, 2/3 complete.*

### **Week 14: Cultures and Ideology: Social Change**

*Tuesday, December 4: “Social Change Among the Amish” by Jerry Savells, and “Women in the Military” by Laura M. Miller, in section IX, in *Down to Earth Sociology**

*Thursday, December 6: *Families on the Fault Line*, completed. LAST DAY OF CLASS  
RESERCH PAPER PROJECT DUE*

### **Week 15**

**Tuesday, December 11: STUDY DAY: NO CLASS**

**Wednesday, December 12: STUDY DAY: NO CLASS**

**Thursday, December 13: TERM EXAMINATIONS BEGIN**

## Course Requirements

- **Two 5-7 page papers**
- **Interview/field work project**
- **Final Exam**
- **Class attendance and participation**

**Note: Class attendance and participation** are crucial and absolutely essential to the learning process. Your attendance and participation in class discussion contributes to your grade and you are expected to come to class prepared with assigned materials read.

## Course Grade Determinants

Two papers and interview fieldwork project: **65% (20%, 20%, 25% respectively)**

Final Exam: **25%**

Class Attendance and Participation: **10%**

**Note: Late work** will be reduced by one-half letter grade for each class day that it is late. All assignments for this course are expected to be completed on time. If you have extenuating circumstances and need an extension you must negotiate a new deadline with me *before* the assignment's due date.

## **Texts**

**\*All texts are available at the bookstore and on reserve at O'neil Library**

### **Required:**

1. ISBN: 0-7432-5443-0  
Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx  
Scribner: New York  
Author: Adrian Nicole LeBlanc
2. ISBN: 0-8050-6389-7  
Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America  
Henry Holt and Company, New York, New York  
Author: Barbara Ehrenreich
3. ISBN: 067402182-7  
Is it Me or My Meds?: Living with Anti-Depressants  
Harvard University Press  
Author: David. A. Karp
4. ISBN: 0-06-016741-6  
Families on the Fault Line  
HarperCollins, New York  
Author: Lillian B. Ruben
5. ISBN: 0-684-85548-8  
Down to Earth Sociology  
The Free Press  
James M. Henslin

### **Recommended Only:**

ISBN: 0-415-90632-6

Reshaping the Female Body: The Dilemma of Cosmetic Surgery  
Routledge: New York  
Author: Kathy Davis

ISBN: 0-8133-1514-X (HC) OR ISBN: 0-8133-1515-8  
Ain't no Makin' it: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low Income Neighborhood  
Westview Press  
Author: Jay Macleod

ISBN: 1-56584-178-6  
Mexican Lives  
W.W. Norton and Company, New York  
Author: Judith Adler Hellman