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SOCI 101S.30: Introduction to Sociology

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SOCIOLOGY 101: Introduction to Sociology

Summer 2011

Course Meets MTWTh 9:30 - 11:20

LA 338

Professor Teresa Sobieszczyk (Dr. Sobie)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an introduction to the field of sociology. We will examine some of the basic concepts, theories, and tools sociologists use to explain the social world and to interpret social issues including the cultural impact of mass media, peer pressure and underage drinking, poverty in post-industrial America, the glass ceiling, and the globalization of everything from factory production to shopping malls. Student performance will be evaluated through homework assignments, attendance and participation in class, and three exams.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: During this course, students will successfully:

1. Demonstrate the development of a sociological imagination
2. Explain and apply sociological concepts and theories to social issues and relationships
3. Employ types of questions asked by sociologists and understand and apply disciplinary methods to explore those questions
4. Examine culturally grounded assumptions that influence perception and behavior of individuals and groups.

TEXTS: All students should purchase James M. Henslin's Essentials of Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach, 9th edition, which is available in the campus bookstore. A copy of this text is also on reserve in Mansfield Library, and on the first day of class I will sell eight copies on behalf of students who took the course this winter. Additional assigned readings will be available through the ERES system (discussed below). A hard copy of the additional readings is also available at the regular reserve desk in Mansfield Library.

LECTURE NOTES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND ADDITIONAL READINGS: For most lectures, I will post the most important charts and graphs as Power Point files on the E-RES system of Mansfield Library. In addition, any class announcements and additional course readings will be posted here. You can access E-RES for this course through the library catalogue under course reserves or at <http://eres.lib.umt.edu>. Look up my last name (Sobieszczyk) and select SOCI101 as the course. The password you will need is SOCI101. You may download and print assigned readings not in the Henslin text as well as selected charts and graphs for your reference in studying for the exams. Go to any computer lab on campus or print from home (if you have the necessary file readers and computer programs). Students who miss a lecture should be sure to print relevant charts and graphs from lectures, review class announcements, and obtain the class notes from the missed lecture from a fellow classmate.

CLASSROOM RESPECT: I will respect you by dismissing class on time each day. In return, please show your respect for me and your fellow class members by refraining from chatting, reading newspapers, or otherwise disrupting class. If you need to leave class early, please let me know before class begins so that I don't worry about you! Also, turn off your cell phones and beepers when you come to class.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND PREPARATION FOR CLASS (20%): You are expected to attend the lectures and to come to class having read and digested assigned readings. Occasionally, we will have small or large group discussions that will draw on your readings. My lectures will highlight your readings as well

as introduce new materials, both of which will appear on exams. If you miss a lecture, please obtain lecture notes from another student in class and the relevant charts, graphs, and announcements from the E-RES system at Mansfield Library. From time to time, your attendance, preparation, and participation will be assessed through short homework assignments, short in-class writing responses, quizzes, discussions, or attendance. In-class reading quizzes, writing responses, and attendance may not be made up.

EXAMINATIONS (80%): There will be four exams held during class period on 7/6, 7/14, 7/21, and 7/28. Each exam will count for 20 percent of your grade. Please mark the exam dates in your schedules and plan your vacations and departure from Missoula at the end of term accordingly! A review sheet will be provided on ERES a few days before each exam. Exams will cover material for the preceding section of the course only. Questions for all examinations will be drawn from lectures, readings, and the movies shown in class and may include multiple choice, true-false, short answer, and/or essay questions. If you are caught cheating on an exam, you will receive an F for the course and the incident will be reported to the Dean.

MAKE UP EXAMINATIONS: If you need to be away during an exam date, please notify me in advance and make arrangements for the make-up exam. Make up exams for the first three exams must be completed within seven (7) days of the regularly scheduled exam date or you will receive a zero for that exam. The make-up exam for the final exam must be completed the day before that exam is scheduled. Make up exams likely will be a short essay / short answer format.

GRADING:

4 exams (20% each)	80 percent
Participation, homework, reading questions, quizzes, attendance	<u>20 percent</u>
Total	100 percent

The plus/minus system will be employed in this course (e.g. A = 100 - 93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-87, B = 86-83, B- = 82-80, etc.). All materials (books, videos) borrowed from Dr. Sobieszczyk must be returned by the final exam for the class or you will earn an 'Incomplete,' which will remain on your record until the materials are returned or replaced.

OFFICE HOURS: Please feel free to stop by during my office hours to discuss course materials, sociological issues, or life in general. If you are unable to attend the regularly scheduled office hours, please arrange an appointment at an alternative time.

