

- Agenda** |
1. Administrative
 2. Course review & exam notes
 3. Identity & interaction online

Course review & exam notes



Some of the

Substantive topics

- ⋮ Race & Ethnicity
- ⋮ Disability
- ⋮ Gender
- ⋮ Class
- ⋮ Stigma
- ⋮ Inequality
- ⋮ Politics & the state
- ⋮ Social movements
- ⋮ Institutions & groups
- ⋮ Technology

Some of the

Theories and frameworks

- ⋮ Structural functionalism
- ⋮ Conflict theory
- ⋮ Symbolic interactionism
- ⋮ Social construction
- ⋮ Socialization
- ⋮ boundary maintenance
- ⋮ Queer theory
- ⋮ Social norms
- ⋮ Culture
- ⋮ Social change

Any combination of the theories and frameworks on the right can be applied to any set of the topics on the left

Some unifying themes

Everything is social*

(* at least in part)

- ∴ Social forces permeate every aspect of our lives
- ∴ Everything from the material world we inhabit to the way we perceive that world is influenced by our social contexts

History matters

(a.k.a. colonialism!)

- ∴ A society cannot be separated from its historical context
- ∴ Histories of colonialism, domination, exploitation, etc. affect every social institution
- ∴ Social institutions change *slowly*

Power structures align

(Marx had a point ...)

- ∴ Many social systems embed power relations
- ∴ Power and oppression are self-reinforcing
- ∴ The divisions we see in any one institution (e.g. race) are very likely reflected in another institution (e.g. class)

Format & details

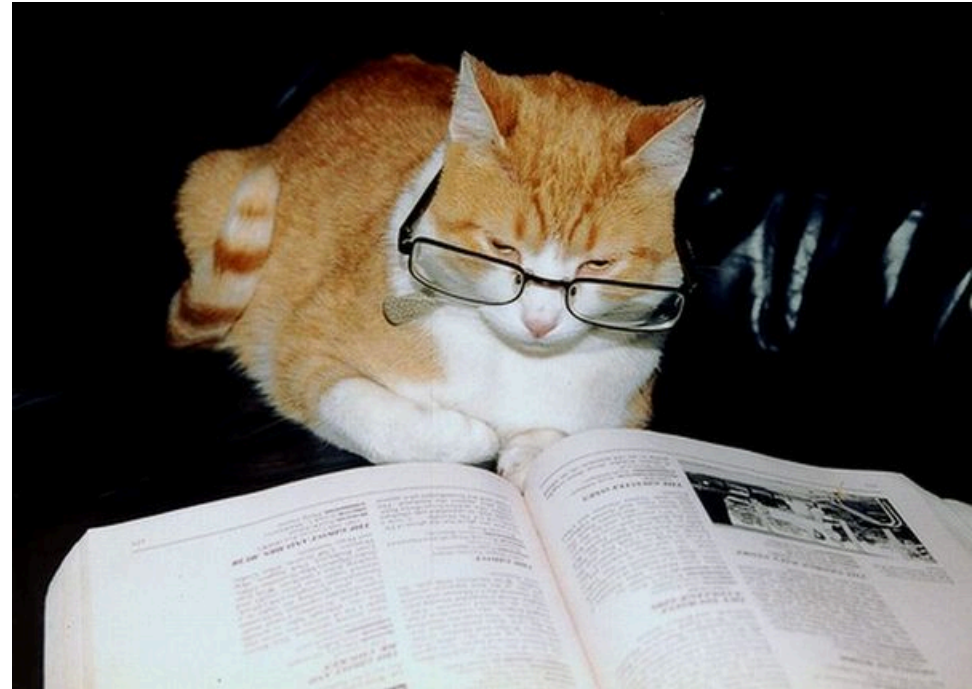
- ⋮ Wednesday, April 16, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm
- ⋮ Same format as midterm, but slightly longer
- ⋮ A single page (front and back) reference sheet is allowed (No other format or content restrictions)

