

**SOCIOLOGY 110: AMERICAN SOCIETY**  
**Fall 2010**

*Professors:* Dan Chambliss, Steve Ellingson, George Hobor, Jenny Irons, Yvonne Zylan

**Overview:** American Society is designed to provide you with a broad introduction to sociology, using contemporary America as a case study. We have selected a series of varied, engaging, challenging books to explore the field. The course consists of two weekly lectures, given in rotation by the members of the Sociology Department, according to their expertise and interests, and a weekly discussion section led by “your” professor. Grading in the course is, as you can see below, largely based on three oral exams.

**Required Texts:** We urge you to buy all of the course texts, which are listed below in the order we will be reading them. They are available, in paperback editions, at the Hamilton College bookstore and from multiple sources online. There will also be copies on reserve in the library.

Luker, *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*  
Lareau, *Unequal Childhoods*  
Stevens, *Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites*  
Waters, *Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities*  
Grazian, *On the Make*  
Newman, *Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings*  
Rubin, *Self-Made Men*  
McAdam, *Freedom Summer*  
Chambliss, *Beyond Caring: Hospitals, Nurses and the Social Organization of Ethics*  
Pollan, *In Defense of Food*  
Small, *Villa Victoria*

**Oral Exams:** All students in all sections will take oral exams. Exams are 15 minutes long, one-on-one with your section professor, in the professor's office. Exam procedures are as follows:

1. You will receive a list of six questions to prepare one week in advance
2. You may work together to prepare these questions
3. You will be asked three of the six questions
4. Your three questions will be determined by the roll of a die during the exam.
5. You will have five minutes to answer each question
6. Your professor may ask questions to clarify your answer

**Grading.** Your final grade will be weighted as follows:

Participation: 10%, First Exam 20%, Second Exam 30%, Final Exam, 40%

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Book</u>	<u>Professor</u>
1	Aug 26 (Thurs)	Intro	Chambliss
2	Aug 31 (Tues)	<i>Abortion</i> , read pp. 1-39; skim pp. 40-91; read pp. 92-157	Zylan
	Sept 2 (Thurs)	<i>Abortion</i> , 158-215	Zylan
3	Sept 7 (Tues)	<i>Unequal Childhoods</i> , Chs. 1-5	Gilbert
	Sept 9 (Thurs)	<i>Unequal Childhoods</i> , Chs. 6, 8, 10 & 12	Gilbert

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Book</u>	<u>Professor</u>
4	Sept 14 (Tues)	<i>Creating a Class</i> , 1-94	Ellingson
	Sept 16 (Thurs)	<i>Creating a Class</i> , 95-264	Hobor
5	Sept 21 (Tues)	<i>Black Identities</i> , 1-15, 44-49, 62-89, 94-139, 140-191	Irons
	Sept 23 (Thurs)	<i>Black Identities</i> , 243-344	Irons
6	Sept 28 (Tues)	ORAL EXAM #1	No Class
	Sept 30 (Thurs)	ORAL EXAM #1	Ellingson, “Culture/Structure”
7	Oct 5 (Tues)	<i>On the Make</i> , the first four chapters of the book.	Ellingson
	Oct 7 (Thurs)	<i>On the Make</i> , remainder of the book.	Chambliss
8	Oct 12 (Tues)	<i>Rampage</i> , read pp 3-126; skim pp 127-176; then skim pp. 229-270, looking especially at topics covered and charts.	Chambliss
	Oct 14 (Thurs)	FALL BREAK	No Class
9	Oct 19 (Tues)	<i>Self-Made Men</i> , Chs. 1-3	Zylan
	Oct 21 (Thurs)	<i>Self-Made Men</i> , Ch. 4 – End.	Zylan
10	Oct 25 (Mon)	Bob Moses talk in evening	
	Oct 26 (Tues)	<i>Freedom Summer</i> , 3-115	Irons
	Oct 28 (Thurs)	<i>Freedom Summer</i> , 116-160, 233-240	Irons
11	Nov 2 (Tues)	<i>Beyond Caring</i> , 1-89	Ellingson
	Nov 4 (Thurs)	<i>Beyond Caring</i> , 90-187	Chambliss

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Book</u>	<u>Professor</u>
12	Nov 9 (Tues)	ORAL EXAM #2	No Class
	Nov 11 (Thurs)	ORAL EXAM #2	Hobor, “Corporations”
13	Nov 16 (Tues)	<i>In Defense of Food</i> , 1-136	Chambliss
	Nov 18 (Thurs)	<i>In Defense of Food</i> , 137-201	Chambliss
	Nov 22 – 26	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
14	Nov 30 (Tues)	<i>Villa Victoria</i> , Chs. 1-4	Hobor
	Dec 2 (Thurs)	<i>Villa Victoria</i> , Ch. 5-Conclusion	Hobor
15	Dec 7 (Tues)	Wrap up	All
	Dec 9 (Thurs)	Exam Review	All
	Dec 10 (Fri)	CLASSES END	
	Dec 13 – 17	FINAL ORAL EXAMS	

Please, NO LAPTOPS OR CELLPHONES in class. (Special accommodations fall under the disabilities policy stated below.)

Be on time for class. Coming in late is distracting for everyone, and the student may be asked to leave.

### ***Accommodations for Students with Disabilities***

The College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and believe you may require one for this course, **please contact your section Professor within the first two weeks of the term.** You will need to provide Associate Dean Allen Harrison (Elihu Root House; ext. 4021) appropriate documentation of your disability.