

**SOCIOLOGY OF OCCUPATIONS
SOCIOLOGY 2800**

Dr. B. J. Gallagher III
Spring, 2007
TR 11:30-12:45
Bartley 1001

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COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is about the social psychology of work. The specific topics discussed are very diverse. Studies are included on attitudes toward work as they have changed historically, as they vary between members of different occupational groups and people of diverse political orientation, as well as the behavior of lottery winners. The question of how individuals are socialized both for an occupation and within it is treated by tracing the causal effects of child-rearing, religion, sibling position, race, ethnicity, gender and social class.

The interpersonal aspects of on-the-job activity are viewed from the social psychological perspective of role theory. Examples include restaurant workers, chiropractors, cabdrivers, military chaplains and a few dozen other jobs. We also discuss jobs from various points on the occupational prestige continuum, from the professional, to the executive, to the blue collar work roles.

Readings include how Americans rank jobs in terms of overall satisfaction and stress. There are also specific readings on the complexities of law and medicine as well as projections for the coming job market.

It is the main purpose of this course to develop a broad understanding of the many ways in which occupation affects people's lives. Usually this understanding comes in fragmented ways as a person enters the occupational world and learns from personal experience. Hopefully, this lengthy, often painful, process can be shortened by introducing college students to the social psychology of the occupational world before they enter it.

To make the course more realistic and interesting, prominent guest lecturers appear in class throughout the semester. Although the specific speakers vary from year to year, they include people from criminal law, medicine, dentistry, finance, criminal justice, teaching, TV broadcasting, international business, public relations and human services. Occasionally recent Villanova alumni who are now dealing with graduate school come and talk about their experiences. In addition, there are films which run the occupational gamut from the trials of medical school to the complexities of men and women working together.

Required Books and Readings

- (1) Teresa A. Sullivan and Randy Hodson, The Social Organization of Work (Belmont, California: Wadsworth Press, 2002).

Please note that the lecture material just generally overlaps the topics in the book. Both the material from the lectures and from the book are fair game for the mid-term and final exams.

- (2) You will be provided with readings on current issues in Occupational Sociology. All of these are available on WebCT. They are to be read by the date noted on **page 5 of the syllabus**.

Examinations and Grades

The mid-term examination (see Important Dates Sheet) will probably cover the first 5 sections of the syllabus. The final exam will probably cover the last 5 sections of the syllabus. Each examination is worth approximately 40 percent of the final grade. The other 10 percent is based on class participation and the quality of the questions for the guest speakers (See note below on Guest Speaker Questions). Thus, your final grade is determined by:

1. Mid-Term and Final Exams
2. Essay Questions for the Guest Speakers
3. Class Participation

Class Attendance

Attendance is rarely a problem in this class. Most students find the subject matter interesting and want to come. However, sometimes there is a deviant or two. These are the people who do poorly in the course because they did not benefit from the lectures. Consequently, I take attendance so that there will be a record of who these people are. If they complain about failing an exam, I can point to their absences as a likely cause.

Excessive absences significantly reduce student learning. Therefore, unexcused absences in excess of 4 classes will result in a lowering of the course grade by half of a grade (e.g. - B+ reduced to B).

Guest Speaker Questions

Each of you will provide 2 to 4 well thought out questions for each of the guest speakers. These will be collected one week in advance of the guest speaker's appearance. They are to be typed, in perfect grammar, with your name and the name of the guest speaker at the top of the page. **All questions must be handed in on time. No excuses!**

Important Dates

See attached list.

Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday - 1:30 - 2:30 P.M.

These and Other Times by Appointment. (I am more than than willing to meet you at any time that is mutually convenient for both of us.)

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Overview of the Sociology of Occupations
 - Classifying Jobs
 - Multiple Careers
 - Occupational Structure
 - Nature of Work
 - Occupational CorrelatesBook - Chapters 1 and 2

- II. Attitudes Toward Work
 - Historical Changes
 - Differences between Occupations
 - Political Orientation
 - Lottery Winners
 - Inheriting MoneyBook - Chapter 4

- III. Some Theoretical Perspectives
 - Role Theory
 - Reference Group Theory
 - Marxist TheoryBook – Chapter 6

- IV. Occupational Profiles
 - Professionals
 - Executives
 - White Collar Workers
 - Blue Collar Workers
 - The Graduate School ExperienceBook - Chapters 11 and 12

- V. Role Theory
 - Marginality
 - Examples: Cab Drivers - Stock Brokers - Military Chaplains –
Restaurant Workers - Soviet Physicians - Chiropractors – DruggistsBook – Chapter 13

- VI. Occupational Socialization and Choice

- Need for Achievement
- Effects of Religion
- Family Variables
- I.Q.
- The "Big Picture"
- Personality and Job Characteristics
- Occupational Interest Tests

- VII. Gender, Race and the Workplace
- Between Gender Differences
 - Occupational Discrimination
 - Workforce Issues/Sexual Harassment
 - Theories of Gender Inequality
 - Future Patterns
 - Meaning of Race and Ethnicity
 - Forms of Discrimination
 - Theories of Racial and Ethnic Inequality
- Book - Chapter 5

- VIII. Jobs and Stress/Deviant Behavior
- Stress and Mental Health
 - Job Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction
 - Career Changes
 - Losing Your Job
 - Medical Quackery
 - Suicide
- Book - Chapter 14

- IX. Work and the Family
- Changing Roles
 - Work, Family and Depression
 - Family Leave
- Book - Chapter 3

- X. Jobs for the Future
- Book - Chapter 17

OCCUPATIONS' READINGS – SPRING 2007
(On WebCT)

<u>Read By</u>	<u>Article</u>
1/25	Are you unhappy with your job? Join the crowd
1/30	How U.S. policies are costing America jobs
2/01	Making millions at the top of the corporate ladder
2/06	The Coming Job Boom
2/06	The 100 Best-Paying Jobs for College Graduates
2/08	New MDs shun once-prestigious fields
2/15	Teacher Salaries Could Reach Six Figures
2/20	Executive Pay – Varying standards are used to justify what bosses make
2/22	Health + Science: The Art of Medicine
2/27	Why Lawyers are Miserable (And Why You Love It)
2/27	A Psychiatrist is Slain, and a Sad Debate Deepens
3/15	250 Jobs Ranked by Stress
3/22	250 Jobs - Overall Rankings
3/27	An oath that Hippocrates could not have imagined
4/10	8 Hour Work Day
4/12	Women Gaining in Workplace
4/12	Sex Segregation by Occupation (Charts)
4/17	Researcher has new theory on women and harassment
4/19	Modernizing the Mob
4/26	H.M.O.'s
4/26	Gun for Hire – Medical experts now face review by their peers
5/03	Of Madness and Writerly Genius

11 – Before Mid-Term
11 – After Mid-Term
22 - Total

