Sociology 1010-002
Introduction to Sociology
Spring Semester 2011
Time: Tuesday/Thursday 10.45-12.05
Location: FMAB AUD

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Geist
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Graduate Teaching Assistants: TBA
Email: TBA
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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 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, students will be able to employ their sociological imagination when thinking about contemporary society and be able to choose appropriate methods to analyze social problems. Students will be able to identify the key societal institutions and articulate the key issues facing these institutions, and student will be able to describe the major social divisions in contemporary society both in the United States and globally.

Guidelines for Class Participation

Due to the size of the class, this is primarily a lecture-oriented course, but there will be in-class 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).

**Instructor Responsibilities**
My goal is to maintain a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to thinking and learning. I will be available to students outside of the classroom during office hours and through email. I will usually respond to emails within 48 hours.

**Course Requirements and Grading**
There will be a total of **4 multiple choice exams**, the exam with the lowest score will be dropped. **Seven 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 through quizzes, and both 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:**
3 Exams (best of 4): 240 points
Quizzes/Attendance: 40 points
Out-of-Class Assignments: 70 points (7 assignments, 10 points each)
TOTAL 350 total possible points

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>D-</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 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***

Week 1 (January 11, 13)
Sociological Imagination: An Introduction (chapter 1)
Methods (chapter 2)

Week 2 (January 18/20)
Culture and Media (chapter 3)
Socialization and the Construction of Reality (chapter 4)

**Assignment 1 due January 21**

Week 3 (January 25, 27)
Networks and Organizations (chapter 5)

Week 4 (February 1, 3)
Review and catch-up
Exam 1 (February 3)

Week 5 February 8,10
Social Control and Deviance (chapter 6)

**Assignment 2 due February 11**

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

Week 6 February 15
Family (chapter 7)

February 17
Education (chapter 8)

Week 7 February 22, 24
Religion (chapter 9)

**Assignment 3 due February 25**

Week 8 March 1, 3
Review and catch-up
Exam 2 (March 3)
Week 9 March 8, 10  
Capitalism and the Economy (chapter 10) 
Authority and the State (chapter 11)  

**Assignment 4 due March 11**  

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

Week 19 March 15, 17  
Gender (chapter 12)  

Week 11 March 22, 24  
Spring Break  

Week 12 March 29  
Race (chapter 13)  

**Assignment 5 due March 30**  

March 31  
Stratification (chapter 14)  

Week 13 April 5, 7  
**Exam 3 (April 5)**  
Poverty (chapter 15)  

Week 14 April 12, 14  
Poverty (chapter 15)  
Health and Society (chapter 16)  

**Assignment 6 due April 13**  

Week 15 April 19, 21  
Health and Society (chapter 16)  
Science, the Environment, and Society (chapter 17)  

**Assignment 7 due April 20**  

Week 16 April 26  
Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change (chapter 18)  

**Exam 4: Friday April 29 10.30 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 to 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 except under exceptional circumstances. Each assignment is worth 10 points towards your course grade. Assignments are to be submitted through Blackboard/WebCT unless otherwise indicated.
Assignment #1: Pick 4 of the topics covered in the class (just look at the chapter titles) and describe for each of those 4 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 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 #4: 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 #5: 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 #6: 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 #7: 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.