

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

TuTH 11-12:20

Lymen Hall 126

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Office Hours: Tues 12:30-1:30 and by appt.

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead

Course Description:

Sociology is a way of “seeing”. Sociology is a social science. Sociology is the study of society. It is the study of how human beings organize themselves and how we build and interact with the institutions, systems, and structures of society; these include social, political, economic, and cultural components of society. Sociologists look for patterns in society, and they analyze such patterns using their sociological imaginations. Through a sociological lens, students of sociology learn to look at the world in a way that is beyond the individual. New understandings about why and how our lives and others’ operate the way they do are possible through the utilization of sociological methods and theories. Sociology often shows us that what we think we know, we really don’t.

Textbooks: (Available and the University bookstore and Online)

- Conley, Dalton. 2008. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to thinking Like a Sociologist*. First Edition
- Massey, Garth. 2009. *Readings for Sociology*. Sixth Edition

Assignments and Grading

- **Participation (20%)**
 - **Attendance (10%)** - You may have three absences throughout the semester. No excuse is required. More than three absences will result in a loss of points for attendance. No exceptions. Extraordinary circumstances come and speak with me.
 - **Revision Groups and Presentations (10%)** –You will be assigned to small groups early in the semester. Your team will provide two important functions. First, your team will revise with one another, sharing notes and developing a team study guide during our revision team meetings. Students who are absent are responsible for getting notes from teammates during the semester. Secondly, each of your groups will be assigned a “class leadership day” in which the group will be responsible for leading an activity, small and/or large group discussions or other participatory activities for the class.
- **6 Reading Responses (30%)** - Write a brief (200-300 word) discussion of the key elements and issues addressed in a set of weekly readings. This assignment is due

on Tuesday of each week at the beginning of class. You may choose to write on any week that has reading assignments. **No late responses.**

- **2 In-Class Exams (30%)**
- **Final Project – (20%)** - Using presentation software (such as PowerPoint) or other form of presentation, incorporate your own photos and text to create a visual essay express the way power, privilege and social inequalities are visible in the world around you. Your slideshow should contain at least 20-25 images and several sets of text. You should begin on the project early in the semester and gather material throughout the term.

Policy

- ◆ The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus and assignments. Changes may be made to accommodate the specific needs of the class.
- ◆ High standards of academic integrity are valued and required by both the university and myself. **Plagiarism, intended or unintended, will not be tolerated.** A student caught plagiarizing will face serious consequences. The infraction will be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee and the student will receive an F on the assignment.
- ◆ **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For more information, see Office of Disability Services, <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>
- ◆ Readings listed for each day of class in the course schedule are to have been read **prior** to coming to that day's class.
- ◆ Student athletes need to submit permission forms signed by a coach in advance to be excused from class and are responsible for making up missing assignments and readings.
- ◆ Classroom conduct: This course is heavily reliant on discussion, which includes difficult dialogue at times. **This is an inclusive and safe classroom.** All discussion points, opinions, and questions are valued; as such students are expected to treat one another and the professor thoughtfully and with respect. Pejorative or discriminatory language will not be tolerated and students who insist on such behavior will be asked to leave the classroom.

- ◆ Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off before coming to class. **DO NOT text message or work on your laptops during class!**

Course Schedule

Jan. 18 Welcome and Syllabus

Jan. 20 Blackboard article “Body Ritual of the Nacirema”

Jan. 25 *You May Ask Yourself*, Chapter 1 “Sociological Imagination: An Introduction”

Jan. 27 *Readings For Sociology* “The Sociological Imagination” pg 13-18

Society and Culture

Feb. 1 *You May Ask Yourself*, Chapter 3 “Culture and Media”

Feb. 3 Blackboard Article “Do Video Games Kill?” & “Do Media Monsters Devour Diversity”

Feb. 8 *You May Ask Yourself*, Chapter 4 “Socialization...”

Feb. 10 *Readings For Sociology* “The Saints and the Roughnecks” “ pg 312-325

Feb. 15 Dreamworlds

Feb. 17 Film Discussion

Feb. 22 Revisions Group Meetings

Feb. 24 **Exam 1**

Social Institutions and Inequalities

Mar. 1 *You May Ask Yourself*, Chapter 6 “Social Control and Deviance”

Mar. 3 *Readings For Sociology* “Code of the Street” 104-116

Mar. 8 *You May Ask Yourself*, Chapter 7: “Family “

Mar. 10 *Readings For Sociology* “Concerned Cultivation and the Accomplishment of Natural Growth.” Pg 137-187

Mar. 15 Spring Break

Mar. 17 Spring break

Mar. 22 *You May Ask Yourself*, Chapter 10: “Capitalism and the Economy”

Mar. 24 *Readings For Sociology* “The McDonalds System” pgs 466-472

Mar. 29 Film “Mardi Gras: Made In China”

Mar. 31 Discussion

Apr. 5 Revision Group Meetings.

Apr. 7 Exam 2

Identity and Stratification

Apr. 12 *You May Ask Yourself*, Chapter 13: “Race “

Apr. 14 *Readings For Sociology* “Go North, Young Man” pgs 210-216

Apr. 19 *Readings For Sociology* “Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America”
229-248 *Being Poor in America* Activity Begins

Apr. 21 *Being Poor in America* Wrap up

Apr. 26 *You May Ask Yourself*, Chapter 12: “Gender”

Apr. 28 “Film: Tough Guise”

May 3 Final Projects due on Blackboard