

**SYLLABUS**  
**HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS – SOCI 4300-01 (80908)**  
**Fall 2007**

**Instructor:** Dr. Paul Luken

**Office:** Pafford 236

**Office hours:** M & W 1-5:00; T & Th 1:45-2:45

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**Class time and place:** TTh 12:30-1:45; Pafford 110

**Required reading:**

*Redesigning the American Dream: Gender, Housing, and Family Life (revised and expanded)* by Dolores Hayden. WW Norton, 2002.

*Tell Them Who I Am: The Lives of Homeless Women* by Elliot Liebow. Penguin, 1995.

**Course description:** Sociological examination of the places in which we live, how we are housed, and what it is like to live without a place to call home. The focus is housing development in the United States throughout the twentieth century with special attention to its association with economic, gender, race, and family relations, along with public policy. Consideration is given to problems and controversies surrounding “the American dream”: segregation, overcrowding, affordability, urbanization/suburbanization, accessibility, and alternative housing. Special attention will be given to the problem of homelessness.

**Course Objectives for students:**

1. Students will describe the social phenomena of housing and homelessness from a social institutional perspective
2. Students will appraise contemporary housing practices
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of contemporary housing related issues and controversies (affordability, environmental degradation, waste, overcrowding, accessibility)
4. Students will assess the associations between housing practices and economic, gender and race/ethnic relations.

-- Attainment of these objectives will be assessed through exams, in-class projects and presentations.

**Learning outcomes:** The above objectives, assignments, and class activities contribute to the following departmental learning outcomes:

- to be able to communicate (orally and in writing) how sociology contributes to an understanding of social reality
- understand basic concepts, perspectives, and interpretive applications
- understand the nature of culture and social structure
- understand the diversity of American society
- demonstrate an ability to think critically
- show specific knowledge of the sociological subfield of housing studies

**Grades:** The semester grade will be based on two tests, 8 in-class assignments, a class presentation and proper behavior. There will be a total of 10 in-class assignments and the lowest two grades will be dropped. Points may be deducted for poor attendance or improper behavior. There will be no extra-credit assignments. The following is the point value of each assignment:

100	test 1
100	test 2
80	8 in-class projects
20	preliminary and final presentation proposals
<u>50</u>	<u>presentation</u>
350	total

The following scale is used in grading:

315-350	= A
280-314	= B
245-279	= C
210-244	= D
000-209	= F

- 1. Exams:** Exams will be based on the required readings and all material presented in class. Students are to demonstrate their command of the material. Make-up exams will be given only in extreme circumstances.
- 2. In-class assignments:** There will be 10 unannounced in-class assignments (e.g., group projects, discussion surveys, quizzes). To do well on these assignments, students are advised to keep up with the reading and to study as the semester progresses. Students will not be allowed to make-up these assignments.
- 3. Attendance Policy:** Attendance is expected for all classes and will be necessary for the in-class assignments. Students who arrive late for class will not be permitted to participate in the in-class projects. Attendance during the presentation of student projects is especially important.
- 4. Inappropriate conduct.** Inappropriate conduct, e.g., rudeness toward others, making noise, eating, class disturbances, dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism, will result in a grade reduction or receiving an F for the course. Pagers and cell phones should be turned off and removed from sight unless they are first approved by me.

All students should familiarize themselves with the department's policy on academic integrity: <http://www.westga.edu/~soccrim/AcademicIntegrityPolicy.htm>

Sociology invariably involves discussion of controversial and sensitive topics. We will not shy away from these matters. However, in an academic environment it is important that we show respect for others in our discussions, even when we disagree with their ideas. Conflict surrounding ideas is normal, but we should avoid personal attacks and words and noises which threaten or make people feel unduly uncomfortable.

