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SOCI 350.01: The Community

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Sociology

SOCI 350: The Community

Spring Semester, 2016

Instructor: Amy Lommen

Office: SS 306

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9-10 am and by appointment

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What is Community? In many ways, communities- the social lives that people make together- lie at the heart of the discipline of sociology. This course will explore a variety of ways that sociologists think about and study communities, and encourage students to think sociologically about the communities in which they live.
-Lyn Macgregor

REQUIRED TEXT:

Flora and Flora- *Rural Communities: Legacy and Change* 4th Edition
ISBN 13: 978-0813345055

Hutter- *Experiencing Cities* 2nd Edition
ISBN 13: 978-0205863648

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Attendance** – Your attendance is mandatory to do well in this course. Given the number of students in this course, it would be too timely to take attendance every day. However, I will randomly give quizzes and extra credit opportunities, through which I will take attendance through your participation.
2. **Participation** – We will all take turns