BRITISH CULTURE & SOCIETY
SOCL 4883/4893; SUMMER 2015

“The fascination of sociology lies in the fact that its perspective makes us see in a new light the very world in which we have lived all our lives...The sociologist does not look at phenomena that nobody else is aware of. But he looks at the same phenomena in a different way.”
-Peter Berger

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Required Text:
(Used copies can be purchased online through amazon.com; half.com; barnesandnoble.com. This textbook can also be rented from chegg.com for approximately $20). The ‘a la carte’ (loose leaf) edition is a lot cheaper and can simply be put in a binder. See picture of text below. Additional readings will be sent via email during May and June 2015.

Supplies needed: camera, paper, notebook, and pens/pencils. If you have a laptop, I strongly encourage you to bring it. If you do not own one, I might suggest getting one, but by no means is it required to buy one if you do not own one.
Optional supplies: video camera, personal journal. You do not need to have a background in sociology to enroll in this course.

***Join our Facebook page once officially enrolled! Find us at: British Studies Sociology 2015

Course Information
This course will take a comparative institutional approach to understanding British culture and society. That is, we will be comparing social institutions in Britain (i.e. government, marriage/families, media, religion, sport, etc.) with our knowledge and understanding of those institutions in the U.S. Other topics to be examined comparatively are sexuality, gender, immigration, deviance/criminality, and even the culture of food. Consistent with the quote from Berger above, we will use our heightened perception as strangers (i.e. your sociological imagination) in a new land to understand those social phenomena which are normally difficult to uncover due to their “everyday” nature. Our modes of investigation will include first hand experience, class reading and discussion, expert lectures, and field trips.

***Note: This syllabus is subject to change at any time. You will be notified of all changes.
Class will be a time for discussion, lecture, and activity. Your participation will be expected. Sociology is unique because of its ability to integrate information from many different sources. It will be crucial that you become one of those sources during this semester. In other words, you will be expected to synthesize information from your background and experiences with the readings. In this course you will gain both a sociological framework with which to think about the world and the ability to communicate those thoughts.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify and understand key sociological concepts (e.g. society, culture, sociological imagination, socialization, norms, etc.) and apply them to British society.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate and analyze perspectives and values of British social life.
3. Students will demonstrate an ability to articulate and analyze the following concerning British culture: social norms, marriage & family, gender & sexuality, education, religion, ethnic minorities, social status/hierarchy, crime/deviance, and the mass media.

### Course Format, Assignments, and Grading Scale

The format of this class will be a combination of lecture, class discussion, guest speakers, and field trips. Exams and assignments are listed below. Keep in mind, this work is for 6 hours worth of upper-level credit.

1. 4 Journal entries + Final Video Journal: 150pts (12.5%)
2. 1 Presentation: 75pts (6.25%)
3. 1 Participant Observation: 75pts (6.25%)
4. 1 Quiz: 75pts (6.25%)
5. 1 Final Exam: 150pts (12.5%)
6. Participation: 75pts (6.25%)
7. Final Research Paper: 600pts (50%)

### Grading Scale: 1200 total possible pts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1080 – 1200</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>960 – 1079</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>840 – 959</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>720 – 839</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>719 or below</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
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### Methods of Evaluation

**Journal: (150 points total)**

- Your journal will be turned in weekly for a total of 4 times. Each journal entry is worth 25 points for a total of 100 points. The remaining 50 points will be earned by creating a “final video journal” (more directions on this part below). In your journal entries, you will be reflecting on and reacting to how you felt and what you thought about the week’s experiences, as well as applying the material learned in class, guest lectures, and field trips and from the assigned reading. **This journal will be in electronic format, meaning you will type your journal entries and then email your journal entries to me. Journal entries will be due to me via email each Thursday by 11:59PM London time.**

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What I expect in your journals:

1. **Formatting:** Your responses must be typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins all around. Name, course, and date belong in the upper right hand corner.
2. Tell me about your experiences in this program (personal, classroom, or otherwise), particularly, the ones that stand out most to you.
3. Implementation of media read (more details once provided in London)
4. Visual sociology: journal must include pictures (more details provided once in London)
5. How are these experiences related sociologically? (i.e. this is where you will apply concepts/theories learned in class and from readings to what you’re seeing/doing in London.)
6. Length is not of concern. Journal entries are about content and understanding. Length will come with thorough explanation.
7. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation count

**Final Video Journal:** Ultimately, you will use your daily journals and photos to create a **final video journal.** What this means is that you will use your entries AND photos to create a video presentation using an online program called “Animoto” or you can use “iMovie” (or really you can use any video creator). You will use your chosen program to create your own presentation through use of photos, text, and sound (music). Concerning music, you are to use music that is appropriate to what is being shown—in other words, the sound should match the pictures and your personality. This is meant to be what we call in Texas (my home state) a “TWO-FER”!

