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Office Hours: T Th 11-noon, 2-3 AM or by appt.  

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Phone: (850) 644-1839 (office) or  
(850) 644-6416 (Sociology Dept.)

Teacher Assistant: Isamar Hernandez  
Office: 504 Bellamy  
Office Hours: TBA  
E-mail: ih16c@my.fsu.edu

You can communicate with the TA from the course Blackboard

The Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduate to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies offers a transformative educational experience; this course has been approved as meeting the Liberal Studies requirements and thus is designed to help you become a critical appraiser of social science theories and the facts that support them.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is the scientific and systematic study of human associations called societies; it is an understanding of how these associations are organized and the reasons for their formation. Sociology examines how we and others create and change the world in which we live as well as how we are influenced and changed by the society around us.

This course is an overview of the fundamentals of sociology, theories and methodologies; basic concepts, such as status, roles and groups; and research on structures of gender, race/ethnicity, social class, and social institutions, such as the family, education and religion. As students learn about the above issues they will develop a sociological imagination to critically evaluate how their personal lives intertwine with the history of the society in which they live in ways that affect their life chances and their lifestyles.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Identify, define and illustrate basic sociological concepts, including the dominant theoretical perspectives and major research methods used in sociological research
2. Apply these sociological concepts and theoretical frameworks to personal experiences, popular media, and current events in order to recognize the difference between sociological reasoning and personal opinion.

3. Articulate the strengths and limitations of competing sociological theories and research methodologies.

4. Critically examine, interpret, and explain how structures of inequality shape the past and present lives of gender, racial/ethnic, and class groups.

5. Critically examine, interpret, and explain how large-scale social institutions such as the family, economy, education, work, politics, and religion shape our lives and the social world we live in.

6. Critically examine, interpret, and explain how our lives and the decisions individuals and groups make change the large-scale social institutions such as the family, economy, education, work, politics, and religion.

7. Synthesize and report on widely accepted sociological research findings to evaluate causal arguments and analyze assertions and assumptions about social issues in terms of their explanatory evidence.

8. Gather and analyze data from appropriate online databases for the social sciences to critically evaluate assertions on key sociological issues.

COURSE MATERIALS
Required texts:
- Supplemental Readings marked with * are posted on your course Blackboard (Bb)/Course Library (Bb/CL) for a specific exam as PowerPoint slides (Pp) or Word documents.

Supplemental readings are organized by the topic under discussion in the class schedule below.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Attendance
Lectures are organized and presented around the required readings for a specific topic. **You are responsible for completing the scheduled readings prior to coming to class.**

**Attendance will be recorded for every meeting.** It is imperative that you attend every class in order to keep up with what is being discussed in class and to ask questions about any aspects of the material you would like to clarify or discuss further. It is during these class discussions that you will practice and hone your sociological imagination.

Perfect attendance will earn you 10% of the grade. One unexcused absence will earn you 7.5%; two and three unexcused absences are worth 5 and 2.5%, respectively; and, FOUR unexcused absences entails Zero points for attendance!
Study-Guide Questions
All assigned readings and lectures are potential exam materials. To facilitate the learning process you will be given a set of study-guide questions to work on before each test. There are four study guide questions (one for each exam). Answer these questions in your own words and cover all parts of each question. Doing so will help you understand the material and thus, meet the course objectives.

The questions are in essay format, cover the materials from different angles, relate issues in a way that complement the text, and hopefully, enable you to develop a sociological imagination. Use the class time and office hours to talk to me and the TA about your progress in answering the questions and preparing for the upcoming test. The study guide is NOT a contract that defines the exam!

The answers to each study-guide will be submitted on SafeAssign as indicated in the Course Schedule below. The SafeAssign site will appear in Bb/Assignments for the specific period of the semester. Do not wait until the eve of the due date to answer the study-guide questions and to submit the work.

Each study guide is worth five percent or a total of 20% contribution to the final grade. The grade for the study guide will be based on:

1. Timely submittal and full/correct coverage (in your own words) of each and all questions (5%);
2. Correct original answer of each and all questions BUT one day delay* (4 points);
3. Meets criterion 1 BUT work has spelling/grammar problems (3 points) and/or misses fewer than 10% of answers
4. Timely upload, correct original answers BUT Incomplete (1-2 points).
5. Failure to submit (0%)

See policy on late work, (syllabus p. 7)

Written Assignments
There is ONE written assignment in the semester. Given the size of the class, students will be randomly assigned to two groups; each group will submit on SafeAssign at same due date a different yet comparable topic. The assignment involves an analysis of data regarding social issues using sociological arguments presented in class and three outside legitimate sources. The references could be government agencies (US Census), research centers (Pew Research Center reports), journal articles such as Social Forces, and/or credited newspapers such as The New York Times.

