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ANSO 105-01, Introduction to Sociology, Spring 2005

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Introduction to Sociology

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ANSO 105-01
Fall 2005
MWF 9:00-9:50am
Class: Clough 102

Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:00am, 3:00-4:30pm, 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. 2002. 3rd ed. Mapping the Social Landscape: Readings in Sociology

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

Approved sociological book of your choice from list provided.

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.

Grading

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|---------------------|-----|
| Participation | 10% |
| Writing Assignments | 15% |
| Exam I | 25% |
| Exam II | 25% |
| Book Critique Paper | 25% |

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. **Writing Assignments:** Students will complete *two writing assignments* during the semester. The assignments will focus on analyzing the readings/lectures and connecting that analysis to your personal experiences and to current social issues. Each assignment should be *3-4 pages typed (double space)*.

You will receive each assignment through e-mail; see the class schedule for specific due dates. There will be *a letter grade reduction for every day an assignment is late* (e.g. one day late, grade reduced from a B to a C).

4. **Exams:** The *two exams* may include multiple choice, short-answer, and short essay questions. The exams cover lectures, readings, and all class activities.
5. **Book Critique Paper:** Each student will choose and obtain a sociological book to read throughout the semester. I will provide a list of options. Each student will finalize their *book selection* by **Friday, September 16th**.

You will turn in an *12-15 page (double space) final paper* summarizing the main points of the book, connecting those points to class lectures and reading materials, critiquing the book's strengths and weaknesses, and discussing how the book connects to your everyday life and to social change. Detailed guidelines will be handed out in class. The final paper is due by **Saturday, December 10th, 8pm**. There will be a grade penalty for late papers.

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 other people are speaking.

3. You are responsible for all announcements and assignments made in class.
4. You are required to check your e-mail once a day 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. The following reading and lecture schedules are subject to revisions, however, the exam dates and the assignment due dates will remain the same.
9. 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

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| August 24 | <i>Introduction</i> | |
| August 26 | <i>What is Sociology?</i> | Henslin Part I, pp.1-2 Henslin #1 |
| August 29, 31, September 2 | <i>What is Sociology?</i> | Henslin #2, #3 Ferguson, #2, #3 |
| September 5 | LABOR DAY | NO CLASS |
| September 7, 9,12, 14 | <i>Theoretical Perspectives</i> | Henslin Part II pp.29-34 Henslin #11, #20, #30 Ferguson #16, #41, #42 |
| September 16 | BOOK SELECTION DUE | |
| September 16, 19 | <i>Research Methods and Ethics</i> | Henslin #4, #5, #6 Ferguson #4, #6 |
| September 21 | WRITING EXERCISE 1 DUE | |

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| September 21, 23, 26 | <i>Culture and Socialization</i> | Henslin Part III pp. 75-77 Henslin #7, #9, #10 Ferguson #7, #8, #13, #14 |
| September 28, 30, October 3 | <i>Deviance and Social Control</i> | Henslin Part VI pp. 245-247 Henslin #21, #23, #24, #40 Ferguson #19, #20, #22, #53 |
| October 5 | <i>Exam I</i> | |
| October 7 | LIBRARY DEDICATION CEREMONY | NO CLASS |
| October 10, 12, 14 | <i>Social Stratification: Class</i> | Henslin Part VII pp.307-311 Henslin #19, #31, #32, #35 |
| October 17 | FALL BREAK | NO CLASS |
| October 19, 21 | <i>Social Stratification: Class</i> | Ferguson #23, #24, #35, #36 |
| October 24, 26, 28, 31, November 2 | <i>Social Stratification: Race</i> | Henslin #29 Ferguson #31, #32, #33, #34 On-line Articles |
| November 4, 7, 9, 11 | <i>Social Stratification: Gender</i> | Henslin Part IV pp. 129-131 Henslin #13, #14, #15 Ferguson #11, #27, #28, #29 |
| November 14 | <i>Exam II</i> | |
| November 16, 18, 21 | <i>Social Institutions: Education</i> | Henslin Part VIII pp.361-363 Henslin #34 Ferguson #30, #50, #51, #52, #54 |
| November 23, 25 | THANKSGIVING BREAK | |
| November 28, 30 | <i>Mass Media</i> | Henslin #37 Ferguson #38, #39, #40 |
| December 2 | WRITING EXERCISE 2 DUE | |
| December 2, 5, 7 | <i>Social Change</i> | Henslin Part IX pp.471-473 Ferguson #56, #57, #60 |
| December 10 | FINAL PAPER DUE | By Saturday, 8 pm |