



SOCIOLOGY 134: Sociology of Film
Winter 2015, TWTh 1:20-6p

Riverside Hall 1002

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Course Description:

Students will be encouraged to develop a sociological understanding by linking the personal histories found in films to larger social structures. The evolution of important social issues will be discussed by analyzing the sociological content of major motion pictures. The socio-historical development of the film industry is also examined to explore its ideological role in challenging and perpetuating various forms of inequality and other injustices.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Understand and apply sociological concepts
- 2) Develop and use the sociological imagination to engage familiar content
- 3) Become critical media consumers
- 4) Develop analytical skills

Required Books:

Hollywood Goes to High School by Robert Bulman

Grading:

Evaluation will be based on exams and participation. Opportunities for extra credit are also available.

Papers: Each class you will be required to analyze each of the movies discussed using the class articles (you can use any of the articles). This is due the following class period. Papers are only 1-2 pages. You can analyze any aspect of the movie, but you must conduct a sociological analysis of the movie, use the articles to support them (and cite at least 2 of them using ASA citation; include a reference page at the end) and use examples from the movie to support your points. The more structured and focused the paper, the better. 80%

Short Class Assignments: Throughout the class you will be asked for responses to questions. Some of these will be submitted online, but be prepared to discuss these ideas in class. The intention is to generate ideas for discussion but also will help you to focus your papers. 10%

Participation: This includes your involvement in small groups and larger class discussions. Attendance is part of your participation grade. You must also attend the full class to get credit. With so few classes, missing one class can impact your grade. 10%

Grading Scale:

93 and over	A	90 to 92%	A-	88 to 89%	B+
83 to 87%	B	80 to 82%	B-	78 to 79%	C+
73 to 77%	C	70 to 72%	C-	68 to 69%	D+
63 to 67%	D	60 to 62%	D-	59% or less	F

Attendance:

Class attendance for the entire class is expected and will affect your participation grade.

Academic Ethics:

Plagiarism and cheating will result in a failing grade and the student will be reported to the appropriate school authorities. Do not turn in work that was originally performed for another course. Treat each individual in the class respectfully.

Disabilities:

If you need accommodations due to a documented disability, please notify me in the first week of class.

WARNING:

Some movies shown in this class have an R or NC17 rating. These films may contain some adult material such as, bad language, violence, sex or portrayals of drug use.

SCHEDULE:

Date:	Topic:	Film:	Readings:
January 6	Introduction to class, Sociological of film	<i>This Film is Not Yet Rated</i>	None
January 7	Social experiences and social relationships through film	<i>About a Boy</i>	Bulman, Ch. 1 Brummet
January 8	Gender in Film	<i>Chasing Amy or Serendipity</i>	Stanley Johnson & Holmes
January 13	Family and Film Emotional Realism	<i>Life as a House</i>	Tanner, et al. Pouliot & Paul
January 14	TBD		
January 15	TBD		
January 20	TBD		
January 21	TBD		
January 22	TBD		

