

Sociology 420: Cultural Sociology and the Sociology of Culture (11/18/20)
Wednesdays, 8:00 – 10:50 Central Standard Time, online

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 Office hours: Any time; just email me to set up an appointment

This course introduces the sociology of culture (understanding social influence on cultural formations) and cultural sociology (understanding cultural influences on social processes). Although the course has no prerequisites, some previous acquaintance with Weber, Durkheim, and Marx will be helpful. Classes will be roughly two-thirds discussion, led by students, and one-third lecture. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the readings and their applications; teams of students will lead each discussion.

Course requirements are:

- Active and prepared participation in class discussions, including leadership
- A report on one of the recommended books
- A term paper, including a short oral report

The term paper may be either: (1) a critical review of the literature on some problem or issue in cultural sociology; (2) a small-scale study, which might turn out to be a pilot study for later research, or (3) a research design (proposal) for a future empirical study, e.g. second-year paper, article, dissertation (*this third option is appropriate only if the student has already done preliminary research and knows the literature on the topic*). Students need to decide which type of paper they are writing; they will turn in a short description of their proposed papers in Week 3.

Each class will include a short lecture, student-led discussion on the week's readings and topics, and one or more book reviews. All seminar members should prepare and participate actively in the seminar conversations. (The tradition is that the student team leading the day's discussion brings snacks; this quarter we won't be able to, alas, so get your own coffee and munchies.)

NB: All work will be completed and term papers written by the 9th week class. You will not have the exam week to finish your papers. The good news is, you'll have one course out of the way; the bad news is you'll have to work like crazy for nine weeks. Strategies for keeping your head above water include

- (1) getting ahead on the readings,
- (2) forming small groups to discuss readings,
- (3) acquiring and reading your book for review well in advance of the actual report so you have time to think about it in relation to the course concepts, and
- (4) getting your papers underway right from the start.

Since cultural sociology is a "book field," normally the assignments for 420 include more books than articles. However, the pandemic has made it harder for many students to get books due to library restrictions and the difficulties foreign students may have in ordering online. Therefore, I am assigning more articles and fewer books; these three books, however, are on the syllabus. The articles can be readily found through the Northwestern Library.

Collins, Randall. 2004. *Interaction Ritual Chains*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. *LIBRARY HAS EBOOK ORDERED*

Jerolmack, Colin. 2013. *The Global Pigeon*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press. *ONLINE ACCESS THROUGH LIBRARY*

Ocejo, Richard E. 2017. *Masters of Craft: Old Jobs in the New Urban Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. *LIBRARY HAS EBOOK ORDERED*

***** Students will prepare all readings *before class* (including the Williams and Sapolsky for the first week).**

Week 1 (Jan. 13): What is culture?

Come to class with an example of the word “culture” used in some reputable news source. Be prepared to discuss the definition of culture implicit in your example, with reference to the Williams and Sapolsky readings.

- Williams, Raymond. 1976. *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press. Pp. 76-82. <http://pubpages.unh.edu/~dml3/880williams.htm> - N_1
- Sapolsky, Robert M. 2006. “The Case of a Non-Human Primate Culture of Low Aggression and High Affiliation.” *Social Forces* 85: 217-233.

Week 2 (Jan. 20): How does culture work?

- Schudson, Michael. 1989. How Culture Works: Perspectives from Media Studies on the Efficacy of Symbols.” *Theory and Society* 18: 153 – 180.
- Sewell, William. 1992. “A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation.” *American Journal of Sociology* 98: 1-29.
- McDonnell, Terence E., Christopher A. Bail, & Iddo Tavory. 2017. “A Theory of Resonance.” *Sociological Theory* 35: 1 – 14.
- Jerolmack, *Global Pigeon*, ch. 3.

