

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SOC280H1S: SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE**

**SUMMER 2017
TUESDAY & THURSDAY 2PM-4PM**

Instructor: Joshua Harold
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-2PM
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Class Location: SS 1071

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Course Description

The course examines the social origins of culture, the cultural patterns found in various groups and institutions, and the influence culture has on important aspects of society.

NOTE: Prerequisites & Exclusion

Prerequisites: 0.5 SOC FCE at the 100+ level.
Students without this prerequisite will be removed at any time they are discovered and without notice
Exclusion: SOC281H1; SOC202H5

Attendance

It is important to attend all scheduled lectures. Material that is not covered in the course readings (such as films, discussions, etc.) will be included in lectures, and this material will be on the tests. Other important information about assignments and course administration more generally will be provided during lectures. If you miss a lecture, it is YOUR responsibility to get the information you missed from your peers. The course instructor and teaching assistant will not provide you with information about missed lectures.

Course Materials & Readings

It is important to do all the required readings and to come to lecture having read the material in advance of that class. Course readings are journal articles and are available for reading or downloading through the university's library website. A couple of the readings and other materials are not available through the library website, but will be distributed by the instructor. If

you need assistance accessing the readings through the university website, you are strongly encouraged to book a research consultation. This is done directly through the library (Robarts, for example).

Course Website

The course website (Blackboard) can be accessed at <http://portal.utoronto.ca>. You will need a valid UTORid to access the website. On the website you will find the course syllabus, various announcements as they are made, your grades, and other course-related materials. You will also submit your assignments through the course website. It is your responsibility to make sure you are up to date with course news and materials.

Electronic Communication

To ensure your emails receive a response, please note the following about email correspondence:

- Emails about assignments, tests, and course materials should be directed to the TA.
- Emails **MUST** be sent from your University of Toronto email account. Emails sent from other accounts (e.g., Hotmail, Yahoo, Gmail, etc.) will not receive a response.
- All emails **MUST** have the course code (e.g., SOC280) in the subject line. Emails without the course code in the subject line will not receive a response.
- All emails should contain the student's full name and student number.
- Avoid sending emails that ask for readily available information. Emails that ask for information that is provided in the course outline (e.g. "how much assignment X worth") will not receive a response.
- Every effort will be made to respond to student emails in a timely manner; however, instant or even overnight responses are not always possible. Please be patient. We will respond to emails as soon as we can.

Course Evaluation

Assignment #1: 15% (due: July 13)
Midterm Test: 25% (July 20)
Analytical Paper: 35% (due: August 3)
Final Test: 25% (August 10)

****Details about the tests and assignment will be distributed in class****

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Every effort will be made to follow the schedule outlined below; however, some changes may be needed and will be made at the discretion of the instructor.

A Note on Optional Readings: You are not required to read the optional readings, however, some themes, concepts, and ideas from them may be brought up in lectures from time to time. You are responsible for knowing the material from optional readings brought up in lectures.

July 4: Introduction & Overview

- Overview of course themes, assignments, tests, and expectations
- Introduction to sociology of culture
- No reading assigned

July 6: Conceptualizing Culture

Sewell, William. 1999. "The Concept(s) of Culture." Pp.35-61 in *Beyond the Cultural Turn: New Directions in the Study of Society and Culture*, eds. Victoria E. Bonnell and Lynn Hunt. Berkeley: University of California Press

July 11: Production & Reflection Perspectives

Peterson, Richard A., and N. Anand. 2004. "The Production of Culture Perspective." *Annual Review of Sociology* 30:311-334

Mears, Ashley. 2010. "Size zero high-end ethnic: Cultural production and the reproduction of culture in fashion modeling," *Poetics* 38: 21-46

July 13: Gender & Culture

[ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS (15%)]

Fraterrigo, Elizabeth. 2015. "The Happy Housewife Heroine and the Sexual Sell: Legacies of Betty Friedan's Critique of the Image of Women." *Frontiers* 36(2): 33-40.

Dumais, Susan. 2002. "Cultural Capital, Gender, and School Success: The Role of Habitus." *Sociology of Education* 75: 44-68.

July 18: Organizational Culture & Identity

Harold, Joshua. 2015. "Institutionalizing Liminality: Jewish Summer Camps and the Boundary Work of Camp Participants." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 1(3):439-453.

July 20: MIDTERM TEST [25%]

No New Readings; In-class Test

July 25: Advertising & Consumer Culture

Goldman, Robert and Stephen Papson. 1994. "Advertising in the Age of Hypersignification." *Theory, Culture & Society* 11: 23-53.