Multiple choice

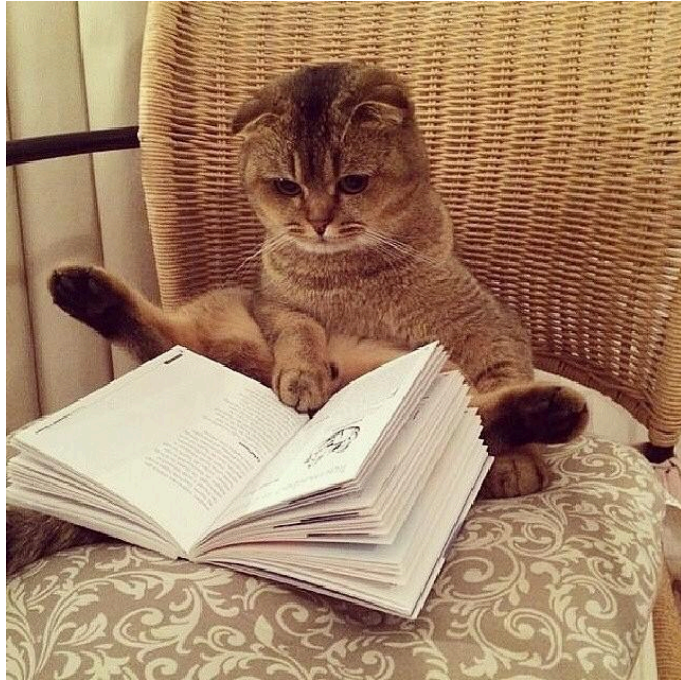
- ⋮ 20 multiple-choice questions
- ⋮ Four options per question
- ⋮ Order randomized

Short answer

- ⋮ Respond to 4 of 5 short answer sections
- ⋮ Each section has 2–3 individual prompts
- ⋮ Extra pages at the end but you should be able to answer the questions without using them



Tips for studying and taking the exam



Focus on the big concepts

- ∴ Prompts will be oriented toward larger topics and concepts
- ∴ Prioritize understanding over memorization

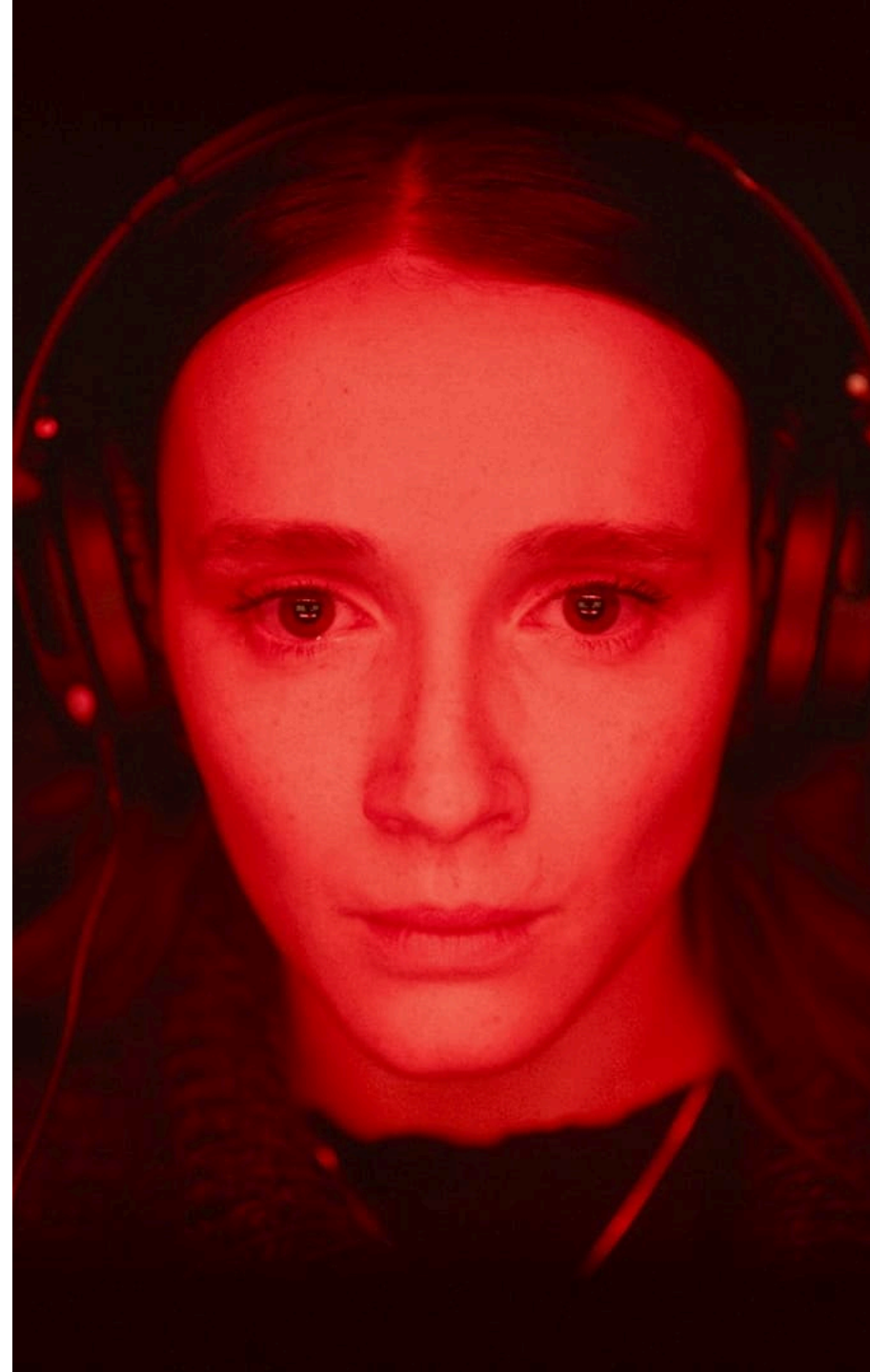
Know the course structure

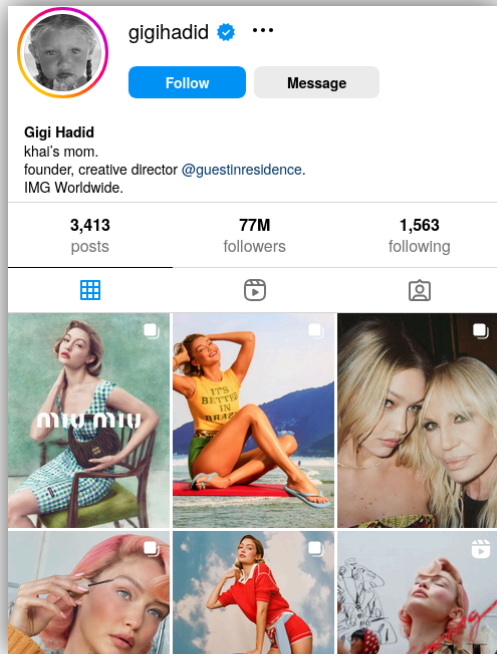
- ∴ The slides and readings of the course are focussed on the important topics and concepts
- ∴ Try to be able to summarize the major points from each lecture and each reading

Don't overdo it

- ∴ Your responses should be concise and focused on the prompt
- ∴ Resist the urge to include irrelevant knowledge

Identity & interaction online





Ian Miles Cheong @stillgray · 3h

I love how the weirdos whose derangement syndrome allows them to maintain Deep Lore about who I am and what I've done and it's just all sorts of fiction that gets added, based on memes, hearsay and lies. I don't know how to keep track



wint @dril · 12h

arms folded, back turned to the television, refusing to "Meet the flintstones" despite the theme song's pleas

100 4.9K 29K



Curation

- ⋮ For many, online persona is carefully curated
- ⋮ Safety in ability to “edit out” events
- ⋮ Performance of self can be more intentional and reflexive

- ⋮ Online context removes need (and often the expectation) to tie actions to offline self
- ⋮ "Disposable" identities
- ⋮ Distinct from anonymity

A man is sitting on a wooden stool outdoors, wearing a plaid suit and a pink mask with sunglasses and a mustache. The mask has the text "LOVE IS REAL" written on it. He is holding a drink with a straw.

Dr. Tingle's work has been featured in [Publishers Weekly](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Advocate](#), [The New York Observer](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Buzzfeed](#), [VICE](#), [LitReactor](#), [Death And Taxes](#), [Jezebel](#), [A. V. Club](#), [GQ](#), [The New Yorker](#), [Dilisted](#), [Red Bull TV](#), [The Frisky](#), [@Midnight](#), [Esquire](#), [Flavorwire](#), [Mel Magazine](#), [The Daily Dot](#), [WIRED](#), [Kotaku](#), [Destructoid](#), [Observation Deck](#), [The Washington Post](#), [Hot Press](#), [Upworthy](#), [The Los Angeles Times](#), [Inverse](#),

Multiple personas

⋮ Different accounts for different *roles* (overt)



⋮ **Sockpuppets (covert)**

e.g. Fake movie critic "David Manning"
(actually a Sony Pictures marketing executive)

Trick
Mirror

Jia
Tolentino

reflections on self-delusion

reflections on self-delusion

Tolentino
Jia

Mirror
Trick

"Pop" sociology

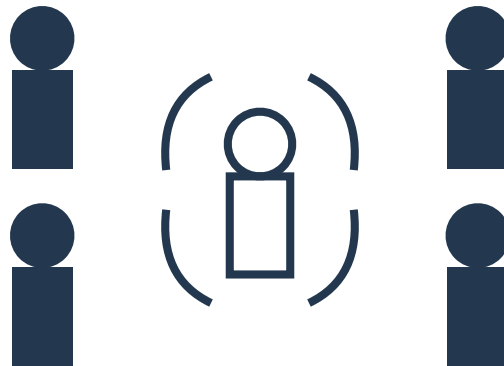
⋮ Makes explicit use of social theory, but is not written for an academic audience

rounds it, I've been thinking about five intersecting problems: first, how the internet is built to distend our sense of identity; second, how it encourages us to overvalue our opinions; third, how it maximizes our sense of opposition; fourth, how it cheapens our understanding of solidarity; and, finally, how it destroys our sense of scale.

Tolentino (2019, 12)

"...the internet is built to distend our sense of identity"

- ∴ Both online and offline interaction require the negotiation of multiple identities
- ∴ But the scale and relentlessness of online presence create a strained sense of self
- ∴ *Context collapse (Marwick and boyd 2011):*
It is difficult to segregate social contexts online, so we feel compelled to speak to all of them at once
- ∴ "Identity, according to Goffman, is a series of claims and promises. On the internet, a highly functional person is one who can promise everything to an indefinitely increasing audience at all times."
(Tolentino 2019, 16)



Sociological thinking

- ∴ Our lived experiences and perspectives make us *all* experts on 'the social'
- ∴ Sociology provides interpretive lenses to make sense of and *generalize* those experiences ("The view from the 14th floor")
- ∴ Discourse about the world around us can be *contextualized* in terms of *power, structure, norms, identity, etc.*

There is a sociology of everything. You can turn on your sociological eye no matter where you are or what you are doing.... There is literally nothing you can't see in a fresh way if you turn your sociological eye to it. (Collins 1998)

- ∴ I hope this class helps develop *your* "sociological eye" that you can turn toward the things that are important to you!

