SOCY100102 – Introductory Sociology Spring 2017

Days: Tuesday-Thursday
Time: 3:00 -4:15 PM
Location: Campion 303

Instructor: Maheen Haider
Office Hours: Thursdays 4:30pm: to 5:30 pm
Office: McGuinn 410c
(by appointment only)
haider@bc.edu

“The sociological imagination enables its possessor to understand the larger historical scene in terms of its meaning for the inner life and the external career of variety of individuals. It enables him to take into account how individuals, in the welter of their daily experience, often become falsely conscious of their social positions” Mills (1959)

Mills Sociological Imagination will provide the theoretical framework for exploring the perennial questions of personal identity and how social processes by which we, as individuals, making meaning are structured by race, gender, age, and class. Many of the examples of the intersection of these structures will focus on immigrant experiences as, with immigrants, we see the construction and reconstruction of identity as it unfolds.

The course has three thematic sections. In the first section, we will explore the historical relevance of the concept of race, class, and gender and analyze the social location of racial and religious identities. The second part of the course will deal with the issues of immigration and we will look at the contemporary changes in the American mainstream and the transformation of the immigrant identity. The last part of the course will look at the power of visual media. I will explore the question of how visual media informs our understanding of the world today and how we make meaning of stereotypes around gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and religion.

We will look at the world through the sociological perspective. The recent terror attacks in Iraq, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Orlando, Paris, San Bernardino, Brussels and the Syrian refugee crisis has established ISIS as a terror threat to the world stability. Why is it that our very identities are in conflict with each other? Who are Us vs. Them? Why is it problematic to be an immigrant, homosexual, trans-gender, black, Mexican, Hispanic, Latino, Muslim, or/and Arab? Why is it that we are divided into groups by race, class, gender, sexuality, and religion? How do societies transform and politicize these racial and religious divides? Why is it that Obama was able to become the first Black president of the most powerful economy of the world? While the recent Presidential debate engulfed in Trumps’ sexist, racist and anti-immigrant rhetoric, Clintons controversial emails, and James Comeys’ recurring testimonies left the voters at the mercy of endless controversies. Despite the haphazardness of the political rhetoric,
elect Trump will be sworn in as the 45th President of the United States of America. Why do we have these simultaneous contradictions at the core of American politics today?

Similarly the recent Brexit vote has paved the way for anti-immigrant sentiment in societies similar to our own. Yet the people of England who voted in favor of Brexit were unaware of the repercussions of their choice. Did the media and politicians enable such a profound change in the geo-political landscape of Britain leaving the European Union? What does this mean for the new world order? How does this anti-immigrant sentiment affect us all? Does the media reinforce the power of one entity over another? And how do we as individuals make meanings of these everyday changes? These are integral questions that haunt the geo-political landscape we live in today.

We will discuss all these issues and the purpose of the course is to challenge you and enable you to see the world through a sociological lens. This course will enable you to delve deeper into the complexity of the world social order. You will and critically examine your own racial/ class/ social position the social system. I hope that you will be able to identify the visible and invisible oppressed identities and be part of the process that enables an optimistic transformation of a chaotic state of the world we live in today.
Course Requirements:

*Attendance, Reading, Participation:*

This is a reading and participation intensive course. All readings are available on canvas and I expect you to come to class having done the readings for the day. This practice will help you understand the lectures better and enable you to use your sociological imagination to relate the readings to your everyday life.

*Attendance and participation is 20% of your grade* so please come prepared to discuss the current political climate in light of the readings. If you are more than 5 minute late, I will mark you as absent so please be in class on time.

Since attendance is compulsory and integral to your grade. If you miss class a doctor, school administrator, or other certified official must verify an absence in order for it to be excused. Notes from parents or legal guardians will not be accepted. Please make sure to discuss the reason for your absence with me.

*Papers:*

The course is divided into three sections and at the end of each section you will be submitting a paper. You will be using your sociological imagination to write these three papers. I will be handing out outline for each paper in the beginning of each section. These outlines will also be made available on canvas.

- First paper will be 20% of your grade due date.
- Second exam will be 30% of your grade.
- Third paper will be 30% of your grade due date

Please make sure to bring printed copies of your paper in class on the due date.
**Class Ethics:**

You are welcome to use your laptops, ipads etc. to take notes only. However if you use technology for Facebook, YouTube, Snap Chat etc. it will reflect poorly on your grade. Please do not text in class and I expect you to keep your phones on silent and be part of the intellectual environment.

**Grading Scale:**

94-100= A 70-73= C  
90-93= A- 66-69= C-  
86-89= B+ 62-65= D+  
82-85= B 58-61= D  
78-81= B- 54-57= D-  
74-77= C+ 53-00= F

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a standard of utmost importance in this class. Guidelines for academic integrity in written work are posted on the Boston College website at: [www.bc.edu/integrity](http://www.bc.edu/integrity)

If you have any questions pertaining to the academic integrity guidelines, please come and talk with me. If you are caught violating Boston College’s policies on academic integrity, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment and the appropriate Dean will be notified in accordance to the rules set forth by Boston College.

