Sociology 1010-002
Introduction to Sociology
Spring Semester 2012
Time: MWF 9.40-10.30 am
Location: SBEH S AUD

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Geist
Email: claudia.geist@soc.utah.edu
Office Location: 431 Beh S
Office Hours: Wednesday 1.30-2.30 pm and by appointment
Teaching Assistant(s): TBA
Email: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Required Materials (available at the campus bookstore):

Book:
⇒ You can also buy this book as Ebook

Turningpoint Clicker

Course Summary
This course is designed to provide a broad overview and introduction to the discipline of sociology. Sociology involves the study of human society – its structure, patterns and problems. In this class we will examine aspects of contemporary society and daily life that are often taken for granted. We will explore a broad array of topics, including culture, the economy, deviance, family, religion, education, gender, race, and inequality. This course approaches sociology not simply as a concrete body of knowledge, but also as a perspective that can be used to understand human behavior and social life, even outside of academia.

Course Objectives
At the end of this course, you will be able to use a sociological perspective on everyday life. You will be able to identify the key institutions in society and understand some of the key social problems facing these institutions and society in general. You will be able to describe the major social divisions in contemporary society both in the United States and globally.

Course Requirements and Grading
Your grade is based on:

⇒ THE BEST 3 out of 4 MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAMS (60%): the exam with the lowest score will be dropped. The exams will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, class discussions, and in-class films.
6 ONLINE DISCUSSIONS (10%): online discussions are based on assigned readings (available through Canvas) and course materials

ATTENDANCE: Measured through the clicker technology. (10%): I will take attendance each class period, sometimes there will be to clicker points per class. You are allowed to miss 10 clicker points without any effect on your final grade. You cannot make up clicker points for missed classes and you will not receive attendance credit if you forgot your clicker.

However if you will miss class for university sanctioned travel AND you notify me in advance (in writing) you will receive the clicker points you missed.

TO JUSTIFY THE 4TH CREDIT

6 SHORT WRITTEN OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (20%): The assignments are explained in detail below the course schedule and are designed to allow you to “do” sociology on topics of your choice.

Grading Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams (best of 4)</td>
<td>360 points</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online discussions</td>
<td>60 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-Class Assignments</td>
<td>120 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>60 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 600 total possible points (100%)”

For final letter grades, convert your accumulated points into a percentage and use the following breakdown:

A:  93-100%  B-: 80-82%  D+: 67-69%
A-: 90-92%  C+: 77-79%  D: 63-66%
B+: 87-89%  C: 73-76%  D-: 60-62%
B: 83-86%  C-: 70-72%  F: 0-59%

Deadlines and special circumstances:

Make-up exams will only be allowed for extraordinary, documented emergencies, documented illness or injury. If you miss an exam for athletic or university related travel you have to notify me at least ONE WEEK before the exam to schedule an alternative date. Failure to do so means that you cannot make up the exam.

Late assignments will be penalized (except for documented cases of hospitalization)
Travel, technical problems, or other circumstances (including illness) cannot be used as an excuse for missed deadlines. Late penalties will be imposed for assignments submitted after the deadline. **This includes weekends, holidays, and school breaks.**

- Up to 24 hours after the deadline: 3 point deduction
- 24-less than 48 hours: 8 point deduction
- 48-less than 72 hours: 15 point deduction
• More than 72 hours: 20 point deduction=no credit.

I do not allow late submissions for online discussions

Guidelines for Class Participation
Due to the size of the class, this is primarily a lecture-oriented course, but participation DOES matter. We will have in-class flash surveys (using the clicker technology) which will serve as a basis for in class discussion and will measure your attendance. I expect you to come to class ready to participate and engage with the subject matter. To ensure a respectful and productive environment in the classroom, my expectations for you are:

- To arrive to class on time, and for all class meetings. It will be difficult to do well in this class without attending regularly.
- Bring your clicker. Forgetting your clicker is not an excuse. You will not get credit.
- To complete the assigned readings before their corresponding date.
- To complete the required written assignments on time.
- To prevent disruption of the learning environment (no usage of cell phones!).
- To follow University of Utah code for student conduct (see below).

Instructor Responsibilities
My goal is to maintain a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to thinking and learning. I will do my best to get you excited about the material and support you in your learning. I will be available to students outside of the classroom during office hours and through email, and canvas messaging.

