

Syllabus
SOCY 105- Section 0101
Fall 2008
Tuesday/Thursday 1400-1515

Instructor: Cagri Tanyol

Office Hours: Art&Sociology Building 1103A

Tuesdays 1530-1730 or by appointment

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Course Goals: This course will attempt to get students to think sociologically about the society we live in. We will begin with considering what a social problem is. The course will survey an array of social problems that exist in the beginning of the 21st century. As we live in an increasingly globalized world, this course will attempt to include some issues of globalization and we will try to keep a global/comparative perspective on issues dealing with American society. The end goal is for you to develop a critical view on today's social problems and overall attain some skills to evaluate social problems of tomorrow.

Some of the reading assignments will be more challenging than others. If you have problems with certain texts, do your best to understand them and feel free to ask questions in class.

Required Texts:

D Stanley Eitzen& Maxine Baca Zinn, **Social Problems**, 11th Edition

Richard Sennett, **The Corrosion of Character**

There are the two required texts for the class that should be available through at the bookstore. There are supplemental readings that will be posted on blackboard as pdf files.

Grading

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Midterm: 25%

Book Report: 25%

Final: 35%

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: Attending the class is an important part of your grade. As this is quite a large class, if I feel that participation is difficult, I will ask students to form groups to present the reading material in class.

Midterm: The midterm will assess your understanding of the reading and class material. The format of the exam will be announced before the exam but will either be multiple choice, short answers or a combination of the two.

Book Report: You are expected to hand in a report on an academic book of your choice. The report will be between 4 to 6 pages. I will make some suggestions in class

but you are free to choose a work on your own. However, be sure to consult with me first about your choice before you start preparing your report!

Final: The final will be cumulative and it will try to test your overall understanding of the course at the end of the semester. The format of the exam will be announced later in the semester.

Class Conduct

Be respectful: Discussions of social problems means that we will be talking about topics that are often hotly debated and controversial. Our classroom should be a comfortable place for each of us to openly share our views as a means of learning about these topics from one another. I expect each of use to be respectful and listen to each other's viewpoints.

Be responsible: Please come to class on time and be prepared to discuss all readings.

NO Cell Phones: No cell phones in class at any time: this means no calls and no texting. Please turn all cell phones off BEFORE you enter the classroom.

Absences: Multiple absences will reflect negatively on your classroom participation grade. Any assignment due on the day of an absence from class must be turned in to me by email or by another classmate before the start of class. Late assignments will receive 1 lower letter grade for each day that it is late. There will be no make up for the midterm unless you have a documented medical emergency and such. If you are not in class to obtain required readings, take notes, receive handouts and homework assignments, it is your responsibility to coordinate a way to get everything you need so that you do not fall any more behind.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a University documented disability (or suspect that you might), please inform me so we can discuss making any appropriate and necessary arrangements.

Academic Integrity

As a student at the University of Maryland, you are expected to adhere to the University's Honor Code. **I will not tolerate academic dishonesty of any kind.** Your work in this course should be your own, and if I suspect any form of academic dishonesty, I will refer you to the University's Student Honor Council, and you could receive a grade of 'XF' meaning failure due to Academic Dishonesty. The following constitute the violations of the University's Code of Academic Dishonesty:

- Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
- Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. Cite everything!
- Fabrication: Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in any academic exercise.

- Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of this Code.

<http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html>

Class Schedule:

September 2 Introduction: “What is a Social Problem?”

September 4 “Perspective on Social Problems”
Read: Eitzen/Zinn Chapter 1: 3-22
C. W Mills, Sociological Imagination, Ch. 1 (bb)

September 9 “Wealth and Equality”
Read: E/Z Chapter 2: 24-57

September 11 “Global Inequality”
Read: E/Z Chapter 3: 59-83
Economist, “The Bottom 1.4 billion” (bb)

September 16 “Globalization I”- Economics
Read: Wolf, Why Globalization Works (bb)
Stiglitz, Globalization and its Discontents (bb)
Globalization Reader, Articles # 19,20,21,22 (bb)

September 18 Film: “Speaking Freely”- 52 minutes or “Commanding Heights”- 360 minutes

September 23 “Globalization II”- Cultural
Read: Globalization Reader, Articles #37, 38, 39, 41 (bb)

September 25 “Globalization III”- Political
Read: Globalization Reader, Articles # 26, 27, 28 (bb)

September 30 “National Security”
Read: E/Z Ch. 18: p. 545-577

October 2 Film: “Battle of Algiers”- 125 minutes or “Operation Homecoming”- 81 minutes

October 7 “Poverty”
Read: E/Z Ch. 7 186-217

October 9 “Racial Inequality”
Read: E/Z Ch. 8 218-249

October 14 “Gender Inequality”

Read: E/Z Ch. 9 250-286

October 16 “Nationalism and Identity”

Read: Mahmood Mamdani: “Beyond Settler and Native as Political Identities: Overcoming the Political Legacy of Colonialism” (bb)

Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities (bb)

E.J Hobsbawm, Nations and Nationalism since 1780 (bb)

Ernest Gellner, Nations and Nationalism, (bb)

October 21 Film: “Ghosts of Rwanda: Frontline”- 120 minutes

October 23 “Crime”

Read: E/Z Ch. 12

October 28 “Drugs”

Read: E/Z Ch.13

Erich Goode: Between Politics and Reason, (bb)

October 30 Film: “American Drug War”- 118 minutes or “Plan Columbia”- 58 minutes

November 4 **Midterm Exam**

November 6 “Consumerism and Environment”

Read: E/Z Ch.

Barry Schwartz: Paradox of Choice, (bb)

George Ritzer: McDonaldization of Society (bb)

November 11 Film: “Maxed Out”- 87 minutes

November 13 “Health Care”

Read: E/Z Ch. 17 514-542

Economist, “The Price of Being Well” (bb)

Economist, “Operating Profit” (bb)

November 18 Film “Sick Around the World: Frontline”- 60 minutes

November 20 “Education”

Read: E/Z Ch. 16 482-513

November 25 Film: “Class Act”- 87 minutes

December 2 “Work”

Read: Richard Sennett, Corrosion of Character

Read E/Z Ch. 14

December 4 Film: "Glengary Glen Ross"- 100 minutes

December 9 Solving Social Problems
Read: TBA

December 11 Final Discussions and Review

Final Exam: Thursday December 18 10:30-12:30