

**SOCIAL ORGANIZATION (SOCI 3304-02)**  
 Fall 2012                      Kennesaw State University  
 Monday & Wednesday      6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.  
 Social Science Building 3023

Instructor:	Lisa M. Lepard	Office:	Social Sciences Bldg. 4005
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📍:	GeorgiaView Vista		
🕒 Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday: before & after class; 5p.m. – 6:30; & by appointment			

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

📖 All course readings will be posted on Vista.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course, we will focus on how society is organized. To do this, we examine classical sociological theory to grasp the macro-level dynamics, examine multiple institutions in American society, and finally look at various organizations and their forms. In all of this, we will keep in mind issues of diversity and stratification. At the end of the semester, students will be able to apply sociological theories and concepts to summarize key issues about social organization.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- ◆ Understand the major theoretical contributions in sociology and their application to social organization
- ◆ Understand the sociohistorical development of social organization in America
- ◆ Explore the multiple ways that diversity and intersecting statuses (race, class, gender, sexuality) impact social organization
- ◆ Apply the theories and concepts from course content to examine American social institutions and social organizations

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Do not talk during lecture, while other students are asking questions, or during movie/video presentations.
- Turn off cell phones, iPods, or other electronics during class. No laptops.
- Late arrivals & early departures disrupt not only me, but also other students; therefore, if you know that you need to leave early—please talk to me *before* class (or email me).

Sociology is one of the few academic disciplines that many students enter into with strong and established beliefs concerning the subject matter. This is especially true when controversial topics such as the ones that we will be discussing are challenged and critiqued. With this said, there are a few classroom rules that will be established:

- Acknowledging that racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, and other forms of institutionalized forms of oppression exist, we agree not to blame others or ourselves for the misinformation we have learned but accept responsibility not to repeat misinformation and to use our sociological knowledge to change perceptions.<sup>i\*</sup>
- We agree not to “blame the victim(s)” for the conditions of her/his life because this type of explanation ignores the institutionalized social structures that block progress and perpetuates social inequality\*
- Never demean, devalue, or ridicule someone for ideas expressed, personal experiences shared, or dissenting opinions. \*
- Create a safe atmosphere for open discussion. If personal experiences are shared with the class, it should be agreed upon that these comments are not repeated outside of the classroom and the rules of confidentiality apply. <sup>\*1</sup>

**MY ROLE AS A PROFESSOR**

As the professor, I am responsible for creating a safe, creative, and (maybe) fun environment for you to learn in. As a

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<sup>1</sup> Ideas based in part on: Cannon, Lynn Weber. 1990. “Fostering Positive Race, Class, and Gender Dynamics in the Classroom.” *Women’s Studies Quarterly* 18 (2): 126-134.

professor I am not responsible for telling you “what to study for the test.” I will not go over every piece of information that you will need to know for the exams or quizzes. If you hoped that I, as the professor, would be a resource for you to find how you can put out the least amount of energy while still earning a good grade, I am probably not the professor you are looking for. I respect you and your other time commitments enough to share this with you up front.

#### YOUR ROLE AS A STUDENT

As a student in this class your primary responsibility is to come to class prepared. That includes doing the assigned reading and taking the time to think about how it relates to your experiences and the world around you. In class you are expected to give all of us your attention and participate in class and group activities and discussion. To put it simply, if you hope to do well in this class you have to be an *active* participant in your education.

#### WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CLASS TIME

In class we will talk about the main ideas discussed in the assigned readings and then apply them with activities, discussions, etc. We may also extend the discussions beyond what the readings covered by watching a video or having a guest speaker. Our class time is a supplement to the readings not a replacement for doing the readings.

#### USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY DURING CLASS

Because this class is highly interactive and your participation is important to its success, the use of personal laptops, iPods, and cell phones during class is prohibited.

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Please be advised of the Student Code of Conduct as published in the KSU Undergraduate Catalog. Section III addresses issues on academic honesty, including cheating and plagiarism, among other violations. If you are unsure of how *plagiarism* is defined or if you are not clear on what “academic honesty” means, go to the catalog and familiarize yourself. Ignorance of the policy is not an acceptable excuse! Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be investigated and if confirmed, will receive a zero on the assignment and potentially fail the course.

#### STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

If you are a student with a documented disability, come & talk to me as soon as possible (either after class or during my office hours) to discuss accommodations.

#### QUESTIONS:

- ☐ For each scheduled class, students are required to submit at least ONE substantive question to Vista regarding the assigned readings. The question can be about a specific reading or about a basic theme from all readings.
- ☐ I will set up a discussion board on Vista for students to post questions; however, questions WILL NOT be answered on Vista. Instead, we will use them to facilitate class discussion.
- ☐ **Each question is to be posted on Vista by 9am of the day of class.**
- ☐ Students who successfully submit a substantive question will receive full credit (100) on their question grade for the day; however, failure to submit a question or a substantive question will receive no credit (0).
- ☐ All question grades will be averaged together and will constitute 10% of your final grade.

#### PAPER:

- ☐ There will be 2 paper assignments in the course based on the different sections of the course content. In fact, there are 3 opportunities to complete papers, but each student is only required to write 2 papers.
- ☐ Each paper is to be 4 – 6 pages in length, double-spaced, regular margins, 12 point font, etc.
- ☐ I encourage sociology majors to use the ASA Citation style guide (I will post a handout on Vista). Students who are majoring in disciplines other than sociology can use MLA, APA, or Chicago Style. Regardless of the format you choose to use in the papers, it should be correct and consistent throughout the paper.
- ☐ Paper topics should be a reflection of content that is covered within the section. For instance, if the student chooses to write a paper about the first section (theoretical perspectives), the paper should highlight the student’s ability to make connections with a theoretical perspective and a contemporary social issue. In the second section (social institutions), the student should choose ONE social institution and explore it in more detail by doing additional research. Finally, if the third section is chosen (social organizations) the student should select a topic and explore it more fully as it relates to social organizations.

- ☐ For each paper, students should find class readings, as well as outside resources, to support arguments in their papers. It should go without saying (but I will state anyway): Wikipedia and other 'opinion' based websites are not scholarly sources; therefore, do not use them in papers (for my class or any class).
- ☐ Each paper is 15% of the student's final grade.

EXAMINATIONS:

- ☐ There will be 3 exams during the semester. **Exams are not cumulative.**
  - Exams will consist of multiple choice and essay.
  - Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade.

☐ **MAKE-UP EXAMS** ARE ONLY GRANTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR. EMAILING THE INSTRUCTOR THE MORNING OF AN EXAM DUE TO ILLNESS, CAR PROBLEMS, OR OTHER ISSUES DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO MAKE UP AN EXAM. FURTHERMORE, MAKE UP EXAMS ARE ONLY GIVEN WHEN PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE INSTRUCTOR. THEREFORE, STUDENTS MUST HAVE A DOCUMENTED REASON FOR MISSING THE EXAM. MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE IN ESSAY FORMAT.

☐ **DURING EXAMS:** turn off phones and all other electronic gadgets. Go to the restroom before the test begins because if you leave the room—you must turn in your exam and I will consider it completed.



**BE ON TIME FOR EXAMS!** Students who are late for class on exam day may not be allowed to take the exam if they arrive after the *first* student has already turned in their exam. This policy is to put in place to ensure academic honesty.

**Grading:**

Exam 1 = 20%  
 Exam 2 = 20%  
 Exam 3 = 20%  
 Questions = 10%  
 Paper 1 = 15%  
 Paper 2 = 15%

**Keep Track of Your Own Grade!!**

Exam 1: (your grade x .20) = a  
 Exam 2: (your grade x .20) = b  
 Exam 3 (your grade x .20) = c  
 Questions: (avg. all grades x .10) = d  
 Paper (your grade x .15) = e  
 Paper (your grade x .15) = f

Your Final Course Grade= a + b + c + d + e + f (out of 100)

Final Grade:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 59 & below

## Course Outline

★ I reserve the right to change the syllabus; however, students will be notified in advance either in class or on Vista

