

**SOCIOLOGY 321/SOCIETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL  
FALL SEMESTER 2009  
MWF 9-9:50, Parkinson 108**

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Office Hours: Mon 10-11:30, Tu 10:30-11:30, Wed 10-11,  
Th 10:30-11:30, Fri 10-11:30, and by appointment

**Content and Objectives of the Course**

This course will introduce you to some of the basic concepts of micro-sociology (the nexus between sociology and psychology). We will examine and learn to apply concepts--such as symbolic environment, definition of the situation, reality construction, culture, cultural relativism, identity, social location, stigma and vocabularies of motive--to our "face to face" interactions with others and the patterned social arrangements in which we participate. We will thus be exploring the social processes that influence the acquisition of self, the socialization of selves, and the ongoing interrelationship of selves and societies. That is, we will consider how individuals create and shape the social world which simultaneously shapes and creates individuals. By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Analyze ideas about the relationships between the individual and society
- Identify major thinkers and their views
- Use the concepts to analyze your own observations and experience
- See improvements in your written and oral analytical skills

**Required Texts**

Haenfler, Ross. 2006. Straight Edge: Clean-Living Youth, Hardcore Punk, and Social Change. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Gimlin, Debra L. 2002. Body Work: Beauty and Self-Image in American Culture. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Girshick, Lori B. 2008. Transgender Voices: Beyond Women and Men. Lebanon, NH: University of New Hampshire Press.

## **Requirements and Grading**

### **Participation and Attendance:**

I expect students to attend class every day and to come to class on Mondays having reviewed the assigned readings for that week, which we will discuss with greater specificity as the week progresses. Obviously, students often have other priorities or circumstances that interfere with meeting these expectations. I keep track of attendance, participation in classroom discussions, and visits to my office, all of which I take into consideration if your final grade is borderline. The more often you are here, participate, and come see me if needed, the more likely I am to raise a borderline grade. The more frequently you are absent without telling me why, you come in late, or your cell phone rings, the less likely I am to raise a borderline grade.

### **Microsociology Journal:** (33.3% of course grade)

Journal entries are based on the readings. For each journal, you will compose three (3) entries in which you describe an abstract idea (a concept) from the reading in a sentence or two, in your own words. Then you will illustrate the concept with an example from your own experience. In addition, you will explain how the example illustrates the concept. Journal entries are approximately 250-300 words in length, so each journal that you turn in will be about 750-900 words, and there are three in all, for a total of about 2250-2700 words (10-12 pages). All journal entries must include the name of the article and the author's name, and must be TYPED.

Journals Due September 4th, October 9th, and November 20th.
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### **Unit Exams** (33.3% of course grade)

Unit exams are short answer format. Make-up exams are 5-7 page papers on the same topics, by **prior** arrangement with the instructor.

Unit Exam Dates: September 18 <sup>th</sup> , October 30 <sup>th</sup> , and November 27 <sup>th</sup> .
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### **Take-Home Exam** (33.3%)

There will be one written assignment involving application of ten course concepts to a movie or book of your choice in exactly the manner learned in the journal assignments. This paper will be approximately 2250-2700 words (10-12 pages).

Final Exam Due: December 16 <sup>th</sup> between 7:50-9:50 a.m.
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### TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	Topic (Assignments)	Readings	Due
<u>Aug 24-28</u>	Introduction to Microsociology		
<u>Aug 31-Sept 4</u>	Self/Social Interaction/Society	<i>Optional: Cooley and Mead on Electronic Reserve (ER)</i>	<b>Journal #1 Sept. 4</b>
<u>Sept 7-11</u>	The Presentation of Self	<u>Body Work</u> , pp. 1-72	
<u>Sept 14-18</u>	The Presentation of Self, cont.	<u>Body Work</u> , pp. 73-149	<b>Unit Exam #1 Sept 18</b>
<u>Sept 21-25</u>	Social Location: Introduction		
<u>Sept 28-Oct 2</u>	Social Location: History	<i>Optional: Lofland (ER)</i>	
<u>Oct 5-9</u>	Social Location: Culture	<u>Straight Edge</u> , pp. 1-101 <i>Optional: Fine (ER)</i>	<b>Journal #2 Oct. 9</b>
<u>Oct 12-16</u>	Social Location: Hierarchy	<u>Straight Edge</u> , pp. 102-149	
<u>Oct 19-23</u>	Hierarchy, cont.		
<u>Oct 26-30</u>	Reality Construction	<u>Straight Edge</u> , pp. 150-217	<b>Unit Exam #2 Oct. 30</b>
<u>Nov 2-6</u>	The Definition of the Situation	<u>Transgender Voices</u> , pp. 1-50 <i>Optional: Thomas (ER)</i>	
<u>Nov 9-13</u>	Identities: Social, Felt	<u>Transgender Voices</u> , pp. 51-68 <i>Optional: Vaughan (ER)</i>	
<u>Nov 16-20</u>	Constructing the Self	<u>Transgender Voices</u> , pp. 69-97	<b>Journal #3 Nov. 20</b>
<u>Nov 30-Dec 4</u>	Identity Management	<u>Transgender Voices</u> , pp. 98-153 <i>Optional: Snow and Anderson (ER)</i>	<b>Unit Exam #3 Dec. 4</b>
<u>Dec 7-11</u>	The Interaction Kaleidoscope: Summary and Review	<u>Transgender Voices</u> , pp. 154-189	<b>Take-Home Final HANDED OUT</b>
<u>Dec 16</u>		<b>Wednesday Dec. 16, 7:50-9:50</b>	<b>Take-Home Final DUE</b>

