

The Self in Modern Society

Spring 2014

SOCY 3151

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Office hours: MWF 10-10:45, F 10-12:45, and by appointment

Course description

What is a self? Where did we come up with that idea? Who has it? How do we know? How are they acquired? Can you have more than one? Is it stable or flexible? How do others know when one has a self? How is it communicated? Can it be taken away or damaged? How do selves and Selves develop over time? Why does it matter? This course will examine these questions from a sociological perspective focusing on the social origins, implications, and impact of the idea of the self in contemporary society. We will examine the role of experience, interpretation, and choice within the matrix of social structure as it impacts and is affected by one's self. We will also explore the personal, ethical, and social implications of defining selfhood in partid2Lar ways.

Course goals and opportunities

- This course will introduce you to sociological perspectives on the self. You will gain familiarity with the key concepts and theories through some original sources and popular writings and explore how these have been illustrated in contemporary research and media.
- You will develop the capacity to see how these perspectives and ideas show up in everyday life and how they can be utilized as you make sense of your surroundings, internal states, interact with others, and make important decisions.
- You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of course material and get feedback regarding your level of understanding and communication of such according to academic standards through class participation, group projects, papers, and exams. This also gives you some practice developing skills that will support your success in other academic and professional pursuits.

Course Materials (required)

Required readings are available on D2Learn in folders by week.

Course Policies and Environment:

- When you email me please use Socy 3151 as your subject header. I delete or don't respond to emails that do not have this as the subject heading. I check email throughout the day Monday through Friday till 4pm. If you email after this time, you can expect a response by the next work day.
- You are responsible for material and announcements presented during all lectures and recitation meetings. It is your responsibility to get missed notes and updates from fellow students-NOT the instructor. If a due date or other administrative changes are announced, that will supersede the "tentative schedule" found in this syllabus.
- Please do not arrive late or leave early or begin to pack up prior to the end of lecture or discussion. This inhibits other students' ability to hear and understand the material.
- Please turn off cell phone ringers, and avoid engaging in side talking, reading, sleeping, texting, or surfing while in class. This is disrespectful of other students and the instructors and disruptive to the learning community. If I notice you doing any of these things the possible reactions range from polite requests to cease to light public ridiD2Le to being asked to leave the room.

- Please do the assigned readings for the week before first class or recitation meeting of the week. This makes class more enjoyable for everyone and more useful for you. Many of the readings come from scholarly journals and books, and you may find them more difficult than textbooks and other sources. They require time and focused attention for deep comprehension and retention. While we may not cover each reading in class you are responsible for the content. If something is unclear in the reading or you are unsure how it relates to that week's topic, it is your responsibility to bring that question up in class if you want it discussed in more detail.
- No early or late exams will be given. If you know you will be unable to take an exam on the day scheduled for any reason (religious, university event, or any other reason), please let us know as soon as possible to arrange for the essay makeup or other alternative. If you miss an exam, you have 24 hours to inform your instructor and then you will be given a take-home essay exam that typically takes 8-10 hours to complete. If you do not inform your instructor within 24 hours of missing an exam you will be given a zero for that score. It is in your best interest to be at scheduled exams. Please check the syllabus now to determine if there are any conflicts you need to discuss with me.
- Late papers are not accepted. That is the official policy. Please plan your life accordingly. I have been known to make exceptions to this policy for out of the ordinary circumstances (more sympathetic in advance), but only with point penalties.
- If you have any schedule conflicts with the final exam, please let your instructor know by Friday, November 22. If you have time conflicts with other tests, due dates, or known absences let your instructor know by e-mail as soon as possible.
- If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: [303-492-8671](tel:303-492-8671), Center for Community N200, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.
- If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>
- 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, you will be offered a take-home essay due after religious observances are over or given extension of due date for religious observances. The take-home essay is designed to be completed in the amount of time I feel is necessary to study for and complete the in class exam. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html
- 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 differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. 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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code
- The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships policy apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at [303-492-2127](tel:303-492-2127) or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at [303-492-5550](tel:303-492-5550).

Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

- All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>
- Please keep all returned exams (and other returned work) in the event that you have a grade dispute at the end of the semester. If your calculation of your grade does not match our records, it is your responsibility to provide proof of graded work.

Evaluation Components

We will discuss this in further detail in the first week of class, but here is the foundation on which we will collectively create assignments, test formats, and activities.

In class participation:	50 points
Papers:	150 points
Exams:	200 points

This gives a total of 400 points.

Final Grade Scale

A: 93-100%	B: 83-86%	C: 73-76%	D: 63-66%
A-: 90-92%	B-: 80-82%	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62%
B+: 87-89%	C+: 77-79%	D+: 67-69	F: 59% or less

In class Participation points will be partially decided by attendance and engagement in class discussions and participation in classroom activities. You can't get the points if you aren't in the room, prepared, reading done, questions in mind, and ready to roll. You will also be called upon to provide discussion questions based upon readings and class material. These will be submitted in class, selected, and presented by the student either the same or the following class meeting.

Paper--Two papers worth 150 points will be due (60, 90), I have quite a few topics and am open to you exploring your own ideas in depth as well, so if you don't see something that interests you, propose something.

Exams--Two exams and a final exam worth a total of 200 points in multiple choice format will be given.

Course Schedule notes

- Of course this schedule is subject to change.
- Due dates for exams and papers on syllabus are tentative. Any changes to this will be announced in class, so do check in on that frequently.
- Required readings posted online are listed as **D2L** by
- Please complete each week's readings before first class of each week.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week One 1/13

Course Introduction and context
Reading: D2L week one

Week Two 1/22

Social Creation of reality, language
Reading: D2L week 2

Week Three 1/27

What do sociologists mean by self?
Reading: D2L week 3

Week Four 2/3

history of self and identity
Reading: D2L week 4

Week Five 2/10

postmodern selves
Reading: D2L week 5

Week Six 2/17

developing and maintaining a self
Reading: D2L week 6

Week Seven 2/24

wrap up and **Test Friday, Feb 28**
Reading: D2L week 7

Week Eight 3/3

Who has a self
Reading: D2L week 8
Paper One due Friday, March 7

Week Nine 3/10

Intersectional Identities/Stratification
Reading: D2L week 9

Week Ten 3/17

Memories, Emotions, Power
Reading: D2L week 10

Spring Break

Week Eleven 3/31

Deviance
Reading: D2L week 11

Week Twelve 4/7

Social Construction of Health and the Sick Role
Test Two Friday, April 11

Week Thirteen 4/14

Developmental Models: forging building blocks of society
Reading: D2L week 13 and posted weblinks

Week Fourteen 4/21

Personal and Social Transformation
Reading: D2L week 14

Week Fifteen 4/28

Tying it together, what does it all mean, wrap up
Paper Two due Monday, April 28

Final Exam

TBA