

FINTRRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
Sociology 100 0301, Fall 2008

MWF 9:00-9:50, Art-Socy 2309

Instructor: Anna O'Donnell

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Office Hours: Please e-mail me for an appointment. I am generally available the hours before and after class.

Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to introduce you to the core concepts of Sociology. You may have chosen this course as part of your CORE Liberal Arts and Sciences Program, the general education portion of your degree program. CORE Distributive Studies courses are designed to ensure that you will take a look at several different academic disciplines and the way they create and analyze knowledge about the world. A faculty and student committee approved this CORE Distributive Studies course because it will introduce you to ideas and issues that are central to a major intellectual discipline and because it promises to involve you actively in the learning process.

Student Conduct

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants, or myself will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

Absence policy

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentary support to the instructor. I require students to contact me by email or by phone prior to class time in which you indicate that you have an illness or an injury. You must provide written documentation verifying your illness/injury immediately upon your return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests, papers, etc. if you have not provided this documentation. Documentation not presented to me in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University's Student Conduct Office.

Students with disabilities

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2008 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than October 1, 2008. I am not able to accommodate

students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation which has been reviewed by DSS after October 1, 2008.

Religious Observance

By September 15, 2008, students must provide me in writing a request for a make up exam if I have indicated a date on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance on a specific date. Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance.

Course Feedback

This course will make use of the on-line course evaluations. The Course EvalUM system will be open from Tuesday, December 2 to Sunday, December 14. Your feedback is welcome and is essential for me to continue to make this course better.

Required text

Henslin, James. 2008. *Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach* (9th ed). Allyn and Bacon.

Henslin, James. 2008. *Life in Society: Readings to Accompany Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach, Ninth Edition* (3rd edition). Allyn and Bacon.

Course evaluation

Your final grade will incorporate assessment of:

Three Exams 60% (Exam 1: 20%; Exam 2: 20%; Exam 3: 20%)
Two Reaction Papers 30% (15% each)
Attendance and Participation 10%

TOTAL 100%

Standard Grade Designation Points Breaks:

A = 90% and above B = 80-89.9% C = 70-79.9% D = 60-69.9% F = below 59.9%

Exams: There will be three exams as indicated in the schedule below. The exams are in-class and closed book, and will consist of multiple choice and True/False questions, as well as short-answer essays. The questions will cover all materials used in this course, including course readings, discussions, handouts, and films.

IMPORTANT: Make-up exams will be allowed under the most extraordinary and verifiable circumstances. If you have to miss an exam, you will need to contact me before you miss it if you must miss without prior arrangements. Please bring in a doctor's note or other documentation of the emergency in order to take a make-up exam. I reserve the right to give you an oral or short answer/essay type exam instead of a multiple choice one.

Written Assignments: You will be required to write two reaction papers of 4-6 pages each

that analyzes certain concepts presented in the course. You may choose from four due dates. If you write more than two, your grade will reflect the best two. Papers will be due by the date scheduled. Your paper will be graded on both *content*—the depth and breadth of the course information you apply in your analyses and on *form*—the clarity of the work you present in terms of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. I expect you to connect the readings, concepts, and issues within the assignments because their main purpose is to help you to improve your ability to think clearly and critically, and to explore and introspect about issues that were probably never discussed before. Each paper should be typewritten, double-spaced (12-point font, 1" margins, and stapled). Assignments will be docked 5 points for every late day. Assignment guidelines will be distributed during the semester.

NOTE: There are no extra credit assignments in this course.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. University policy excuses the absences of students for illness, religious observances, participation in University activities at the request of University authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond the student's control. In most instances appropriate documentation is required, e.g. medical documentation. Students with religious holidays that conflict with the course calendar should inform me of those dates by e-mail at least one week prior to their occurrence. The complete University policy is printed in the Undergraduate Catalog and is available online at www.inform.umd.edu/ugradcat/.

Cheating or Plagiarism

Giving/receiving help on exams or plagiarizing assignments is not acceptable behavior in this class. Any cases of suspected cheating will be immediately referred to the Honor Council; this is to protect your right to due process and a fair hearing. You **must** acknowledge the sources that you use in this class, and when repeating the exact language of your source, you **must** put the material in quotation marks. Plagiarism or cheating may result in a course grade of "F" and the filing of charges of academic misconduct.

