Introduction to Sociology

SOCY 1001-001

Spring 2020

Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-10:45

HLMS 201

Instructor: Professor M. L. Radelet

Office: 165 Ketchum

303-735-5811

Radelet@Colorado.edu

Office Hours: Usually 7:00-8:00 TuTh, but please let me know in

advance if you plan to stop by so I will be sure to be there. And I am happy to

meet at other times if these hours are inconvenient (which I know they will be for some).

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Timothy Molnar

Office: 159 Ketchum

Timothy.Molnar@Colorado.edu

Office Hours: TuTh 11:00-noon and by appointment

I. Catalogue Description

Examines U.S. society in global context, using basic sociological ideas. Focuses on the nature of group life, social and moral order, social institutions, social disorganization, social problems, and social change.

II. Objectives

1. To foster development of a sociologically informed critical analysis of American social institutions and their supporting ideologies.

2. To assist the student in recognizing the distinction between questions of opinion vs. questions where empirical data can be used to generate answers.

3. To generate an awareness of the extent of social and political inequality in the U.S.

4. To encourage the student in perceiving and demystifying the social forces and powers that influence and shape our individual attitudes, beliefs, values, and skills.

5. To teach compassion, commitment, and competence.

III. Required Readings

1. Ballantine et al., Our Social World: Introduction to Sociology, Condensed, 5th edition, 2018 (Sage).
2. Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

(Crown Publishing Group, 2016).

1. Approximately 20 newspaper articles or short readings, to be distributed via

email.

IV. Course Requirements

1. Lectures will assume that students maintain a steady pattern of session‑to‑session reading. Lectures will COMPLIMENT the assigned readings, not rehash them.

2. Regular class attendance is expected and will be recorded. *Students may miss (or be late for) up to three classes*, but the final course grade will be reduced .33 grade points (e.g., from a "B" to a "B-") for each fourth absence. Sorry, if you miss more than half the class you will be counted as absent. ALL REQUESTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE ABSENCE. In addition, any student with nine or more unexcused absences will receive a final grade of “F” in the course *regardless* of scores on the exams. If you need to request an excused absence from the exam, the instructor must excuse the absence BEFORE the exam in all but the most unusual of cases (e.g., car accident on the way to the exam).

3. Two hourly exams, each counting 27 percent of the final grade, Thursday, February 13, and Thursday, March 19. NOTE: The second exam is during the last class period before Spring Break and no make-ups will be offered; please drop the class if you will be unable to take this (or any other exam or quiz) at the scheduled time.

4. Short quiz on the Desmond book, Thursday, April 2 (5 points).

5. Final Exam, 31 percent of grade, Tuesday, May 5, 4:30-7:00. Probably about 15% of the final will be from the first 2/3 of the class.

6. “Critical Reaction Paper,” 10 percent of final grade, due in class on Thursday, April 11. This paper should be approximately 1,800 words (6 typed pages), and focus on Evicted. The essay should have two general parts. In the first half, *describe and summarize* the book, much as a book reviewer would do in the Sunday New York Times. Pretend your reader has never read the book, tell her/him/they what it is about, and do not refer to the book as a “novel.” Clearly separate Parts I and II of your paper. In the second part of the paper, describe your *critical reactions* to the book. Do not give a literary critique (e.g., “the book was well-written”), but instead tell your reader what you thought about the book. Did it remind you of anything from your own life? Did it make you think about anything in particular? What did you think were the most through-provoking points in the book? Does it link to materials you have learned in any other classes? Obviously, there is quite a bit of flexibility in how you approach this -- you can raise and answer your own questions, but stick to the main issue: did the book do anything for you?

Students should submit a hard copy of the paper in class on April 9 AND also submit the paper through the course Canvass page. Reminder: Plagiarized papers will result in an automatic “F” in the class, and Canvass does a pretty good plagiarism check (in Fall 2019 it detected two plagiarized papers). If you read an article or another review of the book and incorporate a point from that work in your paper, be sure to supply a complete citation to the source, and use quotation marks where appropriate.

7. Sorry, transcribing, audio or video recording of class sessions is not permitted without WRITTEN permission from the instructor, regardless of what the Office of Disability Services may say.

8. The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus (if needed) as the

semester progresses.

V. Special Notes

1. The University of Colorado's “Student Classroom and Course-Related Behavior Policy” will be enforced in this class; see <www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>

2. Any student with a disability who may need special accommodations must see the professor during the first week of the semester. Further information can be obtained from the Office of Disability Services, 492-8671; [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices) PLEASE SUBMIT PROPER AUTHORIZATIONS TO PROF. RADELET DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER.

3. No extra credit work will be permitted.

4. Computers and Cell Phones

Computers and cell phones should never be used or visible during ectures. Sorry, there is too much research that shows that students do better without them, and they can be distracting to oth er students. I know that students using cell phones certainly distract me when I am trying to deliver a lecture.

5. Absences will be excused only for medical reasons (with letter

from a physician), academic activities (with prior permission), or documented emergencies, not personal obligations (e.g., weddings, delayed airplane flights, intercollegiate athletics or club sports, military service, etc.). Students who will need to miss a class because of religious observances must make arrangements with Professor Radelet during the first week of the semester.

