

**Sociology 396: Work and Identity**  
**Fall Semester 2006**

This class looks at the different kinds of things people do for a living in America today, and how they affect group and individual identities. After discussing the unique nature of work, leisure, and consumption in capitalist societies, it introduces the idea of labor market segmentation – and hence inequality – based on class, race, and gender. It then compares factory, service, and managerial work, looking at how power, group affiliation, and inequality play out in various ways. The course then focuses on recent changes in the U.S. connected to processes of globalization, looking at how immigration, outsourcing, and computer technology have affected race and gender inequality, and the problems facing organized labor. The class also considers the nature of stigmatized and illegal work.

In addition to class attendance and participation, you are required to write a 15-20 page paper due on the last day of reading week, **Wednesday December 14**.

The options for the paper are;

- (a) **An ethnography.** This must be based on considerable direct experience in some kind of work (in the present or the past). Doing something a few times isn't enough. You'll have to provide as much interesting detail as possible.
- (b) **A quantitative analysis.** This must use Stata, preferably doing a regression to test a clearly specified hypothesis.
- (c) **A theoretical argument.** This must be built primarily around existing theoretical works and arguments; you can't just say what you personally think.
- (d) **A history.** This can be based on primary or secondary sources or a combination of the two. If it's secondary sources it must synthesize several, not just summarize one work.
- (e) **An extended literature review.** The idea is to lay out a map of a particular topic, summarizing the main authors, approaches, and issues. You will have to get as many sources as possible, getting books on Summit, sifting through JSTOR, and looking at sociological journals from the last five years (these are not always on JSTOR).
- (f) **An analysis of interviews.** This must involve five or more interviews for which you have taken detailed notes. Direct quotes or précis must appear somewhere.

For all of these options except (5) it is imperative that you refer in some way to discussions and readings from class.

There will be four required steps;

- (1) **Due in class Monday September 18.** A proposal of one or more possible projects with a brief outline of what the topic is, why you are interested in it, and what it would involve you doing.
- (2) **Due in class Friday October 13.** An initial progress report of what you have been doing and what you plan to do, including an appropriate bibliography of sources you intend to use.
- (3) **Due in class Friday November 17.** A first draft, however rough, including an outline of how you think the final paper will be organized.
- (4) **Due at the end of Wednesday December 14.** Final draft.

## Readings

All readings are required. They are coded as follows;

(B) Book on reserve. The books we are going to read most of (Graham, Leidner, Jackall, Waldinger et. al., and Fantasi/Voss) are also available for purchase at the bookstore. Also, you could probably get them cheaper used online at Amazon.com

(C) Copy on reserve.

(J) Available in pdf format on JSTOR.

### **Week 1**

Mon. Aug. 28

#### Introduction.

Wed. Aug. 30

#### Wages, Profits, & Consumption.

- E. P. Thompson "Time, Work Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism" *Past and Present* 38:56-97 (J) [or Ch. 6 of *Customs in Common* (B) HN398.E5 T48] 44pp

Fri. Sept. 1

- Karl Marx "Estranged Labor," and "Wage Labor and Capital," 70-81 and 203-217 in *The Marx-Engels Reader* (B) HX39.5 .A224 27pp
- Juliet Schorr "A Life at Hard Labor," 43-82 in *The Overworked American* (C) (B) HD4904.6 .S36 35pp

### **Week 2**

Mon. Sept. 4

LABOR DAY

Wed. Sept. 6

- Karl Marx "The Two Factors of a Commodity," and "The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof," 302-308 and 319-329 in *The Marx-Engels Reader* 27pp
- Juliet Schorr "Communicating with Commodities," and "The Visible Lifestyle," 27-63 in *The Overspent American* (C) (B) HF5415.33.U6 S36 32pp

Fri. Sept. 8

- Christena Nippert-Eng "Territories of the Self: Recognizing the Home-Work Boundary," 34-104 in *Home and Work* (C) 70pp