Week 3 (Jan. 27): Culture and meaning

[A one-page description of the paper you are going to write is due in class this week](#)

- Geertz, Clifford. (1973) 2005. “Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight.” *Daedalus* 134: 56 – 86.
- Swidler, Ann. 1986. “Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies.” *American Sociological Review* 51: 273-86.
- Keister, Lisa A. 2008. “Conservative Protestants and Wealth: How Religion Perpetuates Asset Poverty.” *American Journal of Sociology* 113: 1237 – 71.
- Jerolmack, *Global Pigeon*, ch. 4.

Week 4 (Feb. 3): Collective Production

- Hirsch, Paul M. 1972. “Processing Fads and Fashions: An Organizational-Set Analysis of Cultural Industry Systems.” *American Journal of Sociology* 77: 639-659.
- Collins, *Interaction Ritual Chains*, chs. 1-4.
- Brown, Karida L. 2016. “The ‘hidden injuries’ of school desegregation: Cultural trauma and transforming African American Identities.” *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 4, 2: 196-220.

Week 5 (Feb. 10): Cultural Reception, Tastes and Symbolic Boundaries

- Peterson, Richard A. and Roger M. Kern. 1996. “Changing Highbrow Taste: From Snob to Omnivore.” *American Sociological Review* 61: 900-907.
- Banks, Patricia. 2017. “Ethnicity, Class and Trusteeship at African-American and Mainstream Art Museums.” *Cultural Sociology* 11: 97 – 112.
- Ocejo, *Masters of Craft*, Introduction & chs. 1-4.
- Friedman, Sam and Aaron Reeves. 2020. “From Aristocratic to Ordinary: Shifting Modes of Elite Distinction.” *American Sociological Review* 85: 323-350.

Week 6 (Feb. 17): Cultural movements and the public

- Snow, David et al. 1986. “Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization and Movement Participation.” *American Sociological Review* 51: 464-481.

- Ghaziani, Amin and Delia Baldassarri. 2011. "Cultural Anchors and the Organization of Differences: A Multi-method Analysis of LGBT Marches on Washington." *American Sociological Review* 76: 129 – 206.
- Hallett, Tim, Orla Stapleton, and Michael Sauder. 2019. "Public Ideas: Their Varieties and Careers." *American Sociological Review* 84: 545 – 576.
- Ocejo, *Masters of Craft*, chs. 5-8

Week 7 (February 26): Culture and cognition

- DiMaggio, Paul. 1997. "Culture and Cognition." *Annual Review of Sociology* 23: 263-87.
- Vaisey, Stephen. 2009. "Motivation and Justification: A Dual-Process Model of Culture in Action." *American Journal of Sociology* 114: 1675 – 1715.
- Taylor, Marshall, Dustin S. Stoltz, and Terence E. McDonnell. A. 2019. "Binding Significance to Form: Cultural Objects, Neural Binding, and Cultural Change." *Poetics* 73: 1-16.
- Norton, Matthew. 2019. "Cultural sociology meets the cognitive wild: advantages of the distributed cognition framework for analyzing the intersection of culture and cognition." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 8: 45-62.

Week 8 (March 3): Materiality, Bodies, Senses

- Griswold, Wendy, Gemma Mangione, & Terrence McDonnell. 2013, "Objects, Words, and Bodies in Space: Bringing Materiality into Cultural Sociology." *Qualitative Sociology* 36: 343 – 364.
- Schwartz, Ori. 2015. "The Sound of Stigmatization: Sonic Habitus, Sonic Styles, and Boundarywork in an Urban Slum." *American Journal of Sociology* 121: 205 – 242.
- Cerulo, Karen A. 2018. "Scents and Sensibility: Olfaction, Sense-Making, and Meaning Attribution." *American Sociological Review* 83: 361 – 389.
- Jerolmack, Colin and Iddo Tavory. 2014. "Molds and Totems: Nonhumans and the Constitution of the Social Self."

