

Sociology 508: Sociology of Culture

University of Arizona

Fall 2011 (syllabus last updated 9/5/11)

Fridays 2:00-4:30

Instructor: Jane Zavisca

Office: Social Science 431

Office Hours:

- by appointment: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 or Fridays 4:30-5:30
- drop-in: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 and Thursdays 3:00-4:00 (undergraduates have priority during drop-in times, but there are usually few visitors)

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Description

This is a graduate level course on the sociology of culture. The course has two main goals: to survey key literature both within and beyond sociology, and to provide a forum for developing original research with a cultural component. The course treats the concept of culture broadly, as the symbolic dimension of social life. We will focus theoretically on cultural phenomena as cause, effect, and/or endogenous process.

The empirical readings emphasize culture and inequality, since this is my area of expertise. Readings are limited for culture-related topics that are routinely covered in other courses offered in this department, including economic sociology, organizations, social movements, political sociology, networks, and quantitative methods for cultural analysis.

Required Texts

The following books will be assigned (not available through the bookstore; should be ordered directly by students). All other readings will be posted online through the D2L system or hard copy provided on reserve basis.

Bourdieu, Pierre. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*.

Swidler, Ann. 2001. *Talk of Love*.

Willis, Paul. 1981 [1977]. *Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs*. New York: Columbia University Press

Assignments and Assessment

Weekly memos on required readings: (25%)

Over the course of the semester, students will write brief analytical memos on the readings each week. Students should contribute **at least** 7 memos over the course of the semester.

Memos should be posted on the D2L discussion site **no later than 9am the morning of the class** (earlier would be appreciated). This will give me time to review the memos before class begins at 2pm. Memos submitted after the deadline will not be read or counted towards your 7 contributions. Feel free to comment on others' memos on the discussion site.

Your memo should assume that your audience is familiar with the readings, and take an analytical point of view of some kind. For example, state what (and why) you agree or disagree with in the readings, critically relate them to one another, or discuss how you might apply ideas from the readings to your own research. Memos should be between 200-400 words. Please past memo as text directly into discussion thread; do not upload as attachments.

Class attendance and participation (25%)

Please come to class on time and plan to actively participate in discussions. Students who do not contribute to class discussions on a regular basis will receive no higher than a B in the course.

Research Paper or Mock Comprehensive Exam (50%)

1. Research Paper option: Papers should have a clearly stated research question and some original data analysis relevant to the question, and seriously engage the literature on the sociology of culture to motivate the question, hypotheses, and/or interpretation of findings. The paper should be written with the goal of submission to a professional conference or journal. Students planning to write a paper should meet with me in office hours no later than October 13 to discuss the proposed paper.
2. Mock comp option: Students may opt, in place of a research paper, to complete a take-home exam that will be structured like a written comprehensive examination in the sociology of culture. The exam will be given out in class on Friday, December 2.

The **final paper or take-home exam** will be due by Monday, December 12.

Schedule of Weekly Readings

Note: The reading list is subject to change; changes will be announced at least two weeks in advance. An asterisk () indicates the reading is on the 2011-12 comprehensive examination reading list for sociology of culture.*

WEEK 1 (8/26): INTRODUCTION

Note: Due to Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Break both falling on Fridays, we have only 13 meetings this semester. I am asking you to do the first set of reading before the first class meets.

- * Geertz, Clifford. 1973. Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture. In *The Interpretation of Culture: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books.
- * Swidler, Ann. 1986. Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies. *American Sociological Review* 51 (2):273-86, esp 273-78 & conclusion. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2095521>.
- * Sewell, William, Jr. 1999. "The Concept(s) of Culture." In *Beyond the Cultural Turn*, edited by Victoria E. Bonnell and Lynn Hunt, 35-61. Berkeley: University of California Press.

WEEK 2 (9/2) PRODUCTION

- * Peterson, Richard A., and N. Anand. 2004. The Production of Culture Perspective. *Annual Review of Sociology* 30: 311-34. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29737696>.
- Peterson, Richard A. 1997. *Creating Country Music: Fabricating Authenticity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 3-11, 81-94, 173-201.
- * Becker, Howard S. 1982. *Art Worlds*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 1-67, 227-70.
- * Bourdieu, Pierre. 1993. "The Market of Symbolic Goods." In *The Field of Cultural Production: Essays on Art and Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, Chapter 1.