**Disability Services**

Boston College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and integrated access for students with disabilities to all available academic, social, and recreational programs and activities. Appropriate support and referral services are provided by the Disability Services Office, which serves students with hearing, visual, mobility, medical, and psychiatric disabilities. For more information please refer to the link below:

[http://www.bc.edu/offices/dos/subsidiary_offices/disabilityservices.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/dos/subsidiary_offices/disabilityservices.html)

The Connors Family Learning Center provides special services and support for all students with learning disabilities and ADHD, and all who teach and/or advise students with learning disabilities. For more information, call or email Kathy Duggan at 552-8093 ordugganka@bc.edu
# COURSE OUTLINE

## SECTION I: Week 1: Introduction: Thinking and doing Sociology

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<th>Tuesday 17th Jan.</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Introduction and Course overview</td>
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<td>• <a href="http://www.sociology.org/what-is-sociology">http://www.sociology.org/what-is-sociology</a></td>
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<td>• Exercise: Who am I?</td>
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<td>• Thursday 19th Jan.</td>
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## Week 2: Race and Ethnicity

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<th>Tuesday: 24th Jan</th>
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<td>• Chapter 2 The invention of Race, Desmonayd &amp; Emirbayer.</td>
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<th>Thursday: 26th Jan</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Chapter 1: Race in the 21st century. Desmonayd &amp; Emirbayer.</td>
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<td>• Chapter 1 Ethnicity in Racial Formation in the United States Michael Omi (Author), Howard Winant (Author)</td>
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## Week 3: Race, Class, and Gender

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<th>Tuesday 31st Jan.</th>
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<th>Thursday 2nd Feb</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Oliver, Melvin and Thomas Shapiro. Black Wealth/White Wealth, Ch. 5 “A Story of Two Nations: Race and Wealth,” pp.91-125</td>
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### Week 4: Race and Intersectionality

**Tuesday 7th Feb**
- Chapter 2 The New Racism: The US Racial structure since the 1960’s in Racism without Racists; Eduardo Bonilla-Silva- 2014
- Chapter 4: The theory of racial formation in Racial Formation in the United States Michael Omi (Author), Howard Winant (Author)

**Thursday 9th Feb**
- Patricia Hill Collins It's All In the Family: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Nation Volume 13, Issue 3, pages 62–82, August 1998
- Patricia Hill Collins: Intersecting Oppressions

### Week 5: Post 9/11 racialized Muslim identity?

**Tuesday 14th Feb.**

**Thursday 16th Feb.**


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Week 6: Symbolic Interaction and Identity

Tuesday 21st Feb
- Blumer : Society as Symbolic interaction page 78 to 89 Perspective and methods

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Thursday 23rd Feb No class.
ESSAY DUE :::


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Friday 7th October
- Short essay due today 1000-1200 words only
- Group exercise

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SECTION II: Week 7 Immigration

Feb 28th


- Introduction page 1 to 7, The Handbook of International Migration- The American
March 2nd:


*March 6th - 11th Spring break*

### Week 8: Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity

**Tuesday 14th March.**


**Thursday 16th March.**


- Chapter 9 E pluribus unum or the same old perfume in a new bottle? : On the future of racial stratification in the United States; Eduardo Bonilla-Silva - 2006

- Discuss God Father part 2

### Week 9  Immigrant America

**Tuesday 21st March.**


**Thursday 23rd March**

### Week 10: Immigration, identity, and belonging

**Tuesday 28th March**

- Audrey Singer 2013. “Contemporary Immigrant Gateways in Historical Perspective” *Daedalus* 142 (3) Summer pp. 76-91. 75.

**Thursday 30th March**

- Victor Nee and Hilary Holbrow. 2013. “Why Asian Americans are Becoming Mainstream” *Daedalus* 142 (3) Summer pp. 65-

### Week 11 Immigration, identity, and belonging

**Tuesday 4th April.**


**Thursday 6th April.**


### SECTION III: Week 12  The power of visual media

**Tuesday: 11\textsuperscript{th} April. Class exam 14\textsuperscript{th} November**  Short paper due today 30\% 1500- 1800 words only

**Thursday 13\textsuperscript{th} April**

Enjoy your Easter Break.

**Friday 19\textsuperscript{th} Nov.**


### Week 13: The power of visual media

**Tuesday 18\textsuperscript{th} April**


**Thursday 20\textsuperscript{th} April**


**Tuesday 25\textsuperscript{th} April  Week 14: Fetishizing the gaze and Decolonizing the eye**


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<th>Thursday 27th April</th>
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**Final paper: due.**
1500-1800 words only