Date:	Topic:	Required Reading:	Questions: Questions are due on Vista by 9am on the scheduled days;
M 8.20	Introduction to course		
<b>Part I: Theoretical Perspectives</b>			
W 8.22	Durkheim	~"The Division of Labor in Society"	Q due by 9a
M 8.27	Marx	~"Classes in Capitalism and Pre-capitalism"	Q due by 9a
W 8.29	Weber Ritzer	~Selection from <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> ~"The Weberian Theory of Rationalization and the McDonaldization of Contemporary Society"	Q due by 9a
M 9.3	<b>Labor Day: NO CLASS</b>		
W 9.5	Mills	~"The Power Elite"	Q due by 9a
M 9.10	Simmel	~"The Metropolis and Mental Life"	Q due by 9a
W 9.12	Foucault	~Selections from <i>Discipline and Punish</i> Pg. 3 – 31 "The Body of the Condemned" Pg. 135 – 138 "Docile Bodies" Pg. 200 – 204 "Panopticism"	Q due by 9a
M 9.17	Make-up day; review	<b>Paper #1 due in class</b>	
W 9.19	<b>EXAM 1</b>		
<b>Part II: Social Institutions</b>			
M 9.24	Issues of social stratification (race & class)	~"Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation" ~"Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life"	Q due by 9a
W 9.26	Issues of stratification (gender & sexuality)	~"Night to His Day': The Social Construction of Gender" ~"The Gender of Sexuality"	Q due by 9a
M 10.1	Family	~"Changing Lives, Resistant Institutions: A New Generation Negotiates Gender, Work, and Family Change" ~"Flat Broke with Children: Women in the Age of Welfare Reform"	Q due by 9a
W 10.3	Religion	~"The God Strategy: The Rise of Religious Politics in America" ~ "A Singing Citizenry: Popular Music and Civil Religion in America"	Q due by 9a
M 10.8	Politics/Government/ Economics	~"Who Rules America?" ~"Campaign Stops: No Such Place as 'Post-Racial' America"	Q due by 9a
W 10.11	Education	~"Schooling in Capitalist America: Revisited" ~"Exacerbating Inequality: The Failed Promise of the <i>No Child Left Behind Act</i> "	Q due by 9a
M 10.15	Media	~"Media in Crisis" ~"News Media as Political Institutions" ~"Media Magic: Making Class Invisible"	Q due by 9a
W 10.17	Criminal Justice System	~Selection from <i>The New Jim Crow</i> ~"Incarceration, Unemployment, and Inequality"	Q due by 9a
M 10.22	Healthcare	~"Fat in the Fire? Science, the News Media, and the 'Obesity Epidemic'"	Q due by 9a

		~"Health, Income, and Inequality"	
W 10.24	Make-up; review	<b>Paper #2 due in class</b>	
M 10.29	<b>EXAM 2</b>		
<b>Part III: Social Organizations</b>			
W 10.31	Understanding Organizations	~"Why Bureaucracy?" ~"The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality in Organizational Fields"	Q due by 9a
M 11.5	Non-Profit Organizations	~"Nonprofit Organizations in International Development: Agents of Empowerment or Preservers of Stability?" ~"Bureaucracy and Democracy in Organizations: Revisiting Feminist Organizations"	Q due by 9a
W 11.7	Inside Organizations: Culture & Control	~"Boundary Control: The Social Ordering of Work and Family Time in a High-Tech Corporation" ~"Maintaining Norms about Expressed Emotions: The Case of Bill Collectors"	Q due by 9a
M 11.12	Inside Organizations: Power & Conflict	~"Two Faces of the Powerless: Coping with Tyranny in Organizations" ~ "When Cymbals Become Symbols: Conflict Over Organizational Identity Within a Symphony Orchestra"	Q due by 9a
W 11.14	Inside Organizations: Social Networks & Status	~"Network Effects and Social Inequality" ~"The Strength of Weak Ties" ~"Insights from Organizational Sociology"	Q due by 9a
M 11.19	<b>Fall Break: NO CLASS</b>		
W 11.21			
M 11.26	Gender in Organizations	~"Not All Differences Are Created Equal: Multiple Jeopardy in a Gendered Organization" ~ "Gendered Organizations in the New Economy"	Q due by 9a
W 11.28	Race in Organizations	~"Racializing the Glass Escalator" ~"Race, Opportunity, and Diversity of Social Circles in Managerial Networks"	Q due by 9a
M 12.5	Make-up; review	<b>Paper #3 due in class</b>	
	<b>EXAM 3</b>		

\*\*\*Last day to withdraw with "W" is October 12\*\*\*