Sociology 1010-002
Introduction to Sociology
Fall Semester 2010
Time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:40-10.30 AM
Location: S Beh Auditorium
Instructor: Dr. Claudia Geist
Email: claudia.geist@soc.utah.edu
Office Location: 431 Beh S
Office Phone: (801) 581-8029 (NO VOICEMAIL)
Office Hours: Wednesday 11-12 and by appointment
Graduate Teaching Assistant: TBA
Email: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Required Text (available at the campus bookstore):

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 be 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.

Guidelines for Class Participation
Due to the size of the class, this is primarily a lecture-oriented course, but there will be discussions and group work. 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.
- 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).
Course Requirements and Grading
There will be a total of 3 multiple choice exams, six short out-of-class assignments, and a
number of brief quizzes (both in-class and online). The exams and quizzes will cover
materials from the assigned readings, lectures, class discussions, and in-class films. The
assignments are explained in detail below the course schedule. I will take attendance on a
random basis, and attendance and performance on out-of-class assignments will be
considered in situations of borderline final grades. There are NO make-ups for exams
[except for extraordinary, documented emergencies] and there are NO exceptions on due
dates for the assignments.

Grading system:
Exam 1: 100 points
Exam 2: 100 points
Exam 3: 100 points (Final Exam date: Dec. 17, 8 am)
Quizzes (in-class and online): 40 points
Out-of-Class Assignments: 60 points (6 assignments, 10 points each)
TOTAL 400 total possible points

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%

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

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 WebCT. 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***

August 23 and 25
Sociological Imagination: An Introduction (chapter 1)

August 27, 30
Methods (chapter 2)

September 1, 3
Culture and Media (chapter 3)

September 6
Labor Day!

**Assignment 1 due September 8**

September 8, 10, 13
Socialization and the Construction of Reality (chapter 4)

September 15, 17
Networks and Organizations (chapter 5)

**Assignment 2 due September 20**

September 20, 22
Social Control and Deviance (chapter 6)

September 24
Review

September 27
Exam 1

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

September 29, October 1
Family (Chapter 7)
October 4, 6
Education (Chapter 8)

**Assignment 3 due October 8**

October 8
Religion (chapter 9)

October 11, 13, 15
Fall Break!

October 18
Religion (chapter 9)

October 20, 22
Capitalism and the Economy (chapter 10)

October 25, 27
Authority (chapter 11)

October 29
Review

November 1, 3
➡ Exam 2

***Part III: Fault Lines . . . Social Division and Inequality***

**Assignment 4 due November 3**

November 3, 5
Gender (chapter 12)

November 8, 10
Race (chapter 13)

November 12, 15
Stratification (chapter 14)

**Assignment 5 due November 17**

November 17, 19
Poverty (chapter 15)
November 22, 24
Health and Society (chapter 16)

November 26
Thanksgiving break!

November 29
Health and Society (chapter 16)

**Assignment 6 due December 3**

December 1, 3
Science, the Environment, and Society (chapter 17)

December 6, 8
Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change (chapter 18)

December 10
Review

**Exam3: Friday Dec 17, 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 2 pages in length (1 inch margins, 12 font, double spaced). Assignments are due on the dates indicated below. Late assignments will NOT be accepted or graded. Each assignment is worth 10 points towards your course grade. Assignments are to be submitted through Blackboard/WebCT unless otherwise indicated.

Assignment #1: 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 #2: Conduct a brief survey of at least 30 people regarding an issue or topic of your choice. In a brief summary paper summarize your findings, and draw conclusions regarding your research.

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: Evaluate a book or video (a list with suggestions will be provided). Please summarize your interpretation of the material from a sociological perspective. This assignment will allow the student to choose a topic of interest and analyze that topic using various concepts from the course.

Assignment #5: Attend a lecture on any subject or topic that you feel is relevant to sociology. These can be attended on or off campus. In no more than two pages, summarize the presentation and its relevance to any topic covered in this class.

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.