## Tentative class readings, assignments, tests and holidays schedule

EL = *Tell Them Who I Am*

DH = *Redesigning the American Dream*

Aug. 16	First class – Introduction
Aug. 21	EL, Preface, Introduction, Appendix A, Appendix C
Aug. 23	EL, Chapter 1, “Day by Day”
Aug. 28	EL, Chapter 2, “Work and Jobs”
Aug. 30	EL, Chapter 3, “Family”
Sept. 3	Labor Day Holiday
<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>Preliminary Presentation Proposal Due</b>
Sept. 6	EL, Chapter 4, “The Servers and the Served”
Sept. 11	EL, Chapter 5, “My Friends, My God, Myself”
Sept. 13	EL, Chapter 6, “Making It Together”
Sept. 18	EL, Chapter 7, “Some Thoughts on Homelessness”
<b>Sept. 20</b>	<b>First Test</b>
Sept. 25	DH, Chapter 1, “Housing and American Life”
<b>Sept. 27</b>	<b>Final Presentation Proposal Due</b>
	DH, Chapter 2, “From Ideal City to Dream House”
Oct. 2	DH, Chapter 3, “Awakening from the Dream”
Oct. 4	DH, Chapter 4, “Nurturing: Home, Mom and Apple Pie”
Oct. 9	DH, Chapter 5, “Economics: Getting and Spending”
<b>Oct. 11</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>
Oct. 16	DH, Chapter 7, “Reconstructing Domestic Space”
Oct. 18	DH, Chapter 8, “Domesticating Urban Space”
Oct. 23	DH, Chapter 9, “Beyond the Architecture of Gender”
<b>Oct. 25</b>	<b>Second Test</b>
Oct. 30	Final preparations for presentations
<b>Nov. 1-20</b>	<b>Presentations</b>
<b>Nov. 22</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
<b>Nov. 27-Dec. 4</b>	<b>Presentations</b>

## Class Presentation

The class presentation assignment consists of three separate assignments: the preliminary proposal, the proposal, and the class presentation.

1. The preliminary proposal is a brief statement of your area of interest along with the web cites that you believe you will use to develop your presentation. It should be not more than a couple of sentences in length. It will be presented to the class in order that we may resolve any duplication of topics. I will collect and save the preliminary proposals.
2. The presentation proposal should be one page in length and it should summarize the information that will be presented. The thesis of your presentation should be clearly stated. It should also give the title for your presentation and list all the sources of information that will be used in your presentation.
3. The presentation will be an oral presentation with PowerPoint. It is will be approximately 10 minutes long. Reading the PowerPoint slides to the class is unacceptable. The slides should complement and illustrate what you have to say. It is best to try to follow the 5X5rule for text slides, i.e., five lines per slide by five words per line. Technically distracting presentations should be avoided.

The url's that follow will be great sources of information and they also contain links to other useful sources. You may, however, use other web pages.

Housing and homelessness on the Internet:

- US Department of Housing and Urban Development <http://www.hud.gov/>
- National Association of Realtors <http://www.realtor.org/rmodaily.nsf?OpenDatabase>
- AARP <http://www.aarp.org/research/>
- US Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing.html>
- Fannie Mae <http://www.fanniemae.com/>
- Freddie Mac <http://www.freddiemac.com/>
- National Coalition for the Homeless <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/>.
- Construction Trades, Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Dept. of Labor <http://www.bls.gov/oco/oco1009.htm>
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners <http://www.carpenters.org/>
- The Cohousing Association of the United States <http://www.cohousing.org/>
- Levittown <http://tigger.uic.edu/~pbhales/Levittown/>
- American Memory Project, Library of Congress, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem>
- *Call It Home* <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gsap/projs/call-it-home/html/>
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/housing/HousingDevelopment/index.asp>
- HIP Housing <http://www.hiphousing.org/index.html>
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, AFL-CIO, CLC <http://www.iupat.org/>
- The Mad Housers <http://www.madhousers.org/>
- National Association of Home Builders <http://www.nahb.org/>
- “Realtor Magazine Online” <http://www.realtor.org/rmodaily.nsf?OpenDatabase>