SOC 102, SEC 101
FALL 2008

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES

Pattie Thomas, Ph.D.
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Taught Intro to Sociology, Marriage & Family, Social Problems, Into to Women's Studies and Medical Sociology 1996-2000

Ph.D. University of Florida, 2001
Specialize in Aging, Health & Stigma

Researcher in Canada 2001-2004, Falls Injury Prevention among Older Adults &

Co-hosted, *First Person, Plural* on CFUV FM Radio, Victoria, British Columbia, 2002-2004

Co-Produced, *Cat's Eye*, 2003
(documentary about social capital)

Co-Authored, *Taking Up Space*, 2005
(sociological memoir)

Co-Produced, *The Ample Traveler* project (2004-05)

Non-Academic Experience: Photojournalist, Entrepreneur, Corporate Trainer, Marketing, Media Producer, Graphic Artist

Course Objectives

1. The student will demonstrate a knowledge of how social problems have been identified, perceived and resolved, including how social problems claims are made, who makes social problems claims and how claims become successful.
2. The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the "Sociological Imagination" in the tradition of C. Wright Mills.
3. The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the dominant theoretical paradigms used in Sociology, i.e., *Functionalist*, *Conflict*, and *Symbolic-Interaction*.
4. The student will develop the tools necessary to critically examine their society.

Course Objectives

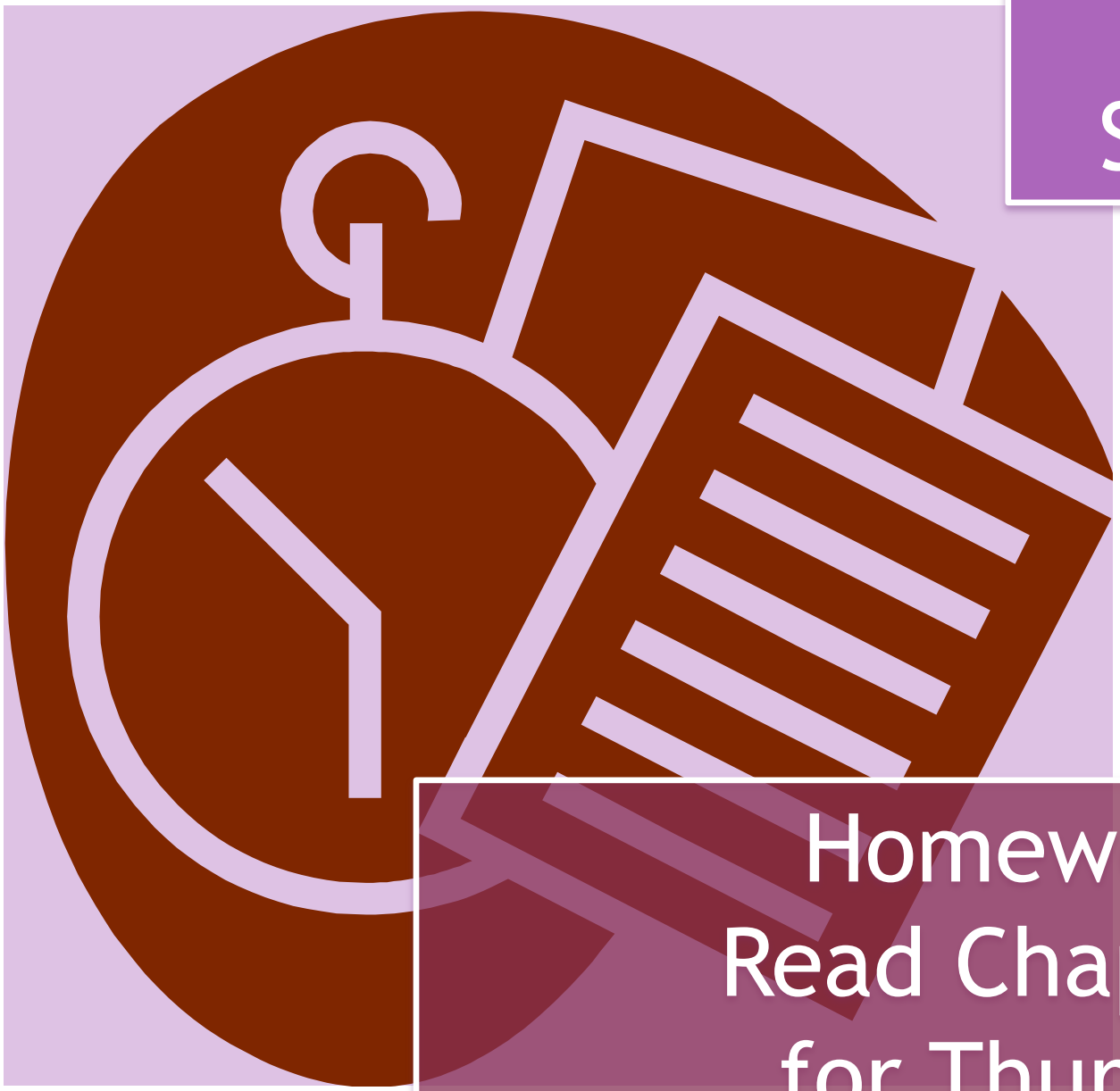
5. The student will be able to distinguish between the *system-blame* and *person-blame* approaches to societal problems.
6. The student will develop a knowledge of how political and economic institutions contribute to social problems.
7. The student will demonstrate an awareness of how the issues of class, race and gender influence the definitions and solutions of social problems.
8. The student will demonstrate a knowledge of social science research methods, data interpretation, and the various ethical issues related to the research process.
9. The student will demonstrate a knowledge of behavior necessary to becoming an effective citizen in contemporary society.

GRADES

100 Points	750 word Theory Paper
100 Points	50 Multiple Choice Mid-Term Exam
200 Points	2 Class Presentations - Debates
100 Points	50 Multiple Choice Final Exam

Extra Credit, up to 25 points is possible for exceptional class participation

A	451 - 500 points
B	401 - 450 points
C	351 - 400 points
D	301 - 350 points
F	300 points or less



Review Syllabus

Homework:
Read Chapter 1
for Thursday