WEEK 3 (9/9) RECEPTION

- * Schudson, Michael. 1989. How Culture Works: Perspectives from Media Studies on the Efficacy of Symbols. *Theory and Society* 18 (2): 153-180. doi:10.1007/BF00160753.
- Shiveley, JoEllen. 1992. Cowboys and Indians: Perceptions of Western Films among American Indians and Anglos. *American Sociological Review* 57 (6): 725-34. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2096119>.
- * Griswold, Wendy. 1987. Fabrication of Meaning: Literary interpretation in the United States, Great Britain and the West Indies. *American Journal of Sociology* 92 (5): 1077-1117. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2779997>.
- Beisel, Nicola. 1993. Morals Versus Art: Censorship, the Politics of Interpretation, and the Victorian Nude. *American Sociological Review* 58 (2): 145-62. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2095963>.
- Stamatov, Peter. 2002. Interpretive Activism and the Political Uses of Verdi's Operas in the 1840s. *American Sociological Review* 67: 345-366.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3088961>.

WEEK 4 (9/16) IDEOLOGY

- * Marx, Karl. "The Fetishism of the Commodity and its Secret." Selection from *Capital*, Volume I.
- * Adorno, Theodor W. and Max Horkheimer. 2000 [1944]. "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception." In *The Consumer Society Reader*, edited by Juliet B. Schor and Douglas B. Holt, 3-18.
- * Willis, Paul. 1981 [1977]. *Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- * Swidler, Ann. 1986. Culture in Action. Review entire, read closely section on settled vs unsettled times (esp 273-78 & conclusion). <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2095521>.

WEEK 5 (9/23) POWER

- * Bourdieu, Pierre. 1991. "On Symbolic Power." In *Language and Symbolic Power*, pp. 163-170. New York: Polity Press.
- * Bourdieu. *Distinction*. Introduction (pp 1-7), Ch. 1 (esp. pp. 28-63); Ch 4 section on "Symbolic Struggles" (pp. 244-256); Ch 7 (372-396).
- Foucault, Michel. 1995 [1977]. "Panopticism." In *Discipline and Punish*. New York: Vintage Books, pp. 195-228.
- Foucault, Michel. "Sexual Discourse and Power." In *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates*, edited by Jeffrey C. Alexander and Steven Seidman, 199-204. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Wedeen, Lisa. 1999. *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, and Symbols in Contemporary Syria*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Ch 1 & 3.

WEEK 6 (9/30): COGNITION

- * Durkheim, Emile. 1995 [1912]. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. New York: Free Press. pp. 211-225, 231-241; 418-426, 433-448. (Also recommended for review: Introduction; Book 1 Ch 1; book 3 ch 1, 4)
- Bergesen, Albert J. 2004. Durkheim's Theory of Mental Categories: A Review of the Evidence. *Annual Review of Sociology* 30: 395-408. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29737699>.
- * Lakoff, George. *Women Fire and Dangerous Things: What Categories Reveal about the Mind*. pp 5-9, 40-42, 48-51, 69-76.
- * Santa Ana, Otto. 2002. 'Like an Animal I Was Treated': Anti-Immigrant Metaphor in US Public Discourse. *Discourse and Society* 10 (2): 191-224. doi:10.1177/0957926599010002004
- D'Andrade, Roy. 1995. *The Development of Cognitive Anthropology*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6, "The Growth of Schema Theory," pp. 122-49.
- * Cerulo, Karen. 1998. *Deciphering Violence: The Cognitive Structure of Right and Wrong*. New York: Routledge: Chapter 3.

WEEK 7 (10/7): CLASSIFICATION

- * Lakoff, *Women Fire and Dangerous Things*, Ch 6, pp. 91-114.
- * Levi Martin, John. 2000. What do Animals Do All Day? The Division of Labor, Class

- Bodies, and Totemic Thinking in the Popular Imagination. *Poetics* 27: 195-231. doi:10.1016/S0304-422X(99)00025-X.
- Starr, Paul. 1992. Social Categories and Claims in the Liberal State. *Social Research* 59 (2): 263-95.
- * Isaacson, Nicole. 1996. The 'Fetus-Infant': Changing Classifications of In Utero Development in Medical Texts. *Sociological Forum* 11 (3): 457-80. doi:10.1007/BF02408388.
- * Bourdieu, *Distinction*, Conclusion (pp. 466-484).

