

# Emory University

## SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE

### SOC 560; Spring 2021

Thursdays 4:30-7:30; Online via Zoom

Dr. Timothy J. Dowd

231 Tarbutton Hall

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:30

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course (1) provides students with grounding in cultural sociology and (2) prepares students for doing their own cultural research. To facilitate the first objective, we survey major themes and issues in the sociology of culture. We begin this survey by considering the sociological approach to culture, which entails answering the following questions: “What is culture and what does it do?” and “How are we to study culture?” We get at these broad questions via the case of music, including the important contributions of Du Bois. We next turn to issues that Marx, Weber, and Durkheim respectively raised years ago. In particular, we inspect how current scholars (from a variety of theoretical perspectives) approach these enduring issues. Examples of issues that spring from the work of classical sociologists include the following: “Do media messages shape our view of reality? If so, how?” and “How do class and lifestyle intertwine to reproduce inequality?” Finally, we turn to substantive questions that have come to the fore in recent decades, including “How is market activity undergirded by cultural assumptions?” and “How does social context shape the production and consumption of expressive goods?” To facilitate the second objective (*i.e.*, doing research), we give special attention to methods and designs employed in current research, and we heed how theoretical ideas are translated into empirical projects. Thus, by the end of the semester, each student will have a grasp of the field and an understanding of how to do cultural sociology.

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### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Attendance**

You are strongly encouraged to attend class, especially because we will use class time to integrate the assigned readings and to present additional information not found in the readings. In fact, each daily reading is a contemporary example of broader scholarship that I will address in my lectures.

Of course, given the current pandemic, some students might become sick or will need to go into isolation or quarantine. If you feel ill or fear that you are sick, please understand that **I will be flexible about attendance**. Thus, do not put yourself at risk for fear of missing a class.

- **Office Hours and Appointments**

I will be holding “virtual” office hours via Zoom on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Please use my Calendly link to sign up for a specific time: <https://calendly.com/tdowd-1-office-hours>.

If you cannot make those office hours, please email me for alternative times.

The Zoom link for office hours is: <https://emory.zoom.us/j/94647323595>.

I will occasionally hold in-person office hours, as well. I will share more information on those hours as the semester unfolds.

- **Participation**

Active participation requires adequate preparation. You therefore must read the assigned material before class and develop your own assessment of this material. Such careful preparation will improve the quality of class discussion. Of course, class discussion should be both informed and respectful; moreover, it should be a forum wherein all can raise questions, explore ideas, and express misgivings. Participation accounts for 75% of your final grade.

- **Assignment**

You will answer a set of questions over the course of a week following the last class meeting. These questions will be in the format of our program’s preliminary examination. As a result, this assignment will allow you to synthesize what you have learned throughout the semester, as well as offer “practice” for prelim-type exams. This assignment comprises 25% of your final grade.

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## COURSE RESOURCES

As the semester progresses, class materials will be posted on the Canvas site for SOC 560 (see <https://canvas.emory.edu>).

The assigned readings are drawn from many sources, so there is no textbook. Instead, the required readings are available at our Canvas site

The particular reading that provides the foundation for each week is marked by a star (\*).

Note that the readings for this class augment – but do not duplicate – those found in the Sociology of the Arts (SOC 561) and Sociology of Mass Media (SOC 562) graduate seminars.

As a result, you may wish to peruse the SOC 561 and SOC 562 syllabi (and other syllabi) for additional culture readings on my faculty webpage (<http://sociology.emory.edu/home/people/faculty/dowd-tim.html>).

If you have any special needs, please contact me at the beginning of the semester, and we will discuss the necessary arrangements (for additional information, visit the Emory Office of Accessibility Services website; see <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/index.html>).

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### **A NOTE ABOUT THE READINGS**

Cultural sociology is a sprawling and ever-growing body of scholarship. As a result, there is no way to capture all of it in the readings for a single seminar. What you will see below, then, are a mixture of readings that should provide an informative entrée to cultural sociology while also touching upon classics, contemporary classics, and brand new works. You will also encounter a number of works-in-progress – which is helpful for you to see cultural sociology in action (rather than as a finished product).

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### **COURSE SCHEDULE** *(Subject to Revision)*

***January 28: Introductions***

***February 4: Sociology and the Study of Culture: The Case of Music***

Allen, Tennille Nicole and Antonia Randolph. 2020. “Listening for the Interior in Hip-Hop and R&B Music.” *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 6: 46-60.

Du Bois, W.E.B. 1905. *The Souls of Black Folk: Essays and Sketches*. London: Archibald Constable & Co. Chapters 1 and 14.

Lu, Wei-Ting. 2013. “Confucius or Mozart? Community Cultural Wealth and Upward Mobility among Children of Chinese Immigrants.” *Qualitative Sociology* 36: 303-321.

O’Brien, John. 2013. “Muslim American Youth and Secular Hip Hop: Manifesting ‘Cool Piety’ through Musical Practices.” *Poetics* 41: 99-121.

\*Roy, William G. and Timothy J. Dowd. 2010. “What is Sociological about Music?” *Annual Review of Sociology* 36: 183-203.

