HUMAN SOCIETIES

"These social changes . . . are comparatively public matters, and this history is chiefly concerned with the private lot of a few men and women; but there is no private life which has not been determined by a wider public life, from the time when the primeval milkmaid had to wander with the wanderings of her clan, because the cow she milked was one of a herd which had made the pastures bare. Even in that conservatory existence where the fair Camelia is sighed for by the noble young Pineapple, neither of them needing to care about the frost or rain outside, there is a nether apparatus of hot-water pipes liable to cool down on a strike of the gardeners or a scarcity of coal."

George Eliot, 1866

Staff
Professor: John Pease
Assistants: Melissa Brown, Jonathan Cox, Sojin Yu
Esha Chatterjee, Jessica Pena, Daniel Standridge

I'd Rather Be Studying
We hope this is an interesting and intellectually useful course for you. Set high standards, for all of us. Take your studies seriously. Do all your studies the best you can and do them on time. Learn all you can and if there is anything we can do to help you learn more, let us know.

Of Course
Human Societies
Sociology 200 (sections 0101-0106 and 0602-0609)
Lectures 8:00-9:15 and 12:30-1:45 Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 2203 Art-Sociology Building
Discussions Fridays - Times and Places are listed on page 4
Fall 2013, University of Maryland, College Park
This I-Series course has been approved also as History & Social Sciences Distributive Studies
It is intended for freshmen and sophomores, has no prerequisite, and is open to all students
Students who earned credit in Sociology 100 taught by Professor Pease may not receive credit in this course.

Course Description
"The task of sociology," Joan Huber wrote, "is to explain the way the totality of social patterns works together, whether well, not so well, or badly indeed. Sociologists study how patterned ways of behaving in various arenas (political, economic, and religious, for example) interact as people try to provide for themselves and reproduce the next generation of workers. The intellectual challenge of developing a theory of human organization is sociology’s primary reason for existence." This course is a comparative, historical, interdisciplinary study of human societies that focuses on the main components of societies, how they are organized, how they change, and how they come to shape our collective social existence.

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The Meaning of Life

"Education," Robert Redfield wrote, "is a conversation about the meaning of life, as each sees some part of it, on behalf of everyone." In this course it is the way sociologists sees some part of it, on behalf of everyone.

What is the Question?
1 Why is a society the way it is?
2 Why aren’t societies always and everywhere the same?
3 How and why does a society change?
4 How have societies evolved over the past 100,000 years?
5 What are the main features of a society and how are they interrelated?
6 How does society come to shape our collective social existence?

Course Objectives
1 To help you to clarify and expand your questions about society, social change, and the collective aspects of human social behavior;
2 to help you to think sociologically about the organization of social life as you continue to develop your own theory of society and social change;
3 to help you to better understand society, social change, and the collective aspects of human social behavior by learning some of the basic knowledge, concepts, and big ideas in the science of sociology; and
4 to encourage you to read critically, think analytically, and write clearly.

The Soche Buff’s Gazette
These Gazettes are available on ELMS/Canvas. They are used to highlight important material, to show you the sequence of the lectures, and to facilitate note-taking.

Common Reading
This course features three books and five articles. The books by Diamond and Nolan-Lenski are available for purchase at the University Book Center. The novel by Ruesch is available for purchase at the BSOS Copy Center. The articles are available as pdf files on ELMS/Canvas.

The books are:
- Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs, and Steel
  Both the 1997 and 1999 editions of this book are acceptable.
- Patrick Nolan and Gerhard Lenski, Human Societies
  The 9th (2004), 10th (2006), and 11th (both 2009 and 2011) editions are all acceptable.
- Hans Ruesch, Top of the World
  A Xeroxed copy of this novel is available for purchase at the BSOS Copy Center (room 1105 Tydings Hall).
The articles are:


Videos

*On my SocheProfessor YouTube channel*

“Age of Warming” (13)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgWrQ5nFq6w

“Black Plague” (7)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEwlqkfHcnQ

“Crowd Diseases” (4)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-fws6h_9wU

“Dead Birds” excerpt (13)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kWT8erY0GU

“Guns, Germs, and Steel: Interview” (9)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbVDVysOeKY

“Hawaiian Horror” (5)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2FkC-nlXu4

“Invisible World” (5)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMXAWdw8h68

“Jobless Recovery” (11)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyYaS1hCVR4

“Killer Germs” (9)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0ZqXUjFmm4

“Mondo Cane: Eating” (15)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8neJ_YJz6U

“Mound Builders” (5)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5av0c7y_14

“North Korea” (13)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Pb9Omz_hQc

“Versailles” (10)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FudiRCKAHQ

“The West: The People” (9)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZ1q4SvbvsY

“The West: The Vision” (15)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=su391ffy3Ns

“Why Man Creates” (5)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5DT-uUZrx0

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Available on the World Wide Web

“The Story of Stuff” (20)
http://www.storyofstuff.org/movies-all/story-of-stuff/

“Global Wealth Inequality”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJtOhfpG1Z8

Streamed from the Library

“Nanook of the North” (66)
September 9 – September 22

“Guns, Germs, and Steel: Out of Eden” (58)
September 23 – October 6

“Out of the Fiery Furnace: The Revolution of Necessity” (46)
October 21 – November 3

“World in the Balance: The Population Paradox” (54)
December 2 – December 15

“World in the Balance: China Revs Up” (54)
December 9 – December 22

Audio

Peggy Lee, “Is That All There Is?”
Miriam Makeba, “The Click Song”

ELMS/Canvas

Your source for:
Campus Stories, Class Photos, Discussion, Grades, Modules (includes Assignments, Gazettes, PowerPoint Lecture Slides, Readings, Videos), Staff Photos, Focus Questions for the Readings, Syllabus, and Videos

You need the following computer tools:

Pdf reader such as Adobe http://get.adobe.com/reader/
Firefox or Chrome or Safari browser (to view videos)
Flash (to view videos)
Java (to process audio) http://www.java.com/en/
Microsoft Word to submit written work
Quicktime (to access video/mp4 files) http://apple.com/quicktime/download/

Discussion Meetings

The purpose of these meetings is to:
1 help you process your questions and answers about course material;
2 help you measure your understanding of course material;
3 discuss the meaning of the material in terms of course objectives; and
4 engage in a course-based conversation about the meaning of life, as you see it, on behalf of everyone.

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Discussion Leaders and Meeting Times and Places

Sojin Yu  
Section 0101  8:00 Friday, Room 3203 Art-Sociology Building  
Section 0102  10:00 Friday, Room 2102 Education (Benjamin) Building  

Jonathan Cox  
Section 0103  9:00 Friday, Room 3215 Art-Sociology Building  
Section 0104  11:00 Friday, Room 3203 Art-Sociology Building  

Melissa Brown  
Section 0105  9:00 Friday, Room 0206 Education (Benjamin) Building  
Section 0106  11:00 Friday, Room 1106 Tawes Hall  

Esha Chatterjee  
Section 0602  9:00 Friday, Room 3203 Art-Sociology Building  
Section 0605  11:00 Friday, Room 3211 Art-Sociology Building  

Jessica Pena  
Section 0604  10:00 Friday, Room 0114 Education (Benjamin) Building  
Section 0606  12:00 Friday, Room 3203 Art-Sociology Building  

Daniel Standridge  
Section 0609  12:00 Friday, Room 3219 Art-Sociology Building  
Section 0608  2:00 Friday, Room 3219 Art-Sociology Building  

Class Attendance and Participation
This course requires that you attend and participate in class meetings. We have designed the course so there is substance to each of our class meetings. Class meetings provide important information, documentary video material, and discussion. Your questions and comments improve the value of the course. We take attendance at every class meeting because it helps us determine your command of course material (there is much that you learn in your courses that is not measured on even the most carefully crafted graded assignments), helps us learn your name, indicates how well we are doing, reminds you of your academic responsibility, and provides useful information for letters of recommendation. Moreover, research studies indicate that class attendance is a better predictor of grades than the number of hours you study outside of class and even better than your high school grade point average and your SAT score. If you do not know University policy regarding class attendance, please learn it before the beginning of our second class meeting. The complete policy is available online at http://www.umd.edu/catalog/index.cfm/show/content.section/c/27/ss/1584/s/1540  
Whenever you have a University-excused absence, please inform your discussion leader.

Graded Assignments
This course features a number of small assignments and four exams. The dates of the exams are listed below in the Course Calendar. If you are unable to write an exam or complete a graded assignment with your classmates because of a University-excused absence, you may arrange for a make-up exam. If you don’t know University policy regarding the very few circumstances in which the professor is obliged to provide make-up examinations, please learn it before our second class meeting. The policy is available online at http://www.umd.edu/catalog/index.cfm/show/content.section/c/27/ss/1584/s/1540

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Grading Scheme
There are five equal parts to your final grade in the course. Each of your four exams count one-fifth of your final grade for the course. Your participation in discussion including your performance on a few small assignments also count one-fifth. Your work is graded for timeliness, accuracy, completeness, written expression, originality, and, most of all, how well it demonstrates a profound understanding of the material.

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 4.0 & A- &= 3.7 & B+ &= 3.3 & B &= 3.0 & B- &= 2.7 \\
C+ &= 2.3 & C &= 2.0 & C- &= 1.7 & D+ &= 1.3 & D &= 1.0 & D- &= 0.7
\end{align*}
\]

Academic Honor Pledge
Please affirm your commitment to the honor pledge (“I pledge that on my honor I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment”) on all your graded assignments. If you don’t know the University Honor Pledge, please learn it before our second class meeting. The Honor Code is available online at http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/HonorPledgeInformation.aspx

Religious Observance
If you need to be absent from class to participate in a religious observance, please provide your discussion leader with a written list of the dates you will need to be absent before the end of the first week of classes. We will make certain that you are not disadvantaged because of your absence. University policy regarding religious observance is available online at www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/iii_510a.pdf

Disability Support Services
If you have a documented disability, please register with the Office of Disability Support Services and obtain the accommodation request form and give it to your discussion leader. Exams taken at the Office of Disability Services must be arranged five days in advance and the exam is to be written at the same time as the in-class exam. Complete information about disability support services and accommodations are available online http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/

Learning Assistance Center
If you are having academic difficulty in this course or in any course make use of the services of the Learning Assistance Center. The Center provides help with listening and note-taking, textbook reading, exam preparation, exam skills, writing skills, and much more. More information is available on its website www.counseling.umd.edu/LAS

Know No
1. You may use one of your electronic devices in class if you use it exclusively for note-taking. Please turn off all other electronic equipment before you enter the classroom and leave it off until you exit the classroom.
2. This course does not provide extra-credit assignments.
Here We Are
John Pease
   Electronic mail : pease@umd.edu
   Office address: 2103 Art-Sociology Building
   Office hours: By appointment

Melissa Brown
   Electronic mail: mcbrown@umd.edu
   Office address: 4108 Art-Sociology Building
   Office hours: After each class meeting and by appointment

Esha Chatterjee
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   Office hours: After each class meeting and by appointment

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Sojin Yu
   Electronic mail: sojinyu@umd.edu
   Office address: 1118 Art-Sociology Building
   Office hours: After each class meeting and by appointment

We answer emails at least once each weekday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Help Us
We are interested in learning what you think we should do to become better teachers and to help you become a better student. Whenever you have a question, complaint, concern, problem, or whatnot about this course, please let us know.

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CourseEvalUM
Sometime during the last week of classes please evaluate this course by using the website
www.courseevalum.umd.edu

Calendar for Lectures, Readings, Videos, and Exams

1  September 3 Tuesday
Introductions and Overview of the Course

2  September 5 Thursday
Question: What is sociology and how does it compare to other social sciences?
Lecture: Sociology and the other Social Sciences
Reading: Top of the World chapters 1-3
Gazette: What Sociology Is

September 6 Friday
Discussion

3  September 10 Tuesday
Question: How do we make sense of the cultural variety among societies?
Lecture: Sociology and Liberal Education
Reading: Top of the World chapters 4-8
"Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"
"The Sacred Rac"
Gazette: Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism
Video: "Mondo Cane: Eating"

4  September 12 Thursday
Question: Why was Inuit society the way that it was? What were the main features of
Inuit society, how were they interrelated, and why were they the way they
were? How and why did the society change?
Reading: Top of the World chapters 9-14
Gazette: Nanook
Video: "Nanook of the North"

September 13 Friday
Discussion

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September 17 Tuesday
Question: Why is a society the way it is?
Reading: Human Societies chapter 3
"Mother Cow"
Gazette: Materialism
Video: "The West: The People"

September 19 Thursday
Question: How do we classify societies and why do we do it the way we do?
Lecture: Types of Human Society
Reading: Human Societies chapter 4 and pages 181-188
Gazette: Types of Human Society
Video: "Why Man Creates"

September 24 Tuesday
Question: What were the main features of hunting and gathering society and how were they interrelated?
Lecture: The Social Organization of Hunting and Gathering Society
Reading: Human Societies chapter 5
Gazette: Hunting and Gathering Society
Audio: Makeba, "The Click Song"

September 26 Thursday
Test-u-do: The First Exam

September 27 Friday
In lieu of Discussion, please use this time to view the documentary video "Guns, Germs, and Steel: Out of Eden" which illustrates and supplements the material in chapters 4 and 6 of Guns, Germs, and Steel.

October 1 Tuesday
Question: What were the consequences of the shift to horticulture?
Lecture: The Social Organization of Horticultural Society
Reading: Human Societies chapter 6
Gazette: Horticultural Society
Video: "Dead Birds"
October 3 Thursday
Question: What were the consequences of the shift to agriculture?
Lecture: The Zenith of Inequality
Reading: Human Societies chapter 7
Guns, Germs, and Steel chapter 14
Gazette: Agrarian Society
Video: "Versailles"

October 4 Friday
Discussion

October 8 Tuesday
Question: Why did gender inequality vary among types of pre-industrial societies?
Lecture: Gender Inequality
Reading: "A Theory of Gender Stratification"
Gazette: Gender Inequality in Pre-industrial Societies

October 10 Thursday
Question: What were the ultimate causes of the European conquest of the new world?
Lecture: The Biophysical Environment
Reading: Guns, Germs, and Steel chapters 5, 8, 9, and 10
Gazette: Location, Location, Location
Video: "Guns, Germs and Steel: Interview"

October 11 Friday
Discussion

October 15 Tuesday
Question: What were proximate causes of the European conquest of the new world?
Lecture: 1492 The Second Revolution
Reading: Human Societies pages 195-200
Guns, Germs, and Steel chapters 2 and 3
Gazette: 1492
Video: "The West: The Vision"

October 17 Thursday
Question: In what ways did European germs change the new world?
Lecture: The Transformation of the New World
Reading: Guns, Germs, and Steel chapter 11
Gazette: Germs
Videos: "Crowd Diseases"
"Black Plague"
"Killer Germs"
"Mound Builders"
"Hawaiian Horror"
"Invisible World"

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October 18 Friday
Discussion

15 October 22 Tuesday
Test-u-do: The Second Exam

16 October 24 Thursday
Question: In what ways did the industrial revolution change society?
Lecture: The Industrial Revolution
Reading: "Death by Dieselization"
Gazette: Social Changes

October 25 Friday
In lieu of Discussion, please use this time to the documentary video, "Out of the Fiery Furnace: The Revolution of Necessity." This film supplements material in chapters 9 and 10 of Human Societies

17 October 29 Tuesday
Question: In what ways did industrial technology change the world of work?
Lecture: The Changing American Labor Force
Reading: Human Societies pages 201-218 and chapter 10
Gazette: Jobs
Video: "Jobless Recovery"

18 October 31 Thursday
Question: How and why did the status and treatment of women change during the industrial era?
Lecture: Closing the Gender Gap
Reading: "A Theory of Gender Stratification"
Gazette: Feminism

November 1 Friday
Discussion

19 November 5 Tuesday
Question: In what ways have marriage and family changed?
Lecture: Changing Family in a Changing Society
Reading: Human Societies pages 278-282
Gazette: Marriage and Family
November 7 Thursday
Question: What caused the democratic trend of industrial societies?
Lecture: The Democratic Trend
Reading: Human Societies pages 244-259
Gazette: Democracy

November 8 Friday
Discussion

November 12 Tuesday
Question: What were the changes in ideology that accompanied industrialization?
Lecture: Ideology, Religion, and Sociology
Reading: Human Societies pages 236-244
Gazette: Ideology

November 14 Thursday
Test-u-do: The Third Exam

November 15 Friday
Discussion

November 19 Tuesday
Question: How and why has inequality decline within industrial society during the past 150 years?
Lecture: Reversal of the Basic Trend
Reading: Human Societies chapter 12
Gazette: Decline of Inequality

November 21 Thursday
Question: Why are some societies so rich and others so poor?
Lecture: Industrializing Societies
Reading: Human Societies chapter 14
Gazette: Global Inequality
Video: “Global Wealth Inequality”
   “North Korea”

November 22 Friday
Discussion

November 26 Tuesday
Question: How and why have the main demographic variables changed during the industrial era?
Lecture: Malthus and the Demographic Transition
Reading: Human Societies pages 273-278
Gazette: Population

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November 28 Thursday
No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 29 Friday
No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday

26 December 3 Tuesday
Question: What is the future of global population change?
Gazette: Global Population Change

27 December 5 Thursday
Question: What is the future of environmental change?
Lecture: The Technological Flaw
Gazette: The Environmental Crisis
Video: “Age of Warming”
“Story of Stuff”

December 6 Friday
Discussion

28 December 10 Tuesday
Question: What is the future of global environmental change?
Gazette: China Revs Up

29 December 12 Thursday
Course review and revelry
Video: “Why Man Creates”
Audio: Lee, “Is that all there Is?”

30 December 20 Friday
Test-u-do: The Final Exams
Sections 0101-0106 10:30-12:30
Sections 0602-0609 1:30-3:30

The Itch of Ignorance is a Gift

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