SOCI 1113 INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY
Section 4210
MWF 08:00-08:50 CWH 103

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Office Hours: M 9-10, 1-3 & W 9-10 or by appointment.

Required Readings

Course Description/Objectives
This course introduces a wide range of sociological thoughts, issues, and research. We will explore what holds society together, what divides society into conflicting groups, what underlies social interaction, and what social forces are at work in long-term social change. We will examine how sociologists do research, how individuals act collectively, how groups exert social control, how formal organizations shape everyday life, how social classes exert influence on individual life chance, and how inequality intersects with gender, education, race and ethnicity. We will explore major types of societies and their historical transformation, focusing on changes in material cultures such as production technologies on one hand and, on the other, patterns of social stratification or the ranking of people in society based on property, caste, and other types of differences. This course gives particular attention to the overarching institutions of economy and polity; it stresses economic inequality, forms of political power, bureaucratic organization, historical emergence of capitalism, and globalization as a way of experiencing the capitalist world order in which we all now live. A large portion of the coursework involves learning sociological concepts, their relations and applications to the structured or patterned social contexts beyond the routines of everyday life. It is central to the course that we understand how impersonal and remote social forces shape individual lives, regardless of different life circumstances under which people live. Students are expected to grasp social forces in terms of effects, visualize concepts in terms of applications, and evaluate theories in terms of explanatory power. This course aims at a definite inquiry based on facts and explications. It stresses the sociological perspective of how social forces shape individual life and how the members of society mold their social world.

Program Objectives
1. Students are to demonstrate competency overall in sociology, basic concepts and applications.
2. Students are to demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing.
3. Students are to demonstrate competency in critical thinking.

General Information
1. Class attendance and participation are important. You are expected to be present and on time for class. Attendance is taken randomly. You will be introduced to relevant issues, statistical data, and competing standpoints in class. Lectured materials not elaborated in texts are on all quizzes and exams. You will find exams difficult if you do not attend class on a regular basis. If you anticipate periodic or prolonged absence, you are advised not to take this course. A pattern of absence or tardiness will adversely affect your course grade.
2. You are always welcome to elicit comments, critique, and opinions in class. I appreciate your reactions to the issues raised in texts and lectures. If you are befuddled, the class will welcome your efforts at clarification. Please bring the text under discussion to class. I often make textual references.
3. If you have a disability that will make it difficult for you to participate in class, to abide by the course policies or perform successfully, please advise me immediately. I will work with you and the office of
Multicultural and Disabled Services to provide you with reasonable accommodations. Please let me know if difficulties arise in the course of the semester, so we may resolve them at the earliest possible time. Feel free to contact me by telephone, e-mail, or by leaving a message in my mailbox.

4. I distribute worksheets (outlines, themes, discussions, etc.) in class or reserve them at the library under the course title, especially in the event we fall behind scheduled progress. You are to make sure that you have all handouts on time for lectures and exams. If you do not have them, you are responsible for securing your own. Please do not ask me for the handouts distributed in the past week.

5. Needless to say, completing all readings, quizzes, and exams on time does not by itself warrant a passing grade. In order to pass this course, your overall coursework must be of passing quality (for sociology majors “C” or higher). “A” is reserved for those who truly justify an outstanding work. There is no extra-credit paperwork in this course. You are to focus on class requirements.

Class Requirements

Study Questions
1. On Fridays, you will be given two or three short-answer study questions based on readings and lectured materials. Study questions are meant to foster class discussion and prepare you for exams. You are encouraged to organize your answers on a separate notebook (not due). Keep this notebook updated for the coming exams.

2. On average, three paragraphs for each question would suffice, but keep in mind that specific questions require specific answers. Avoid giving unnecessary definitions to the sociological terms you are using and get to the points immediately. You may discuss study questions and answers in review sessions and office hours. I am always willing to assist you.

Quizzes
1. You will take six quizzes in class on designated dates. Each quiz consists of ten to twelve multiple-choice questions of generic types, and it is to be completed within the first five minutes of class. If you are late, you will not be allowed to take the quiz on the same date and will be penalized. The quizzes are meant to ensure that you are keeping up with class and constructed to test your overall comprehension of the learned materials (readings, lectures, and handouts). We might spend a couple of minutes reviewing the quiz materials immediately after they are taken.

2. Quiz policy: (a) no quiz is given early; (b) a makeup must be taken within the next three days at an appointed time; (c) all makeup quizzes are penalized (-10% of the possible maximum) unless you provide a documented excuse verifying the necessity of your absence; (d) under no circumstance a makeup is given after three school days past the designated quiz date; (e) missing quizzes thereafter will be converted to 0 point. This policy is strictly observed for class fairness; there is no exception.