**February 11: VIRTUAL VISIT BY DR. ANTHONY JACK (5:00 pm)**

\*Jack, Anthony Abraham. 2019. *The Privileged Poor: How Elite Colleges are Failing Disadvantaged Students*. Harvard University Press.

Register at <http://bit.ly/DrAnthonyJackEmory>

**February 18: Capitalism and Class: The Cultural Turn**

Browne, Irene. 2021. "Theorizing the Middle Class." Chapter Two in *Between Privilege and Precarity: Middle-Class Latinx Immigrants in the Nuevo South*. New York: The Russell Sage Foundation (forthcoming).

Lareau, Annette. 2002. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families." *American Sociological Review* 67: 747-776.

\*Marx, Karl. 1978. "The German Ideology: Part I." Pages 146-200 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. Second edition. New York: W. W. Norton.

Matlon, Jordanna. 2016. "Racial Capitalism and the Crisis of Black Masculinity." *American Sociological Review* 81: 1014-1038.

Mears, Ashley. 2015. "Working for Free in the VIP: Relational Work and the Production of Consent." *American Sociological Review* 80: 1099-1122.

**February 25: Old Media, New Media: Domination, Framing, & Homogeneity**

Brayne, Sarah. 2017. "Big Data Surveillance: The Case of Policing." *American Sociological Review* 82: 977-1008.

\*Cottom, Tressie McMillan. 2020. "Where Platform Capitalism and Racial Capitalism Meet: The Sociology of Race and Racism in the Digital Society." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 6: 441-449.

Foy, Steven L. and Rashawn Ray. 2019. "Skin in the Game: Colorism and the Subtle Operation of Stereotypes in Men's College Basketball." *American Journal of Sociology* 125: 730-785.

Mears, Ashley. 2010. "Size Zero High-End Ethnic: Cultural Production and the Reproduction of Culture in Fashion Modeling." *Poetics* 38: 21-46.

Pescosolido, Bernice A., Elizabeth Grauerholz, and Melissa A. Milkie. 1997. "Culture and Conflict: The Portrayal of Blacks in U.S. Children's Picture Books through the Mid- and Late-Twentieth Century." *American Sociological Review* 62: 443-464.

**March 4:        *Status Groups: The Construction of Identity and Exclusion***

Brown, Karida. 2018. *Gone Home: Race and Roots through Appalachia*. Raleigh, NC: University of North Carolina Press. Selections.

Chiang, Yi-Lin. 2018. "When Things Don't Go as Planned: Contingencies, Cultural Capital, Parental Involvement for Elite University Admission in China." *Comparative Education Review* 62: 503-521.

Lamont, Michèle. 1992. *Money, Morals, & Manners: The Culture of the French and American Upper-Middle Class*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Prologue, Chapters One and Two.

Lacy, Karyn. 2004. "Black Spaces, Black Places: Strategic Assimilation and Identity Construction in Middle Class Suburbia." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 27: 908-930.

\*Weber, Max. 1946. "Class, Status, Party." Pages 180-195 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, translated and edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.

**March 11:        *Class, Status, and Cultural Capital: Reproduction Revisited***

Aschaffenburg, Karen and Ineke Maas. 1997. "Cultural and Educational Careers: The Dynamics of Social Reproduction." *American Sociological Review* 62: 573-587.

\*Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1.

Byun, Soo-yong, Evan Schofer and Kyung-keun Kim. 2012. "Revisiting the Role of Cultural Capital in East Asian Educational Systems: The Case of South Korea." *Sociology of Education* 85: 219-239.

Dumais, Susan A. 2019. "The Cultural Practices of First-Generation College Graduates: The Role of Childhood Exposure." *Poetics* 77: 101378.

Puckett, Cassidy and Jennifer L. Nelson. 2019. "The Geek Instinct: Theorizing Cultural Alignment in Disadvantaged Contexts." *Qualitative Sociology* 42: 25-48.

**March 18:        *Distinction: The Intertwining of Social Position and Tastes***

Banks, Patricia. 2012. "Cultural Socialization in Black Middle-Class Families." *Cultural Sociology* 6: 61-73.

Bok, Jared. 2021. "The Artistic Side of Religion: How Religious Conservatism and Cultural Omnivorousness Influence Congregational Involvement in the Arts." Unpublished Manuscript; Department of Sociology, University of Nevada at Reno.

Khan, Shamus. 2011. *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Introduction, Chapters 3 and 4.

\*Peterson, Richard A. 2005. "Problems in Comparative Research: The Example of Omnivorousness." *Poetics* 33:257–282.

Rivera, Lauren. 2012. "Hiring as Cultural Matching: The Case of Elite Professional Service Firms." *American Sociological Review* 77: 999-1022.

### **March 25:                    *The Rationalization of Life and the Aura of Rationality***

Collins, Randall. 1997. "An Asian Route to Capitalism: Religious Economy and the Origins of Self-Transforming Growth in Japan." *American Sociological Review* 62: 843-865.

Erigha, Maryann. 2019. *The Hollywood Jim Crow: The Racial Politics of the Movie Industry*. New York: New York University Press. Introduction, Chapter 2, and Conclusion.

