

**AUTUMN 2017**  
**SOCIOLOGY 401B**

5 Credits (I&S, W) : SLN 21207  
Monday/Wednesday 8:30-10:20

# **SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE: VALUES, IDENTITIES, AND ACTIONS**



As anyone who has traveled to a foreign place can tell you, norms, values, customs, and practices can vary between populations. The experienced 'culture shock' offers a moment to reflect on how we often take our own culture for granted. Sociologists ask some fascinating questions involving culture: did cultural values contribute to the rise of capitalism? Is getting high on marijuana a cultural experience? can cultural practices influence with whom we fall in love?

In this course, we will become familiar with the major approaches to the sociological study of culture. We will consider how culture can affect our bodies, our brains, our goals, our actions, and our identities. We will investigate how culture can change and cause changes. Course materials will include classical understandings of culture, but we will mainly focus on contemporary debates and practices in the sociological study of culture. Students will design and execute an original research project using a sociologically-informed approach to some aspect of a culture or subculture. Projects may include fieldwork observations, interviews, or other qualitative methods.

**For more info, contact Instructor Sara Tomczuk**

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