

## Selected Topics in Sociology A – Week #01 Reading Notes

Erdsman, M. P. (1997). How to Read Sociological Texts. In Gubbay, J., Middleton, C. and Ballard, C. (Eds.), *The Student's Companion to Sociology* (pp. 254-260), Oxford: Blackwell.

- What is the difference between a passive and an active approach to reading texts in sociology?
- How do you learn what a sociological text is about and whether it is relevant to the topic you are interested in?

Mills, C. W. (1959). *The Sociological Imagination*. London and New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 3-11.

- How does Mills link 'personal troubles' with 'public issues'? How does this link constitute the sociological imagination?
- Mills identifies 3 questions at the core of sociological thinking. What are they?

Bauman, Z. (1992) Thinking Sociologically. In Giddens, A. (Ed.), *Human Societies: An Introductory Reader in Sociology* (pp. 7-12), Cambridge: Polity Press.

- How does Bauman distinguish between sociology and other fields of study, such as geology and physics?
- To what extent is sociology just a form of 'common sense'?
- According to Bauman, what does sociology allow us to do?