

University of Maryland-College Park
Department of Sociology

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Spring 2009
Office Hours: M-W 9:00-10:00 a.m. and
by appointment

Sociology 100-Section 0401
Introduction to Sociology
M-W 2:00-3:15 pm

Description:

This course introduces students to the discipline of sociology, and familiarizes them with sociological perspectives. During this semester students will develop a “sociological imagination”. They will become familiarized with areas of social life: culture, gender, race, ethnicity, inequality, family and deviance. This course is also intended to provide students with an ability to apply these perspectives and information to understand their own experiences.

Course Objectives:

- To help students to better understand society, social life and social change
- To familiarize students with basic knowledge, concepts and principles of sociology
- To help students to apply these perspectives and basic knowledge to understand their own lives
- To sharpen students’ abilities in critical reading, analytical thinking, and writing

Requirements:

Participation and Attendance: Each student is expected to participate in class discussions each week. Students can participate in any way they feel comfortable: questions, clarifications and insights.

Exams: There will be four exams. They will require you to think critically and comprehensively about course materials.

Papers: You are required to submit a brief paper proposal that includes the topic of your final paper and its outline. In the final paper, you are expected to analyze social conditions with course concepts. Assignment guidelines will be distributed during the semester.

- Paper proposal due – 04/08/2009
- Paper due – 05/11/2009

Final Grade Calculation

Participation	10
Paper Proposal (2-3 pages)	5
Final Paper (6-8 pages)	10
1 st Exam	15
2 nd Exam	15
3 rd Exam	15
4 th Exam	30
Total	100

CORE Course

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.

Academic Honor Code

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students.

As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>.

To further exhibit your commitment to academic integrity, remember to sign the Honor Pledge on all examinations and assignments: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

Disability Support Services

If you have a documented disability, please register with the Office of Disability Support Services (0126 Shoemaker Hall) and obtain the accommodation request form and deliver it to us. The rules for eligibility and the types of accommodations you may request are available online at www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/receiving_serv.html

Learning Assistance Service

If you are having difficulty keeping up with the academic demands of this course (or any of your courses), contact the Learning Assistance Service (2201 Shoemaker Hall, 314-7693). Their educational counselors can help you with time management, reading, note-taking, and exam preparation skills. There is more information about the Learning Assistance Service online at www.inform.umd.edu/lasrv

Religious Observance

If you will need to be absent from class to participate in a religious observance, please provide us the dates and we will make certain that you have an opportunity to make up any assignment and are not disadvantaged in any way. University policy regarding religious observance is available online at www.faculty.umd.edu/teach/religious.html

Course Materials

James M, Henslin. 2007. *Essentials of Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. (ES)

James M. Henslin et. al. 2007. *Exploring Social Life*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. (SL)

Schedule

- 01/26 Introduction to Course (SL, p. 3-11)
- 01/28 The Sociological Perspective (ES, p. 2-33)
- 02/02 Culture (ES, p. 34-57)
- 02/04 The Fierce People (SL, p. 12-25)
- 02/09 Socialization (ES, p. 58-81)
- 02/11 Anybody's Son Will Do (SL, p. 26-36)
- 02/16 Social Structure and Social Interaction (ES, p. 82-111)
- 02/18 Exam #1
- 02/23 Social Groups and Formal Organizations (ES, p. 112-137)
- 02/25 Just another Routine Emergency (SL, p. 51-60)
- 03/02 Deviance and Social Control (ES, p. 138-165)
- 03/04 Becoming a Prostitute (SL, p. 61-69)
- 03/09 Global Stratification (ES, p. 166-191)
- 03/11 Exam #2
- 03/16 Spring Break

- 03/18 Spring Break
- 03/23 Social Class in the United States (ES, p. 192-219)
- 03/25 The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All (SL, p. 85-91)
- 03/30 Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity (ES, p. 220-253)
- 04/01 Showing my Color (SL, p. 92-99)
- 04/06 Inequalities of Gender and Age (ES, p. 254-289)
- 04/08 Sick Societies (SL, p. 100-107)
- 04/13 Politics and the Economy (ES, p. 290-321)
- 04/15 Exam #3
- 04/20 Marriage and Family (ES, p. 322-351)
- 04/22 When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work (SL, p. 119-129)
- 04/27 Education and Religion (ES, p. 352-381)
- 04/29 College Athletes and Role Conflict (SL, p. 129-138)
- 05/04 Population and Urbanization (ES, p. 382-413)
- 05/06 Streetwise (SL, p. 141-150)
- 05/11 Conclusions