

SYG1000- Introduction to Sociology

Sociology SYG1000 Sect. 8
Introduction to Sociology
BRY 303 (9:30-10:45 TR)
Fall (First Semester) 2008

Instructor: Dr. Brian Starks E-mail: bstarks@fsu.edu
Bellamy 513
Phone: (850) 644-1839
Office Hours: TR 11:00-12:00, W 1:00-3:00
and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to the central concepts, methods, and perspectives of sociology by developing your *sociological imagination*. We will explore topics ranging from the social construction of race and gender to the social reproduction of social class and inequality. We will also investigate claims about the changing American family and examine contemporary social conflict within various religious faith traditions. Finally, there will be active class discussions examining how the sociological imagination can speak to relevant current events and politics (e.g. globalization, the war in Iraq, democratization in the Middle East, Africa, and South East Asia, global warming, etc).

Readings for the Course:

The following required books have been ordered through the University and area bookstores:

Lafeber, Walter. Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism. W.W. Norton and Company, 2002.
ISBN: 0393323692

Gedicks, Al. Resource Rebels: Native Challenges to Mining and Oil Corporations. South End Press, 2000. **ISBN: 0896086402**

Davis, Nancy J. and Robert V. Robinson (editors). Sociological Perspectives on American Society (4th edition). New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001. (NOT IN PRINT- ON BLACKBOARD)

OFFICE HOURS:

My office is on the Fifth Floor of Bellamy in room 513. My office hours are on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 to 12:00 (noon) and on Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon. If the listed hours are inconvenient, we can set up another time to meet. I am most easily reached by e-mail at bstarks@fsu.edu, but you should recognize that I will not check my e-mail everyday. So, if there is an emergency, please contact me via the telephone.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Please see the following web site for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code. <http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/>
<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or an "F" for the course, at the instructor's discretion. Any student who plagiarizes, cheats on exams, or otherwise behaves in a dishonest way may be reported to the University Judicial Office for official adjudication.

CLASSROOM COURTESY

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the professor or discussion leader), reading newspapers, etc. during class. If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls about kids or other family members, keep it on vibrate. Entering and leaving is distracting to your instructor and other students. Therefore, you need to be on time for class and stay until the end. If you must enter late or leave early, please inform me before class begins and take the seat nearest an exit and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Repeated disruption of class may lead to penalties that reduce your final grade (see below). Class discussions of the issues we study can stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions must be scholarly. **Failure to abide by these principles can result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, to dismissal, to failing the course.**

Scholarly comments are:

Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement; related to the class and course material; advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs; are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

Unacceptable behaviors are:

(a) Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs. (b) Interrupting your instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be called on by the discussion leader or myself to prevent this problem. (c) Using the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed as scholarly endeavors (see above). (d) Using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students, and being physically aggressive. (e) Ignoring your instructor's authority to protect the integrity of the classroom. Anyone who violates these guidelines will be asked to cease and desist and may be asked to leave the classroom and/or drop the course.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is required. Five or more unexcused absences are reason for an F grade for the course. At the very least, there will be an increasing grade reduction for each unexcused absence after the fourth. The following and only the following absences are eligible to be excused: Religious holidays, as specified in FSU policy (see elsewhere in syllabus); absences due to representing FSU at official functions, including intercollegiate debating or varsity sports events; verified emergencies and/or medical illness. Medical illnesses are serious in nature and require continued treatment by medical professionals and/or surgical or other treatments. Colds, the flu, fatigue, and stress do not qualify as medical illnesses. If you have a chronic illness that could affect your attendance, it is imperative that you alert me to this at the beginning of class. Documentation for an absence to be excused is required. You must provide a copy of any documentation to your professor (but maintain a copy for your records). While one is not penalized for excused absences, he or she remains responsible for all content missed, including assignments, knowledge, or skills covered in missed class(es).

Reading: C. Wright Mills, "The Promise" in *The Sociological Imagination*;
Tobin, Wu, and Davidson, "Socialization in Three Cultures: A
Difficult Child in a Japanese Preschool" on Blackboard

NOTE: Aug 28

Last day to Drop/Add and have fees adjusted.

Tuesday, Sept 2

The Social Construction and Meaning of Race

Reading: Hughes, "Reality as a Collective Hunch: That Powerful Drop;"
Staples, "Just Walk on By;" Kramer, "A Rescue without Cheers" on Blackboard

NOTE: Sept 2

Financial aid available via EFT in FSUCard accounts. All financial aid students
must check their financial aid status at <http://www.ais.fsu.edu/finaid>

Thursday, Sept 4

Racism and Science

Reading: Szasz, "The Sane Slave;" Gould, "The Finagle Factor" on Blackboard

Tuesday, Sept 9

The Sociological Imagination II: Consequences of Racism

Reading: Brandt, "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis
Study" on Blackboard

Thursday, Sept 11

Race and Ethnicity

Reading: Sacks, "How Did Jews Become White Folks?" on Blackboard

Tuesday, Sept 16

Distributing Wealth and Income in America: Are We Becoming a Less Equal
Nation? (with a further consideration of global inequality)

