This course is an introduction to sociology, the study of people in groups both small and large. How does being a flight attendant require the “selling” of one’s emotions? Rather than being a timeless institution of knowledge and technical expertise, how does the form and field of American medicine reflect historical and social power struggles? What kinds of enterprises in the informal economy do the homeless engage in? How does our environment change how likely we are to help someone else? Rather than being a timeless institution of knowledge and technical expertise, how does the form and field of American medicine reflect historical and social power struggles? These are some of the questions that we will explore as we look at a range of topics that engage sociologists today: social change, social networks, obedience, helping behavior, poverty, race and ethnicity, conflict, organizational structure, power, the informal economy, health and medicine, knowledge, rituals like weddings and funerals, religion and morality, emotions, sex and gender, childhood, and global inequalities.

The course is designed to be like a tasting menu at a fancy restaurant: you sample some of the best and current works in the field of sociology. We will read from four award-winning books: The Social Transformation of American Medicine won Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction, The Managed Heart was the winner of the Charles Cooley Award, The Tipping Point was one of Amazon.com’s bestselling nonfiction books of the decade, and Sidewalk received the C. Wright Mills Award. You will be exposed to real sociological studies, so be prepared for rigor in ideas. Additionally, each book cuts across several important sociological topics, so we will be able to explore a wide range of topics through only four books. Thus, in the process of “tasting,” you will get a sense of what sociology is all about, what kinds of questions sociologists deal with and how it gives a new perspective on real life.

The learning objectives of this course are:

- To learn about how sociologists explain everyday life
- To improve critical thinking
- To expand views of the world we live in

**REQUIREMENTS**

1) Class Participation (20% of final grade). Before class, I will choose students at random to call on that day to answer questions about the reading. Expect to be called on about every other week. If you have done the reading indicated in the Course Schedule (below), you will be prepared. Do not worry too much about getting called on: even if you are not sure about the answer, you will do well if I see that you are trying.
Attendance Policy: You are allowed to miss 2 classes for any reason. That means that if I call on you and you are not there, that can happen twice before you are penalized. For any additional absences, you will receive a zero for class participation for the day.

2) Midterm Exam (40% of final grade). In-class exam consisting of short essays and annotated multiple-choice questions. I will choose news items and ask you to discuss them in light of our readings and course materials.

3) Final Exam (40% of final grade). Short essays and annotated multiple-choice questions. Like the midterm exam, I will choose news items and ask you to discuss them in light of our readings and course materials.

BOOKS

Mitchell Duneier, Sidewalk
Malcolm Gladwell, The Tipping Point
Paul Starr, The Social Transformation of American Medicine
Arlie Hochschild, The Managed Heart

In addition to the books above, journal articles are also assigned as indicated on the syllabus (available online).

COURSE SCHEDULE*

*The readings listed by date show which readings you should be prepared for. In other words, be sure to read the assigned material before the class indicated. If called on, you will be asked to answer questions about those readings.

Wed, Jan 11. Introduction.

Wed, Jan 18. Micro and Macro
Sidewalk: Introduction, The Book Vendor (pp. 3–42)

Mon, Jan 23. The Informal Economy
Sidewalk: The Men without Accounts (pp. 81–114)

Wed, Jan 25. Social Life and Physical Space
Sidewalk: How Sixth Avenue Became a Sustaining Habitat (pp. 115–156)

Mon, Jan 30. Social Control
Sidewalk: When You Gotta Go (pp. 173–187)

Wed, Feb 1. Formal and Informal Rules
Sidewalk: The Space Wars: Competing Legalities (pp. 231–254)
Mon, Feb 6. The Policing Process
_Sidewalk: A Christmas on Sixth Avenue_ (pp. 253–292)

Wed, Feb 8. Social Change I
_The Tipping Point:_ Introduction, Ch. 1 “The Three Rules of Epidemics” (pp. 3–29)

Mon, Feb 13. Social Change II
_The Tipping Point:_ Ch. 7 “Suicide, Smoking, and the Search for the Unsticky Cigarette.” (pp. 216–252)

Wed, Feb 15. Social Networks
_The Tipping Point:_ Ch. 2 “The Law of the Few: Connectors, Mavens, and Salesmen.” (pp. 30–88)

Wed, Feb 22. Social Psychology: Obedience

Mon, Feb 27. Social Psychology: Helping Behavior

Wed, Feb 29. Midterm exam (in class)

Mon, Mar 12. The Medical Economy
_Social Transformation of American Medicine:_ Ch. 2, “The Expansion of the Market” (pp. 60–78)

Wed, Mar 14. Sociology of Knowledge
_Social Transformation of American Medicine:_ Ch. 3, “The Consolidation of Professional Authority, 1850–1930” (pp. 79–102)

Mon, Mar 19. Institutions
_Social Transformation of American Medicine:_ Ch. 3, “The Consolidation of Professional Authority, 1850–1930” pp. 102–123

Wed, Mar 21. Health Disparities
_Social Transformation of American Medicine:_ Ch. 3, “The Consolidation of Professional Authority, 1850–1930” pp. (123–144)

Mon, Mar 26. Alienation and Economy
_The Managed Heart:_ Ch. 1, “Exploring the Managed Heart” (pp. 3–23)

Wed, Mar 28. Sociology of Emotion
The Managed Heart: Ch. 2, “Feeling as Clue” (pp. 24–34)

Mon, Apr 2. Interacting with the Self
The Managed Heart: Ch. 3, “Managing Feeling” (pp. 35–55)

Wed, Apr 4. Culture and Ritual: Weddings and Funerals
The Managed Heart: Ch. 4, “Feeling Rules” (pp. 56–75)

Wed, Apr 11. Gender
The Managed Heart: Ch. 8, “Gender, Status, and Feeling” (pp. 162–184)

Mon, Apr 16. Childhood and Economy
http://www.jstor.org/stable/2778747

Wed, Apr 18. Religion and Morality
http://www.sciencemag.org/content/162/3859/1243.full.pdf

Mon, Apr 23. Demography
http://www.sciencemag.org/content/313/5793/1578.full.pdf

Wed, Apr 25. Global Inequalities
http://contexts.org/articles/winter-2010/the-scarcity-fallacy/

Mon, Apr 30. Review for final exam

Wed, May 9. Final exam, 9:00AM–11:00AM