

**INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY:
Foundations, Theories, Applications**

SECTION A: Mon./Wed. 8:15 – 9:40
SECTION B: Mon./Wed. 9:50 – 11:15

Dr. CJ Churchill

“All that [sociology] asks to be granted it, is that the principle of causality should be applicable to social phenomena....Thus sociology is not the appendage of any other science; it is itself a distinct and autonomous science....When, as a preliminary condition for initiation into sociology, people are asked to discard concepts which they are in the habit of applying to a particular order of things, to rethink these things with renewed effort, we cannot expect to enlist a numerous clientele. But this is not the goal towards which we strive.”

Emile Durkheim, *The Rules of Sociological Method* (1895)

“To be aware of the idea of social structure and to use it is to be capable of tracing...linkages among a great variety of milieux. To be able to do that is to possess the sociological imagination.”

C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination* (1959)

“Sociologists engage in the study of deviant behavior because man reveals himself best in his back alleys. It is there that we may see the raw undergirding of the social structure – and, perhaps, observe our own weaknesses reflected in the behavior we fear and berate the most.”

Laud Humphries, *Tearoom Trade* (1970)

“For the first two thirds of the twentieth century a powerful tide bore Americans into ever deeper engagement in the life of their communities, but a few decades ago – silently, without warning – that tide reversed and we were overtaken by a treacherous rip current. Without at first noticing, we have been pulled apart from one another and from our communities over the last third of the century.”

Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (2000)

“It seems that in certain circumstances privilege and luxury do not dissuade criminality, but rather encourage it.”

A. Rafik Mohamed & Erik D. Fritsvold, *Dorm Room Dealers: Drugs & the Privileges of Race & Class* (2010)

Course Objectives: This course examines major concepts and questions of classic and contemporary sociology. One of its main themes is the sociological insight that the human mind is a meaning-making apparatus from which all of social order emerges. The purpose of this course is to guide you toward a critical view of both society and your own perspectives on it. To successfully see society as a sociologist, you must be willing to reevaluate and be critical of your own views as much as those of others. Overall, sociology requires us to see human situations in context rather than as isolated individual experiences.

Upon the successful completion of this course, motivated and hard-working students should be able to explain social processes, cultural problems, economic systems, and/or interpersonal dynamics at the center of modern society and human social expression at an introductory level.

Main Topics:

What is Sociology?

The Social Psychology of the Self

Gender

Capitalism & Alienation

Modernity, Rationality, & Bureaucracy

Deviance, Norms, & Group Formation

Social Class

Race & Ethnicity

Religion

Work

Dr. Churchill's Web Site: Go to <http://stacweb.stac.edu/~cchurchi/> for links to this syllabus (bottom of page), additional course material, and for links to sociology web sites and other sociology courses.

Final Grade: Participation: 15%
3 tests @ 15% each: 45%
2 essays @ 20% each: 40%
NOTE: *Any work which you do not complete will be worth 0 points.*

Due dates for reading, tests, & papers will be announced in class.

Office Location: Maguire G12

Office Hours: Mon. 7:45-8:15
Tues. 11:15-2:15
Wed. 7:45-8:15
And by appointment.

Office Telephone #: (845) 398 – 4387

E-mail: cchurchi@stac.edu

Required Texts (available in College bookstore):

Henslin, James M. *Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings (14th Edition)*. (anthology: social theory & case studies; 2007)

Lemert, Charles. *Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings (4th Edition)*. (anthology: social theory & case studies; 2009)
NOTE: Page numbers of essays on this syllabus may not match those in this edition of Lemert.

Osborne, Richard & Borin Van Loon. *Introducing Sociology*. (2005)

NOTE: *Additional photocopied readings will be distributed in class.*

Requirements & Policies:

- 1) *Participation*: You are required to make comments, ask questions, and participate in debate during class sessions.
- 2) *Academic Accommodations*: If you are entitled to special accommodations such as extra time for testing, in class note takers, etc., it is your obligation to let me know in advance of *each* test or relevant assignment and to show me proof of your entitlement each time. (Also see STAC policies on third to last page of this syllabus.)
- 3) *Reading*: To be done as assigned.
- 4) *Tests and essays*: Tests may include material in assigned reading covered and not covered in class, in handouts covered only in class, and in information provided during lectures. Essay guidelines will be distributed as they are assigned.
- 5) *Attendance*: More than 2 absences will harm your grade. Seven (7) absences will result in failing the course, regardless of whether absences are excused. Disruptive behavior such as reading newspapers, doing work for other courses, or sitting in a manner indicating you are asleep during class will result in your being marked absent. Coming into class late and leaving early will also be noted and will harm your grade.
- 6) *E-mail and phone*: Do not email or call me with questions about assignments, scheduling, or grades. These issues must be addressed to me directly in class or during office hours.
- 7) *Electronic devices*: **Laptop computer use is prohibited in this classroom.** All means of electronic communication (email, text messaging, etc.) are also prohibited. Use of electronic communication in class will result your being instructed to leave class for the day, marked absent for that session, and points being deducted from your next test or paper; the professor will determine the number of points to be deducted on a case by case basis. (Also see STAC policies on third to last page of this syllabus.)
- 8) *Grading*: The standard in grading all student work in this course can be found in the St. Thomas Aquinas College Catalog on the second to last page of this syllabus. While the STAC grading scale does not include minuses (e.g. A –, B –, C –), my own scale does. See back page of the syllabus for a conversion chart.

All grade questions must be discussed with me in person, not by telephone or by email. Athletic obligations and vacation plans are your burden to accommodate. Tests and due dates will not be altered to fit these external activities. A test missed because of a valid, documented excuse will be replaced with a make up test. Absences without a valid excuse during a test result in 0 points for that test.

READINGS

(NOTE: We may not always follow this list in the order presented. Be sure to make a note when I indicate reading assignments during class. *I will not respond to emails or telephone calls asking for assignment information if you missed class.*)

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

1) INTRODUCTION

Introductory Remarks: “The Sociological Perspective ”

- a) Course structure and objectives

2) SOCIOLOGY’S ORIGINS & ATTITUDES

Down to Earth Sociology 14th Edition:

- a) “The Sociological Perspective” by James Henslin (pp.1-2)
- b) “Invitation to Sociology” by Peter L. Berger (pp. 3-7)
- c) “The Promise” by C. Wright Mills (pp.20-7)

Handout Readings:

The Sane Society by Erich Fromm, Ch.1 “Are We Sane?” (pp.3-11)

THE SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF THE SELF

1) THE SELF

Social Theory:

- a) “The Self and Its Selves” by William James (161-6)
- b) “The Looking Glass Self” by Charles Horton Cooley (pp.188-9)
- c) “The Self, the I, and the Me” by George Herbert Mead (pp.224-9)

Down to Earth Sociology 14th Edition:

- a) “The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life” by Erving Goffman (pp.135-46)

2) THE ROLE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND

Social Theory:

- a) Sigmund Freud
“The Return of the Repressed in Social Life” (pp.145-9)
“Civilization and the Individual” (pp.149-51)

CAPITALISM & ALIENATION

Social Theory:

- a) Karl Marx: “Estranged Labor” (pp.32-8)
“The Fetishism of Commodities” (pp.60-2)

MODERNITY, RATIONALITY, & BUREAUCRACY

1) ROOTS of MODERNITY and BUREAUCRACY

Social Theory:

- a) Max Weber: “The Spirit of Capitalism and the Iron Cage”
(pp.104-8)
“The Bureaucratic Machine” (pp.108-14)

2) RATIONALIZATION

Handout Readings:

Down to Earth Sociology 11th Edition:

- “The McDonaldization of Society” by George Ritzer
(pp.459-71)

GENDER

SOCIAL CONTROLS and DEFINITIONS of GENDER

Social Theory:

- a) “A Room of One’s Own” by Virginia Woolf (pp.261-2)
- b) “Woman as Other” by Simone de Beauvoir (pp.345-7)
- c) “The Problem That Has No Name” by Betty Friedan
(pp.361-4)

Down to Earth Sociology 14th Edition:

- a) “Sexuality and Gender in Children’s Daily Worlds” by
Barrie Thorne and Zella Luria (pp.180-91)

DEVIANCE, NORMS, & GROUP FORMATION

Social Theory:

- (a) Emile Durkheim:
“Anomie and the Modern Division of Labor” (pp.77-8)
- (b) “Character and Society: The Other-directed Personality” by
David Riesman (pp.329-34)

Down to Earth Sociology 14th Edition:

- (a) “If Hitler Asked You to Electrocute a Stranger, Would You?
Probably” by Philip Meyer (pp.269-76)
- (b) “Eating Your Friends is the Hardest: The Survivors of the F-
227” by James M. Henslin (pp.277-86)
- (c) “The Saints and the Roughnecks,” by William J. Chambliss
(pp.299-314)

SOCIAL CLASS

Down to Earth Sociology 14th Edition:

- (a) “The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All” by Herbert J. Gans
(pp.376-82)
- (b) “Moving Up from the Working Class,” by Joan M. Morris &
Michael D. Grimes (pp.383-94)
- (c) “The U.S. Upper Class,” by Stephen Higley (pp.395-406)

Handout Readings:

Down to Earth Sociology 12th Edition:

“Diary of a Homeless Man” by John R. Coleman (pp.215-
28)

Down to Earth Sociology 11th Edition:

“Savage Inequalities” by Jonathan Kozol (pp.329-37)

RACE & ETHNICITY

Social Theory:

“Double-Consciousness and the Veil” by W.E.B. Du Bois (pp.167-
72)

Down to Earth Sociology 14th Edition:

- (a) “Showing My Color,” by Clarence Page (pp.360-8)
- (b) “The Racist Mind,” by Raphael Ezekiel (pp.369-75)

Handout Readings:

Down to Earth Sociology 11th Edition:

“Invisible Man” by Lawrence Otis Graham (pp.352-70)

RELIGION

Social Theory:

“The Cultural Logic of Collective Representations” by Emile Durkheim (pp.94-103)

Handout Readings:

Down to Earth Sociology 13th Edition:

“The Rules for Giving Christmas Gifts,” by Theodore Caplow (pp.108-16)

The Sane Society by Erich Fromm:

- a) “The Need for a Frame of Orientation and Devotion – Reason vs. Irrationality” (pp.63-6)
- b) “Reason, Conscience, Religion” (pp.169-77)

WORK

Down to Earth Sociology 14th Edition:

“Nickel and Dimed,” by Barbara Ehrenreich (pp.411-24)

Handout Readings:

The Sane Society by Erich Fromm, “Work” (pp.177-84)

WRITING GUIDE

The most important rule to remember in writing papers is to be clear and to the point. If you read your paper aloud to yourself, you will hear whether what you have written is clear or garbled. Reread your written work a couple of times before handing it in. Any sentences or paragraphs which do not make sense to you will make even less sense to me. An excellent guide for clear writing is *The Elements of Style* by Strunk & White. This is a slim and inexpensive paperback available in most bookstores.

The following rules apply to all writing:

- 1) **Plagiarism: DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.** Plagiarism is a serious offense. If you use *anyone* else's writing or ideas in your papers without quoting and citing them properly, you will receive an F on your paper and you may receive an F for the entire course. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated under any circumstances in this course. (Also see STAC policies on third to last page of this syllabus.)
- 2) **Format:** All papers must be typed and double-spaced. Do not use excessive margins or font sizes to extend the length of your paper. If you do, your grade will suffer.
- 3) **Cover Page:** All papers must have a cover page which contains the following: (a) paper title, (b) your name, (c) the course and section for which the paper is written, and (d) the date on which the paper is handed in. The cover page does not count toward the length of the paper.
- 4) **Numbering:** Number all pages except for the cover page.
- 5) **Contractions:** Do not use contractions. For example, instead of writing "don't" or "haven't" write "do not" or "have not". Contractions are informal and do not belong in academic writing.
- 6) **References and Citations:** Any time you quote or reference work which is not your own, you must provide a full citation for that work in a footnote or endnote and provide a full bibliographical reference. This pertains to any printed or spoken ideas or words you are using which are not your own. If you are quoting a source from the Internet, you are required to provide proof that the source is reliable (for example, show me that it is an academic or mass media source). It is your obligation to prove that any Internet site is a legitimate source of information.

Web sites are never acceptable citations unless approved by professor in advance and provided with an annotation in the bibliography.