WEEK 8 (10/14) BOUNDARIES

- * Bourdieu, *Distinction*, Chapter 5 (pp. 260-317).
- * Lamont, Michèle. 1992. *Money, Morals, & Manners: The Culture of the French and the American Upper-Middle Class*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. TBA.
- * Bryson, Bethany. 1996. 'Anything But Heavy Metal': Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes. *American Sociological Review* 61 (5): 884-99. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2096459>.
- Edgell, Penny, Joseph Gerteis, and Douglas Hartmann. 2006. Atheists as Other. *American Sociological Review* 71 (2): 211-34. doi: 10.1177/000312240607100203.

WEEK 9 (10/21) SIGNIFICATION & IDENTITY

- * de Saussure, Ferdinand. 1959 [1915]. *Course in General Linguistics*. New York: Philosophical Library, pp. 14-17, 65-70, 114-24.
- * Hebdige, Dick. 1979. *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*. London: Routledge. pp. TBA.
- Bonnell, Victoria. 1997. *Iconography of Power*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1-15.
- Bonnell, Victoria. 1993. The Peasant Woman in Stalinist Political Art of the 1930s. *The American Historical Review* 98(1): 55-82. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2166382>.
- Brekhus, Wayne. 2003. *Peacocks, Chameleons, Centaurs: Gay Suburbia and the Grammar of Social Identity*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-31).
- Killian, Caitlin. 2003. The Other Side of the Veil: North African Women in France Respond to the Headscarf Affair. *Gender and Society* 17 (4): 567-90. doi: 10.1177/0891243203253541.

WEEK 10 (10/28) RITUAL INTERACTION

- * Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Deep Play: Notes from the Balinese Cockfight." In *The Interpretation of Culture: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books.
- * Goffman, Erving. 1967. "The Nature of Deference and Demeanor." In *Interaction Ritual: Essays in Face to Face Behavior*. Chicago: Aldine, pp.47-96.
- * Collins, Randall. 2004. *The Program of Interaction Ritual Theory*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1.
- McFarland, Daniel. 2004. Resistance as Social Drama: A Study of Change-Oriented Encounters. *American Journal of Sociology* 109: 1249-1318. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/381913>.

- * Kunda, Gideon. 1992. *Engineering Culture: Control and Commitment in a High-Tech Corporation*. Philadelphia: Temple Univ. Press, Chapter 4 (pp. 92-159).

WEEK 11 (11/4) EMBODIED PRACTICE

- * Elias, Norbert. 2000. *The Civilizing Process*. Blackwell, pp xi-xiii, 3-7, 47-72, 89-92, 97-109.
 - * Martin, Karin. 1998. Becoming a Gendered Body: Practices of Preschools. *American Sociological Review* 63 (4): 494-511.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2657264>.
 - * Bourdieu, Pierre. *The Logic of Practice*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. "Structures, Habitus, Practices"; "The Kabyle Household or the World Revisited" (pp. 52-65, 271-277).
 - * Bourdieu, *Distinction*, Chapter 3 (pp. 169-225).
- Wacquant, Loic. 2004. *Body and Soul: Notebooks of an Apprentice Boxer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 3-5, 55-69, 87-99.

WEEK 12 (11/18): CULTURAL MECHANISMS

- * Weber, Max. 1974. "Basic Sociological Terms." In *Economy and Society*, pp. 4-26.
- * Swidler, Ann. *Talk of Love*. Pp. TBA.
- * Vaisey, Stephen. 2009. Motivation and Justification: A Dual-Process Model of Culture in Action. *American Journal of Sociology* 114 (6): 1675-1715.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/597179>.
- * Levi Martin, John. 2010. Life's a Beach But You're an Ant, and Other Unwelcome News for the Sociology of Culture. *Poetics* 38 (2): 229-44.
doi:10.1016/j.poetic/2009.11.004.

WEEK 13 (12/2) ENDOGENEITY

- * Lieberman, Stanley. 2000. *A Matter of Taste: How Names, Fashions, and Culture Change*. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. xi-xvi, 1-30, 69-110.
 - * Kaufman, Jason. 2004. Endogenous Explanation in the Sociology of Culture. *Annual Review of Sociology* 30: 335-57.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2973769>.
 - * Katz, Jack. 1990. *Seductions of Crime: Moral and Sensual Attractions in Doing Evil*. Basic Books, pp. 3-51.
- Wagner-Pacifci, Robin. 2000. *Theorizing the Standoff: Contingency in Action*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. TBA.