Introductory Sociology (Anth/Soc 105) Fall 2005

Thomas G. McGowan, Ph. D. Office: C107; #843-3932
Associate Professor of Sociology Office hrs: T, TR, 12:30-2pm; W 12-2pm, and by appt.

Course Statement

Sociology is the study of how social reality and individuals are constructed through the ongoing creation and mediation of social relationships, structures and institutions. In short, sociology is the study of how individuals and society co-exist and co-create each other. In this course we will unlearn our inherited, taken-for-granted assumptions regarding social reality and develop a critical understanding of how we become who we are – both individually and collectively. The course will be successful if you end up understanding more deeply that which you assume but rarely think about, and begin to see your existence as a dynamic experience of your interaction with self, others, society and culture.

Grading

Class preparation:	15%
Class participation:	10%
Midterm essay exam:	25%
Term paper phase 1:	10%
Term paper phase 2:	15%
Final exam:	25%

Policy on Unexcused Absences

An absence will be excused if the reason for the absence is valid and documented in writing by the appropriate authority. Given the importance of attendance and class participation in this course, three unexcused absences are grounds for receiving a failing course grade.

Required Texts

The Meaning of Sociology. 2005. Joel Charon, editor. 8th edition.
New York: Prentice Hall.

Sources: Notable Selections in Sociology. 1999. Kurt Finsterbusch, editor. 3d edition.
Guilford, CT: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill.

This Book is Not Required. 1992.
Inge Bell and Bernard McGrane. Fort Bragg, CA: The Small Press.

Daily Schedule

Thursday	8/25	Course overview and orienting questions
Tuesday	8/30	Internalization and the sociological imagination Discuss chapter 1 in Bell/McGrane and 1.2 (Mills) in Finsterbusch
Thursday	9/1	Culture and society Discuss 2.2 (Miner) in Finsterbusch and 32 (Becker) in Charon
Tuesday	9/6	Human nature and social structure Discuss 7 (Cooley) and 29 (Risman) in Charon
Thursday	9/8	What is a social fact? Discuss handout (Durkheim)
Tuesday	9/13	Where does religion come from? Discuss 47 (Durkheim) in Charon and handout (Durkheim) **Phase one of term paper is assigned**
Thursday	9/15	Is suicide a sociological phenomenon? Discuss handout (Durkheim)
Tuesday	9/20	The problem of modernization Discuss handout (Durkheim) **Deadline for submitting research topic**
Thursday	9/22	In class group assignment
Tuesday	9/27	Marx's dialectical materialism Discuss 51 (Marx) in Charon and handout (Marx)
Thursday	9/29	Alienation and reification Discuss handout (Marx)
Tuesday	10/4	Class stratification Discuss 7.2 (Davis and Moore) in Finsterbusch and 21 (Gans) in Charon **Phase one of term paper assignment (literature review) is due**
Thursday	10/6	Culture and class Chapter 10 in Bell/McGrane and 19 (Purrucci and Wysong) in Charon
Tuesday	10/11	Review for midterm exam.

Thursday	10/13	In-class midterm essay exam
Tuesday	10/18	Fall Break
Thursday	10/20	Lecture: The social construction of reality
Tuesday	10/25	The three dialectical moments of society Discuss handout (Berger and Luckmann) **Phase two of term paper is assigned**
Thursday	10/27	Socialization and the self Discuss 8 (Berger and Luckmann) in Charon and 3.1 (Mead) in Finsterbusch
Tuesday	11/1	Primary groups, the self and social control Discuss 11 (Dunphy) and 14 (Berger and Luckmann) in Charon
Thursday	11/3	Gender as a social control Discuss 28 (Howard and Hollander) in Charon; 9.4 (Nelson) and 12.3 (Berger and Kellner) in Finsterbusch
Tuesday	11/8	Protestantism and Ageism as social controls Discuss handout (Weber) and article on ageism (McGowan)
Thursday	11/10	Subordinate roles and authority Discuss 15 (Zimbardo) and 16 (Meyer) in Charon
Tuesday	11/15	Instrumental rationality and dehumanization 6.4 (Weber) in Finsterbusch and handout (Weber)
Thursday	11/17	Institutionalized dehumanization Discuss 11.2 (Dowie) in Finsterbusch and 41 (Boggs) in Charon
Tuesday	11/22	Western cultural hegemony and globalization Discuss 36 (Steger) and 54 (Lewis) in Charon **Phase two of term paper is due**
Thursday	11/24	Thanksgiving
Tuesday	11/29	Buddhist sociology, wisdom and knowledge Discuss appendix 3 and chapters 5 and 6 in Bell/McGrane
Thursday	12/1	Autonomy and desocialization Discuss chapter 7 in Bell/McGrane and handout (Riesman)
Tuesday	12/6	Review for final exam