EXTRA CREDIT: Come in during office hours to introduce yourself to me and a sociological question. When you come in, please remind me to award you the extra credit.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Homework and reading question assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed in the syllabus. Late homework assignments and reading questions will be accepted for up to seven days after the due date (or the last day of class for the last set of reading questions), however the grade will be lowered one letter grade from what the assignment would otherwise have received. Late assignments will not be accepted if they are submitted eight or more days after the due date or after the last day of class. I strongly suggest that you back up your work and print out the assignment the night before it is due to take care of any printing problems. In a worst case scenario, you may submit a handwritten assignment if your printer or computer fails. Please take advantage of appointments at the Writing Center, which can help you work on writing problems:

<http://www.umt.edu/writingcenter/>

Homework Assignment #1

Type up a 1 ½-2 page description of your family's norms regarding *one* holiday. (e.g. Thanksgiving, 4th of July, Christmas, birthdays, Yom Kippur, etc.). (a) Describe the most important norms you followed and the value(s)

that lay behind each of them and (b) discuss how those norms varied by age or gender. *Your write up will be due at beginning of class on 6/30/11.*

Homework Assignment #2

Perform a non-criminal deviant act (e.g. stand facing the back of an elevator as you ride up or down, walk around campus backwards for a few minutes, shop out of someone else's shopping cart at the grocery store, order tea and scones in a bar, clap after a math lecture, say goodbye when you should say hello, etc.). As you perform this act, observe how other people react to you as well as how you feel in performing the act. Then type up a 1 - 1 ½ page (double spaced) write up. In your write up, (a) describe the non-criminal deviant act that you performed and when and where you performed it, (b) *how* other people reacted to you, (c) *why* you think they reacted that way, (d) *how* you felt when you acted in a socially deviant way, and (e) *why* you felt that way. *Your write up will be due at the beginning of class on 7/11/11.*

Reading Questions #1

1. Discuss Rosenhan's research methodology in the mental institution.
 2. Do you think such a research project would be allowed in the 21st century? Why or why not?
- Your responses will be due at the beginning of class on 6/29/11.*

Reading Questions #2

1. Based on Ritzer's article, "The McDonaldization of Society," briefly summarize the five key principles of McDonaldization that have come to dominate American society.
 2. Based on Bryman's article, "The Disneyization of Society," explain how many American restaurants are "Disneyized."
- Your responses will be due at the beginning of class on 7/20/11.*

SOCI 101 Summer 2011 Reading/Assignment Schedule (subject to change)

--Assignments from the Henslin text are denoted with "H."

--Additional readings are listed by first author's last name, are denoted by "ERES" and are available through ERES

Date	Day	Topic, Written Assignments, Exams	Readings
6/27/11	M	Introduction to Course; The Sociological Perspective; Discussion of Berkman article	Berkman (distributed in class)
6/28/11	T	Puzzles, Paradigms, and Understanding the Social World; Sociological Research (part 1)	H pp. 3-32
6/29/11	W	Sociological Research (part 2); discussion of Rosenhan article; Culture & Society <i>Reading questions #1 due at beginning of class</i>	Rosenhan (ERES) H pp. 35-55
6/30/11	Th	No Socialization, No Society DVD: "The Amish: A People of Preservation" (ML) & discussion <i>Homework #1 due at beginning of class</i>	H pp. 59-81
7/4/11	M	NO CLASS – INDEPENDENCE DAY	
7/5/11	T	Social Structure & Social Interaction: From Macro to Micro Sociology; Education as High Stakes Socialization; Discussion of articles	H pp. 85-108 Kozol (ERES) Sadker & Sadker (ERES)

7/6/11	W	Exam #1 (first 50 minutes; covers material 6 - 27-7/5); Deviance, Crime, & Social Control	H pp. 133-158
7/7/11	Th	Deviance & Social Control; Small group discussion of Chambliss & Mokhiber articles	Chambliss (ERES) Mokhiber (ERES)
7/11/11	M	Social Stratification & Global Inequality; Perspectives on Social Class in the U.S. Homework #2 due at beginning of class	H pp. 161-183
7/12/11	T	<i>DVD: "People Like Us: Social Class in America"</i> (TS/ML) & Discussion; Stratification Monopoly	H pp. 187-209
7/13/11	W	Oh Brother, Where Art Thou? Race & Ethnicity in Contemporary America <i>DVD: "A Class Divided"</i> (TS/ML) & discussion	H pp. 213-243
7/14/11	Th	Exam #2 (first 50 minutes; covers materials 7/6 - 7/13 only); Gender & Work in the U.S	
7/18/11	M	<i>DVD: "Tough Guise"</i> (TS/ML) & discussion; Families in a Changing America	H pp. 247-267 and 315-339
7/19/11	T	<i>DVD: "Chore Wars"</i> (TS/ML) & discussion; The Power Elite: Who Rules America Now?	H pp. 283-311
7/20/11	W	Work & the Economy <i>Clip: "The McDonaldization of Society"</i> (TS) & discussion of video and Ritzer & Bryman articles Reading questions #2 due at beginning of class	Ritzer (ERES) Bryman (ERES)
7/21/11	Th	<i>DVD: "Maquilopolis: City of Factories"</i> (TS/ML) & discussion Exam #3 (last 50 minutes; covers materials 7/14 – 7/21 only)	
7/25/11	M	Population, Resources, & Society: Are Ten Billion People Coming to Dinner? <i>DVD: "How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth?"</i> (ML) & discussion	H pp. 375-386
7/26/11	T	Social Movements <i>DVD: "The Way We Live: Mass Appeal"</i> (TS/ML) & discussion	H 436-448
7/27/11	W	Environmental Sociology: The Love Canal Case & discussion of Dickenson article; <i>DVD excerpt: "Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action"</i> (TS/ML) & discussion	Dickenson (ERES)
7/28/11	Th	Exam #4 (covers materials 7/25 - 7/27 only)	Good Luck!!!