Reading: Preface and Chapter 1 of *Michael Jordan and the New Global
Capitalism*

Thursday, Sept 18

Poverty and Welfare Myths

Reading: Chapters 2 and 3 of *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*

Tuesday, Sept 23

The Other America

Reading: Chapters 4 and 5 of *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*

Thursday, Sept 25

The Sociological Imagination III: Examining the Emergence of a McWorld

Wrap-up and review of “Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism”

Reading: Chapters 6 and 7 of *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*

Tuesday, Sept 30

FIRST EXAM

Thursday, Oct 2

A Sociologist Reflects on the American Dream

Reading: Young, Jr., “Navigating Race: Getting Ahead in the Lives of ‘Rags to Riches’ Young Black Men” on Blackboard

Tuesday, Oct 7

Demography and Growth: The Pig and the Python and Population Pyramids

Reading: The Pig and the Python

Thursday, Oct 9

Introduction to Resource Rebels

Reading: Foreward, Introduction, and Chapters 1 of *Resource Rebels*

NOTE: Oct 10

Last day to drop a course without receiving a grade.
Last day to withdraw without receiving a grade.

Tuesday, Oct 14

Social Movements as a Form of Resistance and Social Power

Reading: Chapter 2 of *Resource Rebels*

Thursday, Oct 16

Case Studies: West Papau and Wisconsin

Reading: Chapters 3 and 4 of *Resource Rebels*

Tuesday, Oct 21

Silencing the Voice of the People: Theories of Democratization

Reading: Chapter 5 of *Resource Rebels*

Thursday, Oct 23

Resource Rebels- Globalization, Militarism, Power, and the Environment I

Reading: Chapter 6 of *Resource Rebels*

Tuesday, Oct 28

Wrap-up Resource Rebels

Thursday, Oct 30

Explorations in the Social Psychology of Work

Reading: Hochschild, “The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling”; Marx, “The Unintended Consequences of Undercover Work” on Blackboard

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| Tuesday, Nov 4 | SECOND EXAM |
| Thursday, Nov 6 | Religion and Parental Values Reading: Starks, “Who Values the Obedient Child Now?” on Blackboard |
| Tuesday, Nov 11 | Veteran’s Day Holiday (No Classes) |
| Thursday, Nov 13 | Educational Expectations, Race, and Educational Performance Reading: Steel, “Thin Ice: ‘Stereotype Threat’ and Black College Students” on Blackboard |
| <u>NOTE:</u> Nov. 14 | Deadline for late drop with dean’s permission. |
| Tuesday, Nov 18 | Growing Up Male and Female in America Reading: Hall, “Bully in the Mirror”; Berkowitz and Padavic, "Getting Ahead or Getting a Man" on Blackboard |
| Thursday, Nov 20 | Trends in Family Life Divorce and Its Consequences for Adults and Children Stephanie Coontz, “The Way We Wish We Were;” Furstenberg, “The Future of the Family” on Blackboard |
| Tuesday, Nov 25 | Explaining Crime and Deviance: Biological vs. Social Psychological Theories Reading: Murphy, Waldorf, and Reinerman, “Drifting into Dealing: Becoming a Cocaine Seller”; Jankowski, "Islands in the Street: Urban Gangs as Economic Organizations" on Blackboard |
| Thursday, Nov 27 | Thanksgiving Day (No Classes) |
| Tuesday, Dec 2 | Crime, Corporations, and the State: Street and Suite Crime Reading: Dowie, “Pinto Madness” on Blackboard |
| Thursday, Dec 4 | Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time: Can You Make a Difference? Reading: Schneider, “Saving Konrad Latte” on Blackboard |
| Wednesday Dec 10 | THIRD EXAM (7:30-9:30 AM) |

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY: This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to me indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center, Dean of Students, 08 Kellum Hall
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4400, (850) 644-9566 (voice), (850) 644-8504 (TDD), SDRC@admin.fsu.edu, <http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students will be allowed to miss class due to observance of religious holidays but they are still responsible for all materials assigned outside and covered in class on the day(s) missed. You must talk with your instructor in advance of missing a class for religious holiday observance reasons.

USE OF GRADED MATERIALS AS CLASS EXAMPLES

In this course, all material turned in for a grade is eligible to be used as an example for current and future students of this course. I try to remove names from such examples when I use them, but I cannot promise that all identifying information will be removed in all cases. If you have any concerns about your materials being used in this way for the purpose of future instruction, please let me know ahead of time.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

Missing work is insufficient reason for a grade of Incomplete (I). An **I** will not be given except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor's discretion. Note that College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an "I" must be passing the course.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Use of cell phones, ipods, text messaging, etc. is not allowed during class. Please put these electronic devices away and out of sight during the class. If you need a cell phone because you are on-call or in case of emergency, please set the ringer to silent and leave the classroom unobtrusively if you must answer it.