July 27: Food Cultures

Johnston, Josée, Michelle Szabo and Alexandra Rodney. 2011. "Good Food, Good People: Understanding the cultural repertoire of ethical eating," *Journal of Consumer Culture* 11 (3); 293-318

Swenson, R. 2009. "Domestic divo? Televised treatments of masculinity, femininity and food." *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 26(1), 36-53.

August 1: Ethnicity and Race as Cultural Objects

Baumann, Shyon, and Loretta Ho. 2014. "Cultural Schemas for Racial Identity in Canadian Television Advertising." *Canadian Review of Sociology* 51(2): 152-169.

Milkie, Melissa. 1999. "Social Comparisons, Reflected Appraisals, and Mass Media: The Impact of Pervasive Beauty Images on Black and White Girls' Self-Concepts." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 62: 190-210

August 3: Cultural Capital, Distinction, & Class Cultures [PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS (35%)]

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1986. "The Forms of Capital." Pp. 241-258 in *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*, edited by John G. Richardson. New York: Greenwood Press.

Bookman, Sonia . 2013. Coffee brands, class and culture in a Canadian city. *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 16(4): 405-423.

August 8: Subcultures & Cultural Resistance

Radway, J. A. 1983. Women read the romance: The interaction of text and context. *Feminist Studies*, 9(1): 53-78

Carducci, Vince. 2006. "Culture Jamming: A Sociological Perspective." *Journal of Consumer Culture* 6(1): 116-138.

August 10: FINAL IN-CLASS TEST [25%]

No New Readings; In-class Test

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late submissions that are more than 5 days late will not be accepted. The penalty for late assignments is 5% per day, including weekends and holidays. For example, if you submit your paper 2 days late and get a grade of 80%, you will lose 10% and get a grade of 70%. This penalty is strictly enforced unless proper documentation of medical illness is provided. You **MUST** submit a Verification of Student Illness or Injury form (available at www.illnessverification.utoroto.ca). This form may only be completed by a physician, surgeon, nurse practitioner, dentist or clinical psychologist. **NO** other medical documentation will be accepted. A doctor's note is NOT sufficient. Submit the form to the instructor in a sealed envelope addressed to the instructor, in class or during the instructor's office hours. In case of personal or family crisis, you must get a letter from your registrar. College registrars are very experienced, very discreet, and there to help you. A letter from your registrar should also be submitted to your instructor in a sealed envelope addressed to the instructor, during class or during the instructor's office hours.

Submission of late Assignments:

- Submissions that are more than 5 days late will not be accepted.
- Assignments **WILL NOT** under ANY circumstances be accepted via email. You **must** upload your late assignment to blackboard. The electronic file will be date and time stamped.
- **DO NOT** bring hard copies of late papers to the sociology department and do not leave assignments under doors or in mailboxes.

MISSED TESTS

Students who miss a test will receive a grade of zero; UNLESS within 48 hours (2 days) of the missed test, students who wish to write the make-up test apply to do so by submitting a written request to the instructor that explains why the test was missed, accompanied by proper medical documentation (Verification of Student Illness or Injury form, found at:

www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). A written request MUST include the name, student number, telephone number, and email address of the student so that the date, time, and place of the make-up test can be communicated to the student. Under no circumstances will a make-up test be granted without proper documentation from a physician or college registrar. The make-up test will be the last opportunity to write the test, even if valid documentation can be provided. A student who misses a test and the subsequent make-up test for a valid reason will not have a third chance to take the test. Instead, the grade assigned for the missed test will be the same as the grade the student earns for the other test in the course.

PLAGIARISM

Any form of cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Be careful to avoid plagiarism. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. To avoid any confusion about plagiarism, you should familiarize yourself with the Academic Handbook and the “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters” available through the Faculty of Arts and Science. The University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document.

GRADE APPEALS

The instructor and teaching assistant take the marking of assignments and tests very seriously, and will work diligently to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Nonetheless, mistakes and oversights occasionally happen. If you believe that to be the case, you must adhere to the following rules:

- If it is a mathematical error simply alert the instructor of the error.
- In the case of more substantive appeals, you must:
 1. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your mark.
 2. Carefully re-read your assignment, all assignment guidelines and marking schemes and the grader’s comments.
 3. You have 14 days after receiving a mark to appeal it.

If you wish to appeal:

- A. You must submit to the instructor a written explanation of why you think your mark should be altered. Please note statements such as “I need a higher grade to apply to X” are not compelling. Also, please note that upon re-grade your mark may go down, stay the same, or go up.

B. Attach to your written explanation to your original assignment, including all of the original comments. Submit a hardcopy of the package to the instructor during office hours, in class, etc.

C. You will receive a response via email or in person about your re-grade.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please contact Accessibility Services at (416) 978-8060 or visit their website www.accessibility.utoronto.ca