

Introduction to Sociology

Professor: Carla Shirley
Office: Clough 103
Office Phone#: 843-3934
E-mail: shirleyc@rhodes.edu

ANSO 105
Spring 2008
MWF 9:00-9:50am
Class: Clough 102

Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:30am or By Appointment

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. 2008. 5th ed. Mapping the Social Landscape: Readings in Sociology

Henslin, James M. 2007. 14th ed. Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings.

Approved sociological book of your choice from list provided.

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.

Grading

Participation	10%
Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Exam III	25%
Book Critique Group Project	15%
Final Paper	10%

Grading Scale

A+	99-100	B+	87-90	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	59 or lower
A	95-98	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
A-	91-94	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance:** You are expected to attend and participate every class period. However, you can miss up to 3 days of class for emergencies or illnesses with no penalty. For *every class missed after three absences*, your *final grade will be reduced a third of a letter grade* (e.g. four absences, grade reduced from a B+ to a B).
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 preparation and participation 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 expected to actively participate in class discussion, and I will *assign exercises* for you to complete and incorporate into class. You will be *graded on the level and quality* of your participation.
3. **Exams:** The *three exams* cover lectures, readings, and all class activities. Each exam will include short-answer and short essay questions.
4. **Book Critique Group Project:** Each student will choose and obtain a sociological book to read throughout the semester. I will provide a list of options. Each student will make a *book selection* by **Friday, January 18th**.

Based on the topics of your books, students will be divided into groups. Each group will meet several times during the semester to discuss the connections between their books and class materials. *Each student will take turn recording and writing a brief summary of and commentary on these discussions. At midterm and at the end of the semester*, each group will *turn in their write-ups and an evaluation of their group and each individual's contribution* to the group project. . Detailed guidelines will be handed out in class.
5. **Final Paper:** Each student will turn in a final paper connecting the main points of their book to concepts from class materials and to insights derived from the group project work. Detailed guidelines will be handed out in class. The final paper is due by **Tuesday, April 29th, 8pm**. Late papers will not be accepted.
6. **Extra Opportunities:** Throughout the semester, I will inform you of events that you can attend, reflect on the sociological connections, and then come prepared to discuss those connections with me in individual meetings. *You must schedule a meeting with me within a week after the event*. I will take your participation in these opportunities into account when calculating your final grade.

Course Guidelines

1. Please avoid disrupting class by arriving late or leaving early.
2. Do not disrupt me or your classmates by talking amongst your neighbors while people are speaking.
3. You are responsible for all announcements and assignments made in class.
4. You are required to check your e-mail regularly for any updates from me.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Academic misconduct and dishonesty (such as cheating or plagiarism) will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to the Honor Code.
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 express your ideas, I expect you to respect one another when listening to other viewpoints.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	
January 9	<i>Introduction</i>	
January 11, 14, 16, 18	<i>What is Sociology?</i>	Henslin: Part I, pp.1-2 Henslin:1-Berger, 2-Henslin, 3-Mills, 37-Coontz Ferguson: 2-Edin & Kefales Handouts: Caplow, Grossman, Gaines
January 18	BOOK SELECTION DUE	
January 21	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	<i>No Class</i>
January 23, 25, 28, 30, Feb 1	<i>Theoretical Perspectives</i>	Henslin: Part II pp.29-34 Henslin: 12-Goffman, 22-Thompson, Ferguson: 16-Jankowski,41-Marx & Engels, 42-Leidner Handouts: Durkheim, Merton
February 4	EXAM I	
February 6, 8, 11	<i>Research Methods and Ethics</i>	Henslin: 4-Henslin, 6-Pager, 7-Jacobs Ferguson: 4-Schwalbe Handout: Ballantine & Roberts
February 13, 15, 18	<i>Culture and Socialization</i>	Henslin: Part III pp. 83-85 Henslin: 8-Miner, 10-Hall & Hall, 11-Clark Ferguson: 12-Granfield, 14-Dyer
February 20, 22, 25,	<i>Deviance and Social Control</i>	Henslin: Part VI pp. 265-267

February 29**EXAM II**

March 3, 5, 7

*Spring Break**No Class*March 10, 12, 14,
17, 19***Social Stratification: Class***Henslin: Part VII pp.335-340
Henslin: 33-Gans, 34-Morris & Grimes,
35- Higley, 36-Ehrenreich
Ferguson: 24-Domhoff, 35-Mills, 36-Clawson,
39-Mantsios

March 21

*Easter Recess**No Class*March 24, 26, 28,
31, April 2***Social Stratification: Race***Henslin: 31-Page
Ferguson: 25-Shapiro, 31-Bonilla-Silva,
32-Lee & Bean, 34-Kim
Handouts: Omi & Winant , McIntosh

April 4, 7, 9, 11

Social Stratification: GenderHenslin: Part IV pp.147-149
Henslin: 14-Henslin, 17-Tannen
Ferguson: 9-Espiritu, 11-Lorber, 27-Risman,
28-Lucal, 54-Crittendon, 60-Johnson

April 14

EXAM IIIApril 16, 18, 21,
23***Social Institutions:
Education***Henslin Part VIII & IX pp.407-409, 493-495
Henslin:39-Gracey
Ferguson 15-Adler & Adler, 29-Lesko
50-Dog & Erdoes, 51-Kozol,
52-Ferguson

April 25

*URCAS**No Class***April 29****FINAL PAPER DUE****Tuesday, by 8pm**