Exams
1. You will take three exams comprehensive to the midterm under examination. Each exam consists of two short-answer questions of which you answer only one and 30 multiple-choice questions. The final exam, which is not comprehensive, will be given at 08:00 a.m. on Tuesday December 9th as designated by the University.

2. Short-answer questions are selected from study questions for the midterm under examination. In other words, you will have short-answer exam questions in advance and have time enough to discuss them. You will have to elaborate your answer in paragraphs for full credit. Please bring a clean scantron and #2 pencils on the quiz and exam dates. An answer-sheet for short-answer question will be provided.

3. Exams are constructed to test your overall comprehension of class materials in accordance with the course objectives. There is no “definition question.” I do not ask you to memorize and regurgitate textual definitions. You will be asked to identify an application of sociological concepts. Keep in mind that lectured materials not elaborated or discussed in texts will be on all quizzes and exams.

4. Exam policy: (a) there is no early exam; (b) a makeup exam must be taken at an appointed time within three days following the scheduled exam; (c) all makeup exams are penalized (-10%) unless you provide a documented excuse verifying the necessity of your absence; (d) under no circumstance
a makeup is given after three school days past the designated exam date; (e) a missing exam thereafter means “failure” (not an incomplete) for that portion of coursework. There is no exception to this exam policy. It is to your advantage not to miss an exam.

Readings
1. Class meetings will include lectures, presentation of data, and periodic discussions. You are required to do assigned readings thoroughly prior to class; be prepared to discuss them and answer questions in class. I do not expect you to grasp the details on your first reading. However, I assume that you are already acquainted with conceptual terms in the texts, that you are prepared to raise generic issues and answer questions in class. In order to set the discussion going, I will randomly name a couple of you to summarily present the assigned articles for two minutes at the next class meeting.

2. Likewise, lectures are delivered on the assumption that you have all assigned readings prepared on time for class. The main text is filled with illustrations from around the world. I consider reiterating self-explanatory chapter materials in class a waste of your time. If you find any textual illustration difficult or disagreeable, please ask for clarification. You may also submit questions in writing.

3. Each lecture identifies issues/themes that the text under discussion raises, and it often centers on extended elaboration of the materials you have already read. Notice the quiz and exam dates below, and plan your schedule accordingly. Changes, if any, will be announced in advance.

4. Readings are assigned in class on every Wednesday and/or Friday for the following week along with the expected completion date. Roughly, the class will cover a chapter (Giddens and Duneier or GD) and a couple of selected articles (Sociological Footprints or SF) per week. Depending on class time, the class will also cover relevant topics such as racism and prejudice, power and legitimacy, pre-industrial societies, industrialization, social division of labor, nationalism, and mass media.

5. Reading assignments for the first week are: GD pp. 1-11, 23-26 (read before Wednesday, Aug. 20th) and SF pp. xii-xvi; SF pp. 6-16 (read before Friday, Aug. 22nd); GD pp. 11-17 and pp. 19-23 (read before Monday, Aug. 25th).

Quiz and Exam Dates
1. 08/18 course introduction & sociological perspective
2. 08/25
3. 09/01 Labor Day (holiday)
   09/03 Quiz 1: Wednesday September 3, 8/20 to 8/29
4. 09/08
5. 09/15 Quiz 2: Monday September 15, 9/03 to 9/12
   09/19 review discussion: Friday September 19
6. 09/22 Exam I: Monday September 22, 8/20 to 9/19
7. 09/29
8. 10/06 Quiz 3 Monday October 6, 9/24 to 10/03
9. 10/13 fall break: Thursday and Friday, 10/16 to 10/17
10. 10/20
    10/22 Quiz 4 Wednesday October 22, 10/06 to 10/20
    10/24 review discussion: Friday October 24
11. 10/27 Exam II: Monday October 27, 9/24 to 10/24
12. 11/03
13. 11/10 Quiz 5 Monday November 10, 10/29 to 11/07
14. 11/17
15. 11/24 Quiz 6 Monday November 24, 11/10 to 11/21
    11/26-11/28 Thanksgiving
16. 12/01
    12/05 review discussion: Friday December 5

Final Exam: 8 a.m. Tuesday December 9, 10/29 to 12/05
Evaluation

1. Your course grade will be based on:
   6 quizzes (10-12 multiple-choices 50 points)…………………………...300 points total.
   3 Exams (30 multiple-choices 150 points & 1 short-answer 50 points)…600 points total.
2. The grading scale is:
   792-900 (88%): A
   702-791 (78%): B
   612-701 (68%): C
   522-611 (58%): D
   521 and Less: F
3. Class attendance is considered if your cumulative points fall near or at the borderline.