This project is for course credit AND it will be something you can treasure for a lifetime and can share with friends and family. The video diary will be due by one week after we return: Saturday August 8, 2015. Of course, you may always turn this in earlier if you like (many opt to turn this in before we leave to come home).

**One Presentation:** (75 points)

- You will be required to visit one art museum venue and one regular museum venue to complete this assignment.
  1. Art museum options (choose only ONE): the National Gallery, Tate Modern, or the Tate Britain.
     - You will be instructed to choose **one** painting by an artist that intrigues you the most from your venue of choice. You will then do your own research to learn more about this artist and painting and what it was about that particular time period that influenced his/her work.
  2. Regular museum options (choose only ONE): the British Museum or the Museum of London.
     - You will choose **one** exhibit that interests you the most and you will relate it sociologically (more instructions will be given once in London).
  3. Based on your research for your art piece and exhibit of choice, you will present your findings to me and the class, which should be between 5 and 10 minutes. Date: Tentatively set for July 29 (subject to change)

**Participant Observation:** (75 points)

- London is your very own personal social laboratory—there are so many places to choose to do this assignment. Some examples are Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, Harrods, the tube, any museum, etc. No student will observe the same location. To prevent overlap, your location must be approved by me in advance. You will **choose your location by July 9** and it is first come, first serve, meaning if you choose a location someone else has already chosen, you’ll have to choose a different location. Further instructions will be given on the first day of class. This assignment will be **due by 11:59PM July 23rd London time.**

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**Preconceived notions are the locks on the door to wisdom.”**

-Merry Browne

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I Quiz (75 points)
- You will be quizzed on the information you will be required to read before departure and while in London. This quiz will focus on definitional concepts and theories and will be in multiple choice format. All disciplines have particular jargon that is necessary—the purpose of this quiz is to make sure we are all on the ‘same page’ as learning sociologists.

Class Participation: (75 points total)
- This class will not be successful without your participation in actual class. Participation includes asking questions during field trips and when we have guest speakers, providing insight during class, as well as participating during discussions in class. Please note—shyness is no exception to this policy. See grading scale below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Assessment Indicators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67-75 (A)</td>
<td>Fully participated in each and every discussion as called upon or in a voluntary fashion (asking questions/contributing to the discussion) consistent with the educational goals of the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-66 (B)</td>
<td>In most cases participated in discussions as called upon or in a voluntary fashion (asking questions/contributing to the discussion) consistent with the educational goals of the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52-59 (C)</td>
<td>Generally participated in discussions as called upon or in a voluntary fashion (asking questions/contributing to the discussion) consistent with the educational goals of the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-51 (D)</td>
<td>Occasionally participated in discussions as called upon or in a voluntary fashion (asking questions/contributing to the discussion) consistent with the educational goals of the course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>00-44 (F)</td>
<td>Rarely or failed to participate when called upon or volunteer in a fashion (asking questions/contributing to the discussion) consistent with the educational goals of the course.</td>
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Final Exam: (150 points total)
- Your exam will be on the last day of class and will be an essay exam. Everything covered in and out of the classroom may potentially be used in answering your questions. An in-class review will be provided.

Final Research Paper: (500 points total)
- Each student is required to submit a research paper of that student’s own original work. The paper is to answer a research question (or questions) that pertains to a chosen social issue in the United Kingdom in a literature review format. Please note this is not a comparison paper and will only focus on the United Kingdom. The topic/research questions must be agreed upon by each student and the professor by July 23. I will work with each of you individually to hone down your area of interest and turn them into workable research questions.
  1.) Stylistic Format: You are required to use APA style formatting for this paper. Use the following website to learn APA style: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)
  2.) Paper Proposal: A formal proposal must be submitted to me by 11:59PM Georgia time—Monday August 10, 2015 via email. This document should be no more than two pages in length. The proposal should contain an introduction to your approved topic, the research question(s), and a list of at least five appropriate sources. Your sources should be formatted in APA style that you will use in your final paper.
  3.) Final Draft: The final draft of your paper is due to me via turnitin.com no later than 11:59PM (Georgia time) Friday, September 5, 2015. ***Note, I will NOT accept your final paper without a proposal, nor will I accept an emailed copy*** The final draft must be double-spaced and typed in 12 point Times New Roman,

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1” margins on all 4 sides, and between 10-12 pages in length, not including title page, references, graphs/charts, and appendices. You must include a clear introduction to the subject matter, clearly stated research questions, a literature review, analysis of the problem, and a conclusion. The paper must be carefully proofread to eliminate all spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. A ‘grading rubric’ will be provided once we are in London. Of course, should you have questions, do not hesitate to ask me.

**LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED. NO EXCUSES. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Incomplete policy:** Incompletes will only be given in the case of emergencies documented and approved by both the course professor and the director of the British Studies Program. Please contact your professor in case of an emergency.

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**Classroom Expectations**

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** You are both teacher and student in this class, thus, your prompt attendance is imperative. Without being in class, you will not learn much, and you will not be able to teach us what you know. One letter grade will be deducted for each class session missed (tardiness will be counted as an absence). For example, if your grade in the class is an 88, and you missed a morning class session, your final grade will be a 78. Class attendance involves more than physical presence. You are expected to contribute to our discussions and give your fellow classmates, myself, and any guests your fullest attention.

**DRESS CODE:** As a student in this course, you are a representative of your university and your country. Some of the field trips we will be taking require formal clothing such as slacks, knee length skirts or longer, dress shirts, and dress shoes. Be sure you pack at least 1 or 2 such outfits for formal occasions. You will also need a few business casual outfits. You will be notified the evening before of what type of attire to wear: casual, business casual, or professional. You will not be allowed to join us should you arrive in inappropriate attire for designated field trips or guest speakers, and will be recorded as an absence and will be reflective in your grade. Please note that even when it is casual dress, revealing clothing, short shorts, cut-offs, holes in your pants, etc. are not allowed. Nonetheless, be sure to pack plenty of clothes you are comfortable in and especially comfortable shoes! We do A LOT of walking 😊

**BEHAVIOR:** Perhaps most importantly, the issues we deal with in this class are often seen as controversial and you may be exposed to arguments you do not agree with through the readings, discussion, or lectures. As this is a sociology course, it will be wise for you to utilize your sociological imagination to view the world objectively in order to understand how it operates. You are encouraged and expected to voice your opinion about these issues, but I also expect you to support your arguments with evidence. Moreover, I expect students, as well as myself, to create a comfortable class environment by sharing ideas, observations, and questions in a respectful manner. Words or actions that result in hostility or tension in the classroom will not be tolerated. In discussing controversial issues and topics students are expected to exercise maturity, sensitivity, and respect in their language and behavior. Additionally, cell phones are strictly prohibited in the classroom (and may only be used on field trips for pictures). Use of cell phone in class will result in a letter grade deduction for each use AND ejection from the classroom. Working on other projects is also strictly prohibited.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Cheating in all forms is strictly prohibited. All parties involved in the submission of plagiarized or copied work will be found equally guilty of academic misconduct under all circumstances, be they intended or unintended. It is the responsibility of the student to know, understand, and comply with policies on cheating and plagiarism. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism include zero for the assignment, failing the course, and/or expulsion from the British Studies Program. Evidence of cheating will also be reported to the Dean of your home university with the possibility of further consequences. There are no exceptions to this policy. Please use the following website to learn more about plagiarism. [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/)

***All final research papers WILL BE turned in through turnitin.com. Instructions will be provided at a later date.***

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Students with Disabilities

By university policy, students with disabilities who seek special accommodations must register with their “home campus” Student Disabilities office. Students who have been approved for accommodations will be given a memorandum from their home campus Disability office to give to each of their professors advising of the special accommodations needed in their cases. If you have been approved for special accommodations, please speak to the professor before the departure and provide all relevant documentation in advance.

Tentative topics & Field trips

(These are based on previous semesters in London and are not guaranteed for this course)

- Sociology of Music: British Music Experience at the O2
- Sociology of Education: Department for Education
- Sociology of Media: Tour of BBC and possible guest speaker
- Government: tour of Parliament; tour of courts
- Imperial War Museum in Duxford
- Punting in Cambridge
- Issues in Family: domestic violence (Women’s Resource Center), childhood (possible guest speaker)
- Additional cultures: British Museum
- Sociology of Art: National Gallery
- Sociology of Deviance/Criminology: British Surveillance, White Collar Crime, visit Youth Action Diversity Trust, Guest speaker: Mental Health, Stress, Crime, & Disorder, Guest speaker: Child Trafficking, Guest speaker: Children and Child Protection in Britain, Galleries of Justice in Nottingham
- Sociology of Serial Killers: Jack the Ripper walking tour
- Sociology of Religion: Canterbury Cathedral
- Sociology of Sport: Wimbledon
- Social class: West End play—Blood Brothers
- Public Health and Immigration: walking tour of East End or guest speaker
- Consumerism: Harrods

“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.”

-Franklin Thomas

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