### **Week 3**

#### Different Jobs, Different Workers, Different Experiences.

Mon. Sept. 11

- Chris & Charles Tilly "Varied Work, Segmented Work," "Inequality at Work: Hiring," and "Inequality at Work: Wages and Promotion," Chs. 8-10 of *Work Under Capitalism* (C) 66pp

Wed. Sept. 13

- Paul Willis "Elements of a Culture," and "Labor Power, Culture, Class and Institution," Chs. 2 & 4 of *Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs* (B) HD6267 .G7 W54 67pp

Fri. Sept. 15

- Michael Keith Honey “Freedom Struggles at the Point of Production,” Ch.4 of *Black Workers Remember* (C) 39pp

**Week 4**

Mon. Sept. 18

- Ruth Schwartz Cowan “The Invention of Housework,” and “The Roads Not Taken,” Chs.3 & 5 of *More Work for Mother* (C) 68pp

Wed. Sept. 20

- Stephen Lea et. al. “Work,” Ch.6 in *The Individual in the Economy* (C) 37pp

Fri. Sept. 22

- Robert Lane “Learning at Work: Beyond Human Capital,” and “Degradation of Work in the Market?” Chs.13-14 of *The Market Experience* (C) 51pp

**Week 5**

Mon. Sept. 25

Production Work

- Michael Burawoy “Thirty Years of Making Out,” and “The Labor Process as a Game,” Chs. 4 and 5 of *Manufacturing Consent: Changes in the Labor Process Under Monopoly Capitalism* (B) HD6995 .B85 48pp

Wed. Sept. 27

- Laurie Graham Chs. 1-4 of *On the Line at Subaru-Isuzu: The Japanese Model and the American Worker* (B) HD8039.A82 U646 93pp

Fri. Sept. 29

- Laurie Graham Chs. 5-7 of *On the Line at Subaru-Isuzu: The Japanese Model and the American Worker* 60pp

**Week 6**

Mon. Oct. 2

Service Work

- Robin Leidner Chs.1-3 of *Fast Food, Fast Talk* (B) HD8039.I482 U65 84pp

Wed. Oct. 4

- Robin Leidner Chs.4-5 of *Fast Food, Fast Talk* 90pp

Fri. Oct. 6

- Robin Leidner Chs.6-7 of *Fast Food, Fast Talk* 53pp

**Week 7**

Managerial Work

*Mon. Oct. 9*

- Robert Jackall Ch.s 1-3 of *Moral Mazes* (B) HF5387 .J29 67pp

*Wed. Oct. 11*

- Robert Jackall Ch.s 4-5 of *Moral Mazes* 58pp

*Fri. Oct. 13*

- Robert Jackall Ch.s 6-8 of *Moral Mazes* 72pp

**Week 8**

BREAK!

**Week 9**

*Mon. Oct. 23*

Globalization I: Importing Low-Paid Workers

- Roger Waldinger & Michael Lichter Chs.1-4 of *How the Other Half Works: Immigration and the Social Organization of Labor* (B) HD8083.C2 W35 80pp

*Wed. Oct. 25*

- Roger Waldinger & Michael Lichter Chs.5-8 of *How the Other Half Works: Immigration and the Social Organization of Labor* 71pp

*Fri. Oct. 27*

- Roger Waldinger & Michael Lichter Chs.9-12 of *How the Other Half Works: Immigration and the Social Organization of Labor* 78pp

**Week 10**

Globalization II: Exporting Low-Paid Jobs

*Mon. Oct. 30*

- Ruth Milkman Chs. 4 & 5 of *Farewell to the Factory: Auto Workers in the Late Twentieth Century* (C) 87pp

*Wed. Nov. 1*

- Charles Wheelan “Trade and Globalization: The Good News About Asian Sweatshops,” Ch.11 of *Naked Economics* (C) 19pp
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*Fri. Nov. 3*

