Introduction to Sociology

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Office Hours: MW 3-5pm; T 1:30-2:30

ANSO 105
Fall 2003
MWF 12:40-1:40pm
Class: Clough 102

Course Description and Course Objective:

Although we all have first-hand experience with social life, this course is designed to help students move beyond their "common sense" knowledge of the social world. Through developing their sociological imaginations, students will learn to think critically about the roles of individuals, institutions, and social structure in society. We will use fundamental sociological concepts and theoretical perspectives to examine modern societies, with an emphasis on American society. The course will survey a broad range of topics, with many touching on controversial debates that surround social stratification issues. By the end of the course, students should have the conceptual and theoretical tools to apply sociological perspectives to their everyday lives and to the lives of "others."

Required Readings

Ferguson, Susan J. 2002. 3rd ed. Mapping the Social Landscape: Readings in Sociology

Henslin, James M. 2003. 12th ed. Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings.

Most of the material covered in lectures will not be on the readings, so you will be responsible for covering many of the readings on your own. I will ask you to prepare ahead of time for the readings that will be specifically discussed in class, but I expect you always to be prepared to discuss the weekly readings. Since lectures usually will not cover the readings, this also means that if you miss class, you should get the notes from a classmate, as information from lectures will be essential for the exams.

Grading

Journals	10%
Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Exam III	25%
Book Critique	25%

Grading Scale

A+ 98-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 59 or lower
A 93-97	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance**: You are expected to attend and participate in class and in lab. You can miss up to 3 days of class for any reason with no penalty. For *every class or lab missed after three absences*, students will have 3 *points subtracted* from their final grade.

2. **Class Participation**: Class discussions are an important element in this course. What you get out of the course is as much dependent upon the participation and preparation of you and your classmates as it is upon my instruction. What you learn from one another can be as valuable as the lecture and reading materials. Thus, everyone is encouraged to actively participate in class.

3. **Journals:** Students are required to keep a weekly journal beginning the second week of class. Students must make two entries per week. One of those entries will be assigned and the other entry should focus on analyzing the readings, critiquing the lectures, or connecting any of the above to your personal experiences and to current social issues. Each entry should be at least two pages typed (double space). Although the journals may be randomly checked at any point in the semester, I will read them and give you feedback at the beginning of October and the beginning of November. The completed journals will be due the last day of class. Each day they are late will be a letter grade reduction (e.g. one day late, grade reduced from a B to a C).

4. **Exams:** Exams will mostly consist of multiple choice questions, short-answers, and short essays. Lectures, readings, and class activities will all be covered on the exams.

5. **Book Critique**: Each student will choose a sociological book to read throughout the semester. I will provide a list of suggestions and sources to search for additional options. Each student will meet with me to finalize their book selection by **Friday, September 12th**. Some weeks I will ask you to write journal entries reflecting on your book. By the end of October, you must have completed reading the book. You will turn in a draft and a final 8-10 page (double space) paper summarizing the main points of the book, connecting those points to course lecture and reading materials, critiquing the book's strengths and weaknesses, and discussing how the book connects to your everyday life and the lives of others in important ways. Detailed guidelines will be handed out in class. The rough draft is due in class on **Friday, November 24th** and the final paper is due in class on **Wednesday, December 10th**.

Course Guidelines

1. Please avoid disrupting class by arriving late or leaving early.

2. You are responsible for all announcements and assignments made in class.

3. You are required to check your e-mail once a day for any updates from me.

4. If anyone has special needs that require modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements, please contact me in the beginning of the semester and provide documentation from disability services, so that suitable accommodations can be made.

5. Make-up exams will only be allowed in the event of a documented emergency. If you

cannot take the exam for any reason, you must contact me prior to the exam. Failure to do so may mean that you will not be able to take a make-up exam.

6. Academic misconduct and dishonesty (such as cheating or plagiarism) will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to the Honor Code.

7. The following reading and lecture schedules are subject to revisions, however, the exam dates and the assignment due dates will remain the same.

8. This class will require you to look at your life and the lives of others through many different perspectives. This can be a very challenging experience. Although I want you to feel free to share your ideas, I expect you to respect one another when listening to other viewpoints.

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	
August 27	***Introduction***	
August 29, September 3, 5	***What is Sociology?***	Henslin #1, #2, #3 Ferguson, #2, #3
September 8, 10, 12, 15, 17	***Theoretical Perspectives***	Henslin pp.29-34, #11, #20, #30 Ferguson #4, #16, #38, #39
September 19, 22	***Research Methods and Ethics***	Henslin #4, #5, #6 Ferguson #5, #6
September 24, 26, 29	***Culture and Socialization***	Henslin #7, #9, #10, #12, #39 Ferguson #7, #8, #10, #13, #14
October 1, 3, 6	***Deviance and Social Control***	Henslin #18, #21, #22, #23, #24, #40 Ferguson #19, #20, #21
October 8	***Review***	
October 10	***Exam I***	
October 13, 15, 17	***Social Stratification: Class***	Henslin #19, #31, #32, #35 Ferguson #23, #26, #35, #36, #44
October 22, 24, 27	***Social Stratification: Race***	Henslin #29 Ferguson #17, #24, #31, #32, #33, #34 Handouts
October 29, 31 November 3, 5	***Social Stratification: Gender and Sexuality***	Henslin #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #28, #36 Ferguson #11, #12, #18, #27, #29, #30

November 7	***Review***	
November 10	***Exam II***	
November 12, 14	***Social Institutions: Marriage, Family, and Work***	Henslin #33 Ferguson #28, #50, #51
November 17, 19	***Social Institutions: Education***	Henslin #34 Ferguson #15, #47, #48, #49
November 21, 24	***Social Institutions: Religion***	Henslin #38 Ferguson #41, #42, #43
November 26	***Social Institutions: Mass Media***	Henslin #27, #37 Ferguson #37
November 28	***No class: Thanksgiving Holidays***	
December 1	***Social Institutions: Mass Media***	Handouts
December 3, 5, 8	***Social Change***	Henslin #42, #43, #44, #45 Ferguson #54, #55, #56
December 10	***Review***	
	Final Book Critique Paper due in class	
December 13	***Exam III***	Saturday, 8:30-11am

Classmate Contact Information

Name:	**Name:**	**Name:**
Phone #:	**Phone #:**	**Phone #:**
E-mail:	**E-mail:**	**E-mail:**