6. Any violation of the University of Colorado Honor Code (that is, plagiarism or other forms of cheating) will result in an automatic failing grade in the class.

VI. General Topic Outline

Week 1: Jan. 14-16

What is Sociology?

Reading: Chapt. 1: Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World

Chapt. 2: Examining the Social World: How Do We Know?

Week 2: Jan. 21-23

Sociological Methodology

Reading: Chapt. 3: Society and Culture: Hardware and Software of Our Social World

Week 3: Jan. 28-10

Culture

Reading: None

Week 4: Feb. 4-6

Social Structure

Reading: Chapt. 4: Socialization: Becoming Human and Humane

Week 5: Feb. 11-13

The Self, Socialization, and the Social Construction of Reality

Reading: Chapt. 5: Interaction, Groups, and Organizations: Connections That Work

**Exam Number One: Thursday, February 13**

Week 6: Feb. 18-20

. Social and Political Inequality in the United States

Reading: Chapt. 7: Stratification: Rich and Famous – or Rags and Famine?

Week 7: Feb. 25-27 Ethnic and Racial Groups in America

Chapt. 8: Race and Ethnic Group Stratification: Beyond “Us” and “Them”

Week 8: March 3-5 Sex Roles and the Women's Movement

Reading: Chapt. 9: Gender Stratification: She/He – Who Goes First?

Week 9: March 10-12

The Family and Intimate Relationships

Reading: Chapt. 10: Family and Education: Institutionalizing Socialization

Week 10: March 17-19

Begin reading Desmond book

**Exam Number Two: Thursday, March 19**

Week 11: March 24-26

No classes: Spring Break

Week 12: March 31-April 2

More on Gender, Race and Inequality

Reading: Desmond book

*See also*:  [https://www.newrboulder.com/](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1nE3SoyeNmIYJRHS1nK8Ce1zbLQENFAcV8WriqTgUtsOjfg12gMIH6vpWMdRRYoZoHhLuSMUWWtSz4Ixr2MlzTt-Hw8_mdzNcCaOrqC1Lbiu6dPowvHS2sRb4NgTCH4gi0-Xk5aWy9gQntdyFFtQ5-fK6j4teQY0kwrVwO9J_PZTgRm7xdbubCqN4vNDfz-SzkCXakKpxq91LJvAyFVAbE3mN3bzWxnkcYPx7S2-Uj1zBnryJscc9Pv28x2fm54mbrw-1ONQXlgXx9bSLumMPSZQ0Yxnha1xZZ702i1wxa70TfbpZrknXsnldywEe7Nh5rEWoRmICMwetYi-S2ABCZRkeB4r5cQ8SO1OuEcmAarSYgzf7J6gdAYFZE3aYewk5zcL9-Hri1kVA4dSp0yDcrn__N7N4OzzjqPaoSihfPmvryZ48qmgHfEsO0uMo_YgAhuhYWUTutPl6uJ9Kvj-eVA/https%3A%2F%2Fwww.newrboulder.com%2F)

**Quiz on Desmond book, Thursday, April 2**

Week 13: April 7-9

Deviance, Crime, and Prisons

Reading: Chapt. 6: Deviance and Social Control: Sickos, Weirdos, Freaks, and Folks

Like Us

**Desmond Paper due Thursday, April 9**

(submit both on Canvass and submit a hard copy in class)

Week 14: April 14-16

The Workplace and Race for Wealth

Reading: Chapt. 12: Politics and Economics: Probing Power, Dissecting Distribution

*Special Lecture:* Tim Molnar, “Social Barriers to Cookstove Adoption in

Ghana/Honduras”

Week 15: April 21-23

Medical Sociology and Health Disparities

Reading: Chapt. 11: Health Care: An Anatomy of Health and Illness

Week 16: Apr. 28-30

Power

Reading: Chapt. 13: Population and Urbanization: Living on Planet Earth

**Final Exam,** Tuesday May 5, 4:30-7:00.

**Important Demographic Facts**

**Please Memorize**

I. World Population

1850: 1.2 billion

1950: 2.5 billion

1995: 5.75 billion

2019: 7.7 billion

II. U.S. Population

1900: 76 million

1950: 150 million

1995: 263 million

2019: 328 million, of whom 77 percent identify as white only, 13.3 percent as African

American only, and 17.6 percent as Hispanic or Latino (any race)

(third most populous country in the world behind China and India)

The U.S. population is 4.3 of the world’s population.

Required Syllabus Statements

# Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

# Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/).

# Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

# Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/). Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

# Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, student planning to request an excused absence from any class for religious holidays should meet with Dr. Radelet during the first week of class.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.

**(to be submitted during the first week of class)**

TO: Professor Radelet

RE: SOCY 1001, Spring 2020

I understand that the exams in the class will be administered on:

Thursday February 13

Thursday March 19

Tuesday May 5 (4:30 pm) Final

And that there will be a short quiz on the Desmond book, administered in class on April 2.

I realize that there will be no excused absences from any of the exams or quizzes, and I promise not to ask for one.

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Signature

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Printed Name