- Michele Samburd Chs. 4 & 7 of *The Kitchen Spoon’s Handle: Transnationalism and Sri Lanka’s Migrant Housemaids* (B) GN635.S72 G36 42pp

## Week 11

Mon. Nov.6

### Globalization III: Organizing Resistance

- Rick Fantasia and Kim Voss Chs. 1-2 of *Hard Work: Remaking the American Labor Movement* (B) 77pp

Wed. Nov. 8

- Rick Fantasia and Kim Voss Chs. 3-5 of *Hard Work: Remaking the American Labor Movement* (B) 97pp

Fri. Nov 10

- A. R. de Paiva Abreu & J. R. Ramalho “Regional Development and New Labor Strategies: Trade Unions and the New Car Plants in Resende, Brazil” *Research in the Sociology of Work* 11:131-152 (C) 22pp

## Week 12

Mon. Nov. 13

### Brave New Worlds or SOS?

- Seán Ó’Riain “Net-Working for a Living: Irish Software Developers in the Global Workplace” Ch.6 in *Global Ethnography* (C) 26pp
- Magnus Bergquist “Open Source Software Development as Gift Culture: Work and Identity Formation in an Internet Community” Ch. 11 of *New Technologies at Work* (C) 16pp

Wed. Nov. 15

- Vicki Smith “The Fractured World of the Temporary Worker” *Social Problems* 45:411-430 (J) 16pp
- Jackie Rogers Chs. 5 & 6 of *Temps: The Many Faces of the Changing Workplace* (C) 64pp

Fri. Nov. 17

- Eric Brende “Growing” Section II of *Better Off: Flipping the Switch on Technology* (C) 97pp

## Week 13

Mon. Nov. 20

- Mary C. Noonan et al “Pay Differences Among the Highly Trained: Cohort Differences and the Sex Gap in Lawyers’ Earnings” *Social Forces* 84:853-872 (J) 12pp
- Francine Blau & Lawrence Kahn “The Gender Pay Gap: Going, Going, but Not Gone” Ch. 2 in *The Declining Significance of Gender?* (C) 25pp
- Heidi Hartmann et. al. “How Much Progress in Closing the Long-Term Earnings Gap?” Ch. 5 in *The Declining Significance of Gender?* (C) 26pp

Wed. Nov. 22

- Michael Bittman, et al “When Does Gender Trump Money? Bargaining and Time in Household Work” *American Journal of Sociology* 109:186-214(J) 27pp
- Charles Mueller et. al. “Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: Unanticipated Consequences of Modern Social Control in Organizations” *Work and Occupations* 28:411-446. (C) 35pp

Fri. Nov. 24

THANKSGIVING

**Week 14**

Mon. Nov. 27

Non-Work and Stigmatized Work

- Teresa Gowan “Excavating ‘Globalization’ from Street Level: Homeless Men Recycle Their Past.” Ch.3 of *Global Ethnography* (C) 28pp
- David Snow and Leon Anderson “Wage Labor and Institutionalized Assistance,” Ch.4 of *Down on Their Luck: A Study of Homeless Street People* (C) 34pp

Wed. Nov. 29

- Valerie Jenness “From Sex as Sin to Sex as Work: COYOTE and the Reorganization of Prostitution as a Social Problem” *Social Problems* 37: 403-417 (J) 15pp
- Lisa Sanchez “Boundaries of Legitimacy: Sex, Violence, Citizenship, and Community in a Local Sexual Economy” *Law & Social Inquiry* 22:543-580 (J) 34pp

Fri. Dec. 1

- Newman, K. S. “No Shame in (This) Game” Ch.4 of *No Shame in My Game: Working Poor in the Inner City* (C) (B) HV4045 . N48 23pp
- Philippe Bourgois and Mark Granovetter “Crackhouse Management” pp.77-113 of *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio* (C) 36pp