Sociology 1010-002
Introduction to Sociology
Spring Semester 2010
Time: Tuesday/Thursday 10:45-12.05
Location: Soc Beh S Auditorium

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Geist
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Office Location: 333 Beh S
Office Phone: (801) 581-7112 (NO VOICEMAIL)
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12.30-1.30, or by appointment
Graduate Teaching Assistant: 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 very 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, laptop computers, or other electronics).
- 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 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: May 6, 10:30-12:30)
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:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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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 Olin 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***

Week 1 (January 12 & 14)
Sociological Imagination: An Introduction (chapter 1)
Methods (chapter 2)

**Assignment 1 due January 18**

Week 2 (January 19 & 21)
Culture and Media (chapter 3)
Socialization and the Construction of Reality (chapter 4)

Week 3 (January 26 & 28)
Networks and Organizations (chapter 5)

**Assignment 2 due February 1**

Week 4 (February 2 & 4)
Social Control and Deviance (chapter 6)

Week 5 (February 9 & 11)
Review
Exam 1

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

**Assignment 3 due February 15**

Week 6 (February 16 & 18)
Family (chapter 7)

Week 7 (February 23 & 25)
Education (chapter 8)

**Assignment 4 due March 1**

Week 8 (March 2 & 4)
Religion (chapter 9)
Week 9 (March 9 & 11)
Capitalism and the Economy (chapter 10)
Authority (chapter 11)

**Assignment 1 due March 15**

Week 10 (March 16 & 18)
Review

→ Exam 2

Week 11 (March 23 & 25)
Spring Break

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

Week 12 (March 30 & April 1)
Gender (chapter 12)

Week 13 (April 6 & 8)
Race (chapter 13)
Stratification (chapter 14)

**Assignment 1 due April 12**

Week 14 (April 13 & 15)
Poverty (chapter 15)
Health and Society (chapter 16)

Week 15 (April 20 & 22)
Science, the Environment, and Society (chapter 17)
Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change (chapter 18)

Week 16 (April 27)
Review

Final Exam: May 6, 10:30-12:30
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 survey of at least 30 people regarding and issue or topic of your choice. In a brief summary paper summarize your findings, and draw conclusions regarding your research. Due January 18, 5 pm (submit online, hand in survey forms in class on January 19).

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. Due February 1, 5 pm.

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. Due February 15, 5 pm.

Assignment #4: Evaluate a book or video from the suggested books/videos list. 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. Due March 1, 5 pm.

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 that two pages, summarize the presentation and it’s relevance to any topic covered in this class. Due March 15.

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. Due April 12, 5 pm.
Suggested Books and Videos for Assignment #4

Books

*Cannery Row*, John Steinbeck (culture, human nature, social criticism)
*Democracy for the Few*, Michael Parenti (elitism, class conflict)
*The Lemming Condition*, Alan Arkin (family, deviance, labeling)
*Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck (stratification, social organization, poverty)
*On Civil Disobedience*, Henry David Thoreau (morality and society, social dissent)
*The McDonaldization of Society*, George Ritzer (globalization, organizations)
*Race Matters*, Cornel West (racism)
*The Sociological Imagination*, C. Wright Mills (sociology, social meaning, and morality)
*Theory of the Leisure Class*, Thorsten Veblin (stratification, class conflict)
*Under the Banner of Heaven*, John Krakauer (religion, deviance, faith based violence)
*Who Rules America*, William Domhoff (power elite, social class, politics, stratification)

Videos

“Boys in the Hood” (race/class/poverty)
“Crash” (alienation, racism, class)
“The Gods Must be Crazy” (culture, modernization, globalization)
“Hotel Rwanda” (racism, genocide)
“An Inconvenient Truth” (global warming)
“Inherit the Wind” (religion, education, Evolution versus Creationism)
“Modern Times”, Chaplin (industrialization and modernization)
“Pleasantville” (norms, culture, socialization, prejudice and discrimination)
“Roger and Me” (capitalism, exploitation, class conflict)
“Sicko” (healthcare)
“Taxi Driver” (anomie, powerlessness, alienation)
“The Village” (culture, norms and values, modernization)

***Other books/videos may be used for this assignment with prior approval by your TA***