Following the Student Code, I adopt a zero tolerance policy for academic misconduct. “Academic misconduct,” according to the University of Utah student code, “includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...it also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.” For detailed definitions and possible academic sanctions please see: [http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html](http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Course Schedule
Please note that this outline is tentative and subject to change at any time. Any changes will be announced in class and on Canvas. Please have the assigned readings read at the beginning of the week and be prepared to discuss them in class.
***Part I: Using Your Sociological Imagination***

January 9 and 11
Syllabus introduction; Sociological Imagination: An Introduction (chapter 1)

January 13, 18
Methods (chapter 2)

**Assignment 1 due January 20 11pm**

January 20, 23.
Culture and Media (chapter 3)

**Culture reading and online discussion due January 23**

January 25, 27
Socialization and the Construction of Reality (chapter 4)

January 30
Catch-up and Review

February 1.
Exam 1

**Assignment 2 due February 3 11pm**

February 3, 6
Groups and Networks (chapter 5)

**Network reading and online discussion due February 6**

February 8, 10,
Social Control and Deviance (chapter 6)

***Part II: Fault Lines…Social Division and Inequality***

February 13, 15
Stratification (chapter 7)

**Assignment 3 due February 17, 11pm**

February 17, 22
Gender (chapter 8)
**Race reading and online discussion due February 24**

February 24, 27
Race (chapter 9)

February 29
Exam 2

March 2, 5
Poverty (chapter 10)

**Poverty reading and online discussion due March 5**

**Assignment 4 due March 9, 11pm**

March 7, 9
Health and Society (chapter 11)

March 12, 14, 16
Spring break!

***Part III: Building Blocks: Institutions of Society***

**Assignment 5 due March 23, 11pm**

March 19, 21, 23
Family (chapter 12)

**Education reading and online discussion due March 26**

March 26, 28
Education (chapter 13)

March 30, April 2
Capitalism and the Economy (chapter 14)

April 4, 6
Authority and the State (chapter 15)

April 9
Exam 3
**Assignment 6 due April 13, 11 pm**

April 11, 13
Religion (chapter 16)

**Religion reading and online discussion due April 13**

April 16, 18
Science, the Environment, and Society (chapter 17)

April 20, 23
Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change (chapter 18)

**Exam4: Tuesday May 1, 8 AM!!!**

**Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments require the student to define/utilize/and apply many relevant sociological concepts presented in the class. These activities are intended to be interesting and enlightening. The addition of these exercises in all sections of introduction to sociology reflects the University of Utah requirements to increase the class from a three credit hour class to a four credit hour class.

Each written assignment should be about 1.5-2 pages in length (1 inch margins, 12 font, double spaced). Assignments are due on the dates indicated below. Late assignments will be penalized as outlined above. Assignments are to be submitted online.

Assignment #1: Pick 3 of the topics covered in the class (just look at the chapter titles) and describe for each of those 3 areas what you think the biggest issues are facing people at the local, national, and global level. You don’t need to study the chapters, just think through what you think is important.

Assignment #2: Conduct a brief participant observation or ethnographic study wherein you study and/or participate in a particular group event or social organization. Samples of events could include city council meeting, an Indian powwow, visit a religious group other than the one you usually attend, hang out at a greasy spoon cafe or coffee shop, attend a sporting event, or any volunteer organization. To complete the assignment, write down your observations, highlight any patterns you observe, and point out any observations or patterns that surprise you.

Assignment #3: Conduct a non-intrusive breaching experiment, wherein you attempt to validate the existence of a particular norm. This may include singing on the bus, singing in an elevator, not talking to anyone for a day, or any other unusual activity. In writing describe your experiment, and report peoples’ reactions to your behavior.
Assignment #4: In a group, construct a survey where each group member includes 2 or 3 questions of their choice. Each group member should administer the survey to at least 20 people. Group members work together collecting and entering the data, but each group member is responsible for writing a brief paper summarizing the findings on his or her questions, and drawing conclusions regarding their research.

Assignment #5: Pick an issue of a magazine (examples listed in the detailed assignment instructions) or a video game and discuss the representation of gender, race, and class in it.

Assignment #6: Write a short biography wherein you highlight the sociological factors that have influenced your life. Those could include social class, religion, race/ethnicity, or any other topics.