The instructions, content, due date, and grading rubric for the assignment will be given on a separate handout. The assignment contributes with 20% of the final grade.

Exams
The course has four exams; three during the semester and a final test given during the FSU final examination week. The dates for each exam are listed in the class schedule below. The formats of the questions are multiple-choice, true-false, and vocabulary-matching.
About one week preceding the test date and up to one hour before the test time/date, there will be an opportunity to review the material via an open-book bogus test posted on the course Blackboard. The bogus test enables you to conduct a self-evaluation and assess your readiness for the test. Your answers to the bogus test have a limited time for completion (75 minutes), earn you 0-5 points proportional to the number of correct answers that will be added to your upcoming exam. The bogus test cannot be made up unless you are representing FSU on an off campus event (proper documentation is required to certify missing the bogus test during the week of its availability). Thus it is to your advantage to attend every class, be up to date with the reading materials, and keep track of relevant dates (exams and bogus tests). Otherwise, you will miss the opportunity to earn extra credit or lose time trying to find the answer to a question as you spend time flipping pages from one reading to another.

The first three exams cover material discussed in the immediately preceding units. The final exam includes material that is not already evaluated plus the basic tenets and proponents of dominant sociological theories, comparison among theories, and strengths and weaknesses of each to explain society.

The four exams constitute 50% of the final grade; each is worth 12.5%. As stated above, all work is graded on a scale of 0-100. Your score on each test, thus, will be multiplied by 0.125 to compute its respective contribution to the final grade.

Below is the equivalence between numeric and letter grades that will be used to record your grade in the course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numeric Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent, creative and superb command of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Creative and outstanding command of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Above average level but not outstanding grasp of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Above average but thin understanding of some readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Above average but misses some parts of the readings and thus is unable to apply subject matter at all levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Average level of achievement with some mastering yet narrow application of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average level of achievement; refers to the readings in a superficial way suggesting spotty understanding of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Close to average due to spotty understanding of the material and inability to apply readings</td>
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67-69 D+ Below average understanding, showing little knowledge of the material
64-66 D Below average level with multiple contradictory arguments
60-63 D- Below average understanding thus failure to apply readings
59 and below F Fails to understand and address the readings on the subject matter

When scores include decimals, the rule is to round up from .45 and above; and to round down from .44 and below.

Grades throughout the semester will be posted in the SYG 1000-001 Blackboard. Check this site on a regular basis and notify the TAs or me of any problems regarding your grades as soon as these are posted.

As a general rule talk to me when you need help. Do so immediately, not at the end of the semester when it is TOO LATE!

COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Topics (with assigned readings)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Sociology: Theory, Research, Culture, and Structure</strong>&lt;br&gt;Aug. 29- Sep. 8&lt;br&gt;First Day Attendance Policy, Theories of Society&lt;br&gt;G. et al. Ch. 1, Ch. 5 pp: 98-100; Bb/CL “What is Sociology?”&lt;br&gt;*Assumptions, Arguments and Evaluation of Sociological Theories” WORD.doc; “Comparison among Sociological Theories” WORD.doc in Bb/Course Library/Lecture Notes/First Exam Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Sociology Research&lt;br&gt;G. et al. Ch. 2. Asking and Answering Sociological Questions&lt;br&gt;*Advantages and Disadvantages of Data Gathering Techniques as WORD.doc; Pp “Scientific Method” in Bb/CL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Culture and Structure&lt;br&gt;G. et al. Ch. 1, pp: 5, 9-12, Ch. 3, Ch. 5 pp: 91-98&lt;br&gt;*Synoptic Chart of Societal Culture-and–Structure Elements in Bb/CL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Bogus Test #1 on Bb/Bogus Tests (on Bb)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Submit Answers to Study-Guide Questions on SafeAssign</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Exam #1 in classroom</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td><strong>The Individual and Society</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct 4-6&lt;br&gt;G. et al. Ch. 4and 5; Bb/CL Pp “Socialization and the Life Cycle”&lt;br&gt;*Theories of socialization” as WORD.doc and PowerPoint presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct. 10-13  G. et al. Ch 6. Groups, Networks and Organizations&lt;br&gt;*“Groups” WORD.doc in Bb/CL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8-9 Oct.18-25 Deviance  
G. et al. Ch. 7;  
*“Measurement of Crime Type I” as WORD.doc, “Deviance” as PowerPoint presentation

9 Oct. 26 Bogus Test #2 on Bb/Bogus Tests (on Bb)  
Oct. 26 Submit Answers to Study-Guide Questions #2 on SafeAssign  
Oct. 27 Test #2 in classroom  
Oct. 30 Submit Written Assignment on SafeAssign, by 11:55 PM

10-12 Structures of Power

10-11 Nov 1- 8 Stratification, Class, and Inequality  
G. et al. Ch. 8;  
*“Social Stratification and Poverty: Theory and Research” as WORD.doc

11 Nov 8-10 Gender Inequality  
G. et al. Ch. 10

12 Nov. 15-17 Ethnicity and Race  
G. et al. Ch.11

13 Nov. 21 Bogus Test #3 on Bb/Bogus Tests (online)  
Nov. 21 Submit Answers of Study-Guide Question #3 on SafeAssign  
Nov. 22 Test #3 in classroom

14-15 Social Institutions

14 Nov. 29 The Family and Intimate Relationships  
G. et al. Ch. 15;  
*“Family Patterns” a PowerPoint presentation

15 Dec. 6-8 Education and Religion  
G. et al. Ch. 16 and 175;

15 Dec. 7 Bogus Test # 4 on Bb/Bogus Tests (online)  
Dec. 7 Submit Answers of Study-Guide Answer#4 on SafeAssign  
16 Dec. 14 Final Exam or Test #4 in classroom 7:30-9:30 AM

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY  
Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises,  
call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities.  
These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who  
have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children  
experience serious illness.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy.)

ADA STATEMENT

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Student Disability Resource Center 874 Traditions Way 108 Student Services Building
Florida State University Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167 (850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD) sdrd@admin.fsu.edu  http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

FREE TUTORING from FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options at http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Missed assignments will be accepted IF and ONLY IF there is a legitimate reason (appropriate documentation is required as indicated below) for missing to turn in the assignment on the due date. It is your responsibility to turn in the assessment on the date you resume class attendance along with the proper documentation; failure to turn in appropriate documentation incurs in non-acceptance of your assignment.

Midterm makeup exams will be given IF and ONLY IF there is a legitimate reason (appropriate documentation is required) for missing the test. It is your responsibility to notify me and the TA why you are not taking the test. Do so prior to, on, or immediately after the exam date.
In order to justify the absence from a test, students need to show documentation of its reason. This may include an obituary, court order, doctor-signed prescription/bill, or a document from an agency signed by a legitimate authority that fully describes the emergency causing the student’s missing the test. Turn in this documentation to the TA before taking the makeup exam. Contact the TA to learn about the date, time, and location of the makeup exam. The makeup exam may have a different format from the original i.e., essay questions.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

Incomplete (“I”) grades will not be assigned, except in the case of exceptional unforeseen circumstances that occur within the last three weeks of the semester and your work has otherwise been satisfactory (C average).

**Student Conduct:** My many years of college experience, both as student and instructor, have shown me that for the most part students are bright, good-natured and amiable toward others. In general you are expected to comply with the FSU Code of Conduct at all time while participating in FSU-related activities. Your behavior during class should be courteous, respectful and professional. In a nutshell, anyone who ignores my authority to protect the integrity of the classroom will be asked to cease his/her disruptive behavior, may be asked to leave the classroom, and/or drop the course.

*Failure to abide by these principles can result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, to dismissal, to failing the course.*

http://e-soc.net/

All electronic devices not needed for the class are to be turned off BEFORE entering the classroom.

**SEXUAL HARRASSMENT POLICY:**

It is the policy of the University that its employees and students neither commit nor condone sexual harassment in any form. [http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/grad/info/university_notices.htm](http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/grad/info/university_notices.htm)

**Exams:** There are four exams; each covers the assigned material listed in the Course Outline below. All exams are a combination of multiple-choice and true-false questions. The last exam has the same format but covers some specific issues of earlier themes plus the last topics not yet evaluated.