Week 9 (March 10): Oral presentation of term papers; no additional reading

Recommended books in cultural sociology (aka Wendy's favorites); students should draw their book reviews from this list

- Adams, Laura L. 2010. *The Spectacular State: Culture and National Identity in Uzbekistan*.
- Armstrong, Elizabeth. 2002. *Forging Gay Identities: Organizing Sexuality in San Francisco, 1950 - 1994*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.
- Bandelj, Nina and Frederick F. Wherry. 2011. *The Cultural Wealth of Nations*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Baxandall, Michael. 1972. *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press.
- Becker, Howard S. 1982. *Art Worlds*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.
- Bennett, Andy. 2000. *Popular Music and Youth Culture: Music, Identity, and Place*. New York: St. Martins.
- Bijker, Wiebe E. 1995. *Of Bicycles, Bakelites, and Bulbs: Toward a Theory of Sociotechnical Change*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Binder, Amy J. 2001. *Contentious Curricula: Afrocentrism and Creationism in American Public Schools*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Univ. Press.
- Blair-Loy, Mary. 2003. *Competing Devotions: Career and Family Among Women Executives*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*, trans. Richard Nice. Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1996. *The Rules of Art: Genesis and Structure of the Literary Field*. Trans. Susan Emanuel. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.

- Cerulo, Karen A. 2006. *Never Saw It Coming: Cultural Challenges to Envisioning the Worst*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press.
- Crane, Diana. 2000. *Fashion and Its Agendas: Class, Gender, and Identity in Clothing*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Dworkin, Shari L. and Faye Linda Wachs. 2009. *Body Panic: Gender, Health, and the Selling of Fitness*. New York & London: New York University Press.
- Farrer, James. 2002. *Opening Up: Youth Sex Culture and Market Reform in Shanghai*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Fine, Gary Alan. 1987. *With the Boys: Little League Baseball and Preadolescent Culture*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.
- Fischer, Claude. 2010. *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1973. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic.
- Grazian, David. 2003. *Blue Chicago: The Search for Authenticity in Urban Blues Clubs*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Griswold, Wendy. 2000. *Bearing Witness: Readers, Writers, and the Novel in Nigeria*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Gusfield, Joseph R. 1981. *The Culture of Public Problems: Drinking-Driving and the Symbolic Order*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.
- Hebdige, Dick. 1979. *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*. London & New York: Methuen.
- Johnson, Hank and Bert Klandermans, eds. 1995. *Social Movements and Culture*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Johnston, Josée & Shyon Baumann. 2014. *Foodies: Democracy and Distinction in the Gourmet Foodscape*, 2nd ed. New York: Routledge.
- Kefalas, Maria. 2003. *Working-Class Heroes: Protecting Home, Community, and Nation in a Chicago Neighborhood*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Lamont, Michèle. 2000. *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Immigration*. New York: Russell Sage.
- Lichterman, Paul. 2005. *Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge America's Divisions*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- McRoberts, Omar Maurice. 2003. *Streets of Glory: Church and Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Ogasawara, Yuko. 1998. *Office Ladies and Salaried Men: Power, Gender, and Work in Japanese Companies*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar. 2001. *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration and Domestic Work*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Patterson, Orlando. 2015. *The Cultural Matrix: Understanding Black Youth*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Perrin, Andrew J. 2006. *Citizen Speak: The Democratic Imagination in American Life*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press.
- Polletta, Francesca. 2006. *It Was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest and Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Richard A. Peterson. 1997. *Creating Country Music: Fabricating Authenticity*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.
- Robinson, Zandria F. 2014. *This Ain't Chicago: Race, Class, and Regional Identity in the Post-Soul South*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Saguy, Abigail C. 2003. *What Is Sexual Harassment?* Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Sennett, Richard. 2008. *The Craftsman*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press.
- Smith, Philip. 2005. *Why War? The Cultural Logic of Iraq, the Gulf War, and Suez*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Stevens, Mitchell. *Kingdom of Children: Culture and Controversy in the Home-Schooling Movement*.
- Swidler, Ann and Susan Watkins. 2017. *A Fraught Embrace: The Romance and Reality of AIDS Altruism in Africa*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Zelizer, Viviana. 2005. *The Purchase of Intimacy*. Princeton & Oxford: Princeton University Press.