

Spring 2017
SOCIOLOGY 307: SCHOOL AND SOCIETY
DR. KARRIE ANN SNYDER
University Hall 122
11:00 - 12:20, Mondays and Wednesdays

Contact information:

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Office hours for Dr. Snyder: Mondays from 12:30 - 2:30 (No appointment necessary).

*Office hours may change for Reading and Finals week. Please check Canvas!

Teaching Assistant: Contact and office hours information will be on Canvas.

This course is a critical sociological look at education in the United States – with a focus on contemporary debates and issues. The course will cover how sociologists have both theoretically and empirically looked at schooling practices, what students learn, and how schools fit into the larger society including how the educational system in the U.S. interacts with political, economic, family, and cultural institutions. We will also spend much time examining how educational experiences and opportunities are shaped by gender, socioeconomic status, and race/ethnicity. We will focus on K-12 and college with specific topics including college admissions and same-sex schooling. Throughout all of these issues and topics, we will examine how schools both challenge and support existing systems of inequality.

Student Evaluation:

Grades will be based on 4 components:

1) Class Participation – 15%

- Students are expected to do the assigned readings prior to lecture. Students are encouraged and expected to bring their insights, questions and opinions to class. Students are also expected to participate in (any) online discussions on the course's Canvas site, group exercises during class, and any discussion assignments given throughout the quarter not listed on the syllabus.

2) In-Class Midterm – 30% - Week 5, Monday, April 24th

3) Biographical Essay – 25% - Due to Canvas by 11:00am on Week 9, Wednesday, May 24th

- Guidelines will be discussed later in the quarter and will be posted to Canvas.

4) Take-Home Final Exam – 30% - Due Finals Week, Monday, June 5th at 5pm to Canvas

- The Take-Home Final Exam will be distributed during lecture on Week 9, Wednesday, May 24th and will be posted to Canvas after class on May 24th.

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED and NO MAKEUP MIDTERMS WILL BE GIVEN.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed. Please take note of two other students' email addresses. Teaching staff lecture notes are not available to students.

Academic Integrity

Issues regarding academic integrity will be immediately referred to the Dean's Office. For further information regarding the academic integrity policy at Northwestern, please consult the *Student Handbook* and <http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/uniprin.html>.

Course Materials – Available at Norris Book Center

Required Books:

MacLeod, *Ain't No Making it* (Note: 2nd or 3rd editions are both fine.)

Stevens, *Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites*

Meehan, *Learning Like a Girl* (This book was ordered late from Norris but is widely available online. It is also available as an e-book through NULibrary.)

Articles marked with **are available through electronic Course Reserves at NU library (accessible through Canvas) OR are publically available on the web at the link following the reading/article.

Additional materials may be required and added throughout the semester. Any additional materials will be available electronically through the course's Canvas site.

AccessibleNU

Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak directly to AccessibleNU (847-467-5530) and the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first two weeks of class.) All discussions will remain confidential.

Laptop Policy

Laptops (along with other forms of technology including cell phones, iPods, etc.) are not to be used during lecture. This includes no texting during class.

*****This syllabus is as of March 27, 2017. If there are any modifications to the assignments, course policies, and/or evaluation criteria, any updates will be posted on the course's Canvas site. Students are responsible for any changes and additions to the syllabus and course assignments and for any announcements made during lecture.***

Introduction to the Sociology of Education

Week 1

Monday – March 27 - Introduction to the Course

I. Theoretical Perspectives in the Sociological Study of Education

Wednesday – March 29 - Functionalism

Sadovnik, Excerpt from *The Sociology of Education: A Critical Reader*, Overview of Functionalist Theory, pages 3-6** (**Please note that this e-reserve reading/PDF includes the Sadovnik selections for upcoming classes as well.**)

Durkheim, "On Education and Society"***

Week 2

Monday – April 3 - Conflict Theory

Sadovnik, Excerpts from *The Sociology of Education: A Critical Reader*, Overview of Conflict Theory, pages 6-8, 12-14** (For pages 12-14 read the sections on Randall Collins and John Meyer only.)

Collins, "Functional and Conflict Theories of Educational Stratification"***

Bowles & Gintis, "Broken Promises: School Reform in Retrospect"***

Wednesday – April 5 - Symbolic Interactionism

Sadovnik, Excerpts from *The Sociology of Education: A Critical Reader*, Overview of Symbolic-Interactionism/Interactionist Theory, pages 8-9**

Rist, "On Understanding the Processes of Schooling: The Contributions of Labeling Theory"***

DeCastro-Ambrosetti & Cho, "A Look at 'Lookism' A Critical Analysis of Teachers' Expectations Based on Students Appearance"***

Vedantam, "Hard Evidence: Teachers' Unconscious Biases Contribute To Gender Disparity."***
(Available on National Public Radio's (NPR) website or at: <http://tinyurl.com/pmrzb82>)

Week 3

Monday – April 10 - Contemporary and Integrated Approaches

Sadovnik, Excerpts from *The Sociology of Education: A Critical Reader*, Overviews of Bourdieu and Bernstein, pages 9-12 (section ends at the top of page 12)**

Zweigenhaft, "The Application of Cultural and Social Capital: A Study of the 25th Year Reunion Entries of Prep School and Public School Graduates of Yale College."***

Wednesday – April 12 - Contemporary and Integrated Approaches

Lareau, "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families"***

Hart & Risley, "The Early Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap by Age 3"***

(Available at <https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/periodicals/TheEarlyCatastrophe.pdf>)

Week 4

Monday – April 17 - Social Reproduction – A Case Study

MacLeod, *Ain't No Making It*, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

Wednesday – April 19 - A Case Study Continued

MacLeod, *Ain't No Making It*, Chapters 9, 10, 11

Week 5

Monday – April 24

IN-CLASS MIDTERM

II. Race/Ethnicity and Education

Wednesday – April 26

Documentary, *Boys from Baraka* - Excerpts will be shown during class
Kozol, "Still Separate, Still Unequal - America's Educational Apartheid"***
Husema, "The Rise of Homeschooling Among Black Families," *The Atlantic***
(Available at <http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/02/the-rise-of-homeschooling-among-black-families/385543/>)

Week 6

Monday – May 1

Ogbu, "Collective Identity and the Burden of Acting White in Black History"***
Lew, "Burden of Acting Neither White nor Black: Asian American Identities and Achievement in Urban School"***

III. Gender and Education

Wednesday – May 3

Meehan, *Learning Like a Girl*, 1-151

Week 7

Monday – May 8

Meehan, *Learning Like a Girl*, Rest of book (Skip the appendices!)
Halpern, et al. "The Pseudoscience of Single-Sex Schooling"***

IV. Higher Education – More Social Reproduction?

Wednesday – May 10

Stevens, *Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites*, Chapters 1-5

Week 8

Monday – May 15

Stevens, *Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites*, Chapters 6 and 8

Wednesday – May 17

Documentary excerpts on for profit colleges during class - Documentary to be announced
Hamilton & Armstrong, *Paying for the Party: How College Maintains Inequality*, excerpts**

Week 9

Monday – May 22

Gándara & Contreras, *The Latino Education Crisis: The Consequences of Failed Social Policies*, excerpts**

V. How Do We Solve The Problem?

Wednesday – May 24

Robinson, *Creative Schools: The Grassroots Revolution That's Transforming Education*, excerpts**

Biographical Essays must be uploaded to Canvas prior to class time on May 24th.

Take-Home Final Exam will be distributed during class and will be posted to Canvas after class time.

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMS DUE: Monday, June 5th at 5pm
TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMS must be posted to Canvas by the deadline.