Week One

Part I: The Sociological Perspective

Wednesday, Sept. 3

Introduction to the Course

Overview of course content, assignments and expectations

Friday, Sept. 5

History of Sociology

Henslin Text: Chapter 1 (pages 2-21)

Week Two Theory

Monday, Sept. 8

Theoretical Perspectives

Henslin Text: Chapter 1 (pages 22-31)

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Theoretical Perspectives, cont.

Henslin Text: Chapter 4 (pages 99-103 and 110-119)

Friday, Sept. 12

Discussion

Reader: Berger "Invitation to Sociology" (pages 3-11)

Week Three

Monday, Sept. 15

Culture

Henslin Text: Chapter 2 (pages 38-63)

Wednesday, Sept. 17

Socialization

Henslin Text: Chapter 3 (pages 64-95)

Friday, Sept. 19

Discussion

Reader Chapter 3 (Dwyer "Anybody's Son will Do")

Handout: "Body Ritual of the Nacirema"

Week Four

Monday, Sept. 22

Social Structure and Social Interaction

Henslin Text: Chapter 4 (96-99, 104-110 and 120-125)

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Exam Review

Friday, Sept. 26

EXAM #1

Week Five

Part II: Social Groups and Social Control

Monday, Sept. 29

Movie: Milgram's Experiment

Wednesday, Oct. 1

Societies and Social Networks

Henslin Text: Chapter 6 (pages 150-175)

Friday, Oct. 3

Discussion

Reader Chapter 4 (Foley “The Great American Football Ritual”)

Reaction Paper #1 Due

Week Six

Monday, Oct. 6

Bureaucracy and Formal Organizations

Henslin Text: Chapter 7 (pages 176-201)

Wednesday, Oct. 8

Deviance

Henslin Text: Chapter 8 (pages 202-233)

Friday, Oct. 10

Discussion

Reader Chapter 14 (Ritzer “The McDonaldization of Society”)

Week Seven

Part III: Social Inequality

Monday, Oct. 13

Global Stratification

Henslin Text: Chapter 9 (pages 234-264)

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Social Class in the United States

Henslin Text: Chapter 10 (pages 266-297)

Friday, Oct. 17

Movie: 30 Days on Minimum Wage

Week Eight

Monday, Oct. 20

Sex and Gender

Henslin Text: Chapter 11 (pages 298-331)

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Race and Ethnicity

Henslin Text: Chapter 12 (pages 332-367)

Friday, Oct. 24

Discussion

Reader Chapter 11 (Orenstein “Learning Silence: Girls and Boys in School”)

Reaction Paper #2 Due

Week Nine

Monday, Oct. 27

Exam Review

Wednesday, Oct. 29

EXAM #2

Friday, Oct. 31

Movie: The Corporation

Week Ten

Part IV: Social Institutions

Monday, Nov. 3

The Economy

Henslin Text: Chapter 14 (pages 398-429)

Wednesday, Nov. 5

Politics

Henslin Text: Chapter 15 (pages 430-459)

Friday, Nov. 7

Discussion

Reader: Chapter 15 (Mills: “The Power Elite”)

Reaction Paper #3 Due

Week Eleven

Monday, Nov. 10

Marriage and Family

Henslin Text: Chapter 16 (pages 460-497)

Wednesday, Nov. 12

Education

Henslin Text: Chapter 17 (pages 498-523)

Friday, Nov. 14

Discussion

Reader: Chapter 16 (Coontz “The American Family”)

Week Twelve

Monday, Nov. 17

Religion

Henslin Text: Chapter 18 (pages 524-555)

Wednesday, Nov. 19

Medicine and Health

Henslin Text: Chapter 19 (pages 556-586)

Friday, Nov. 21

Discussion

Reader: Chapter 18 (Harris: "India's Sacred Cow")

Week Thirteen

Monday, Nov. 24

Movie: An Inconvenient Truth

Wednesday, Nov. 26

Class Cancelled: Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, Nov. 28

Thanksgiving Break

Week Fourteen Part V: Social Change

Monday, Dec. 1

Environment

Henslin Text: Chapter 22 (pages 667-675)

Reaction Paper #4 Due

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Social Change

Henslin Text: Chapter 22 (pages 650-667)

Friday, Dec. 5

Population

Henslin Text: Chapter 20 (pages 588-601)

Week Fifteen

Monday, Dec. 8

Urbanization

Henslin Text: Chapter 20 (pages 602-621)

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Collective Behavior and Social Movements

Henslin Text: Chapter 21 (pages 622-649)

Friday, Dec. 12

Exam Review

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18th 8:00AM-10:00AM