For guides on formatting footnotes, endnotes, and bibliographies, go to the library and locate the citation guidelines of the Modern Language Association (MLA). You may also use *The Chicago Manual of Style* as a guide.

STAC Academic Policies

I. Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity, a commitment to honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility, is the foundation of the learning process. All members of the St. Thomas Aquinas College community are held to the highest standards of academic honesty. While we recognize the participatory nature of education, we take academic integrity very seriously, and the College policy on academic dishonesty details consequences that can include dismissal from the College. That policy can be found in both the Student Handbook and the College Catalog.

As a student in this class, you must demonstrate your commitment to academic integrity by submitting work which originates in your own imagination, analytical faculties, or your own knowledge, which you have done yourself, and which represents your very best efforts. When appropriate, your work should be supplemented and supported by other sources; however, you must always insure that these sources are properly cited using the recommended documentation system.

II. STAC Academic Accommodations Policy

Students requiring accommodations for a documented disability should notify the instructor before the end of the first week of class.

III. STAC Policy on Electronic Devices in the Classroom

Students are not to use any electronic device at any time without the expressed consent of the professor. This policy covers cell phones, laptop computers, or any other device the use of which constitutes a distraction to the professor or to the other students in the class, as determined by the professor. Students with documented disabilities that require the use of a laptop in class may use them after informing their professor.

When a professor designates a time during which laptop computers may be used, they are only to be used at the discretion of the faculty member and in accordance with the mission of the college; visiting sites which the professor deems to be inappropriate to the needs of the class is forbidden.

Professors have the latitude to develop specific and reasonable policies to deal with violations of these general policies as they see fit. For more extreme cases of classroom disruption, see the College's Disruptive Student Policy.

STAC Grading Standards
(Excerpted from College catalogue; emphasis added.)

A (94-100%)

Excellent. Indicates *unusually high achievement*. Students who merit A, in addition to fulfilling the minimum requirements, give evidence of the *ability to work independently, read rather widely on their own initiative*, organize the materials of the course in relation to its wider implications, give evidence in skill subjects of habitual *errorless mastery*.

B+ (87-93%)

Very good-superior. Indicates achievement *demonstrably above average* and an intelligent fulfillment of course requirements in a manner that *approaches the excellence of the highest grade*.

B (80-86%)

Good. Signifies a *consistently high level of achievement* and indicates that the course requirements have been fulfilled in an intelligent and *above-average* manner.

C+ (75-79%)

Very satisfactory. Signifies a more acceptable degree of understanding and consistent achievement than a C. Indicates that a *student has mastered the basic course material, attended classes regularly, fulfilled assignments as required*, and given *evidence of mastery* of the skills required for the course.

C (70-74%)

Satisfactory. Signifies *acceptable understanding & consistent achievement* of quality that satisfies the required graduation grade.

D (65-69%)

Inferior-passing. Indicates understanding and achievement *below the average level* expected of students and therefore warrants only minimum approval.

F

Failure. Indicates that the student's work does not merit a passing grade.

**GRADING CONVERSION CHART
STAC to Dr. Churchill**

| STAC | | Dr. Churchill | |
|---------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| <i>Letter</i> | <i>%</i> | <i>Letter</i> | <i>%</i> |
| A | 94 – 100 | A+ | 100 |
| | | A | 95 – 99 |
| | | A – | 94 |
| B+ | 87 – 93 | B+ | 87 – 93 |
| B | 80 – 86 | B | 84 – 86 |
| | | B – | 80 – 83 |
| C+ | 75 – 79 | C+ | 75 – 79 |
| C | 70 – 74 | C | 74 |
| | | C – | 70 – 73 |
| D | 65 – 69 | D+ | 67 – 69 |
| | | D | 65 – 67 |
| F | 0 – 64 | F | 0 – 64* |

***NOTE:**

If you hand in work which earns an F, the percentage equivalent for that F is usually 64%. If you fail to hand in an assignment, the F you receive for it has the percentage equivalent of 0%. In the latter case, the F is technically worth far less than an F for a completed assignment and will have far more damaging consequences for your overall grade. **In all cases of plagiarism and cheating, an F is worth 0% and the violation is recorded in a permanent file in the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Depending on the severity of the incident, you may also fail the entire course.**