Espeland, Wendy Nelson and Michael Sauder. 2007. "Rankings and Reactivity: How Public Measures Recreate Social Worlds." *American Journal of Sociology* 113: 1-40.

Monica Liu. 2019. "Devoted, Caring, and Home Loving: A Chinese Portrayal of Western Masculinity in Transnational Cyberspace Romance." *Men and Masculinities* 22: 317-337.

\*Weber, Max. 1992. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: Routledge. Chapters 1 and 5.

### **April 1:                        *Genre Classifications and Valuation***

Baumann, Shyon. 2001. "Intellectualization and Art World Development: Film in the United States." *American Sociological Review* 66: 404-426

\*DiMaggio, Paul. 1987. "Classification in Art." *American Sociological Review* 52: 440-455.

Dowd, Timothy J., Roberson Beauville, Hannah Chong, Amber Churchwell, Surbhi Shrivastava, & Allison Sullivan. 2021. "The Ebb and Flow of Subgenre Formation: The Case of Progressive Rock, 1965-2015." Unpublished Manuscript; Department of Sociology, Emory University.

Lena, Jennifer and Richard A. Peterson. 2008. "Classification as Culture: Types and Trajectories of Music Genres." *American Sociological Review* 73: 697-718.

Roy, William G. 2021. "Introduction" and "Toward a Sociology of Genres." Introduction and Chapter One in *Musical Genres*. Manuscript in Progress.

**April 8:                      *Classification and the Sacred in Contemporary Times***

Ammerman, Nancy. 2020. "Rethinking Religion: Toward a Practice Approach." *American Journal of Sociology* 126: 6-51.

\*Durkheim, Emile. 1995. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. New York: Free Press. Translator's Introduction, Chapter 1, and Conclusion.

Killian, Caitlin. 2003. "The Other Side of the Veil: North African Women in France Respond to the Headscarf Affair." *Gender and Society* 17: 567-590.

Madsen, Richard. 2009. "The Archipelago of Faith: Religious Individualism and Faith Community in America Today." *American Journal of Sociology* 114: 1263-1301.

Phillips, Nichole R. 2018. *Patriotism Black and White: The Color of American Exceptionalism*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press. Selections.

**April 15:                      *Construction of Organizations and Industries***

Chan, Cheris Shun-Ching. 2009. "Creating a Market in the Presence of Cultural Resistance: The Case of Life Insurance in China." *Theory and Society* 38: 271-305.

\*Johnson, Cathryn, Timothy J. Dowd, and Cecilia L. Ridgeway. 2006. "Legitimacy as a Social Process." *Annual Review of Sociology* 32: 53-78.

Phillips, Damon J. and David Owens. 2004. "Incumbents, Innovation, and Competence: The Emergence of Recorded Jazz, 1920 to 1929." *Poetics* 32: 281-295.

Ray, Victor. 2019. "A Theory of Racialized Organizations." *American Sociological Review* 84: 26-53.

Zelizer, Vivianna. 1978. "Human Values and the Market: The Case of Life Insurance and Death in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America." *American Journal of Sociology* 84: 591-610.

**April 22:                      *Emotions, Health, and Hierarchies***

\*Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2019. "Feeling Race: Theorizing the Racial Economy of Emotions." *American Sociological Review* 84: 1-25.

Harvey-Wingfield, Adia. 2013. *No More Invisible Man: Race and Gender in Men's Work*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Chapters 2, 5 and 6.

Johnson, Olivia. 2021. "Black Love Matters: Negotiating Emotion and Racial Hierarchies in Black Mother-Daughter Relationships." Unpublished Manuscript; Department of Sociology, Emory University.

Kang, Milian Kang. 2003. "The Managed Hand: The Commercialization of Bodies and Emotions on Korean-Immigrant-Owned Nail Salons." *Gender and Society* 17: 820-839.

Warikoo, Natasha. 2021. "Addressing Emotional Health while Protecting Status: Asian American and White Parents in Suburban America." *American Journal of Sociology* forthcoming.

**April 29:                    *The Reception and Consumption of Expressive Goods***

Friedman, Sam. 2012. "Cultural Omnivores or *Culturally Homeless*? Exploring the Shifting Cultural Identities of the Upwardly Mobile." *Poetics* 40: 467-489.

Griswold, Wendy. 2000. *Bearing Witness: Readers, Writers, and the Novel in Nigeria*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1, 2, and 4.

\*Press, Andrea L. 1994. "The Sociology of Cultural Reception: Notes Toward an Emerging Paradigm." Pages 221-245 in *The Sociology of Culture: Emerging Theoretical Perspectives*, edited by Diana Crane. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

Roscigno, Vincent J. and William F. Danaher. 2001. "Media and Mobilization: The Case of Radio and Southern Textile Worker Insurgency, 1929 to 1934." *American Sociological Review* 66: 21-48.

Xu, Bin. 2021. *Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory*. Cambridge University Press forthcoming. Selections.

**May 3:                        *Final Questions Posted***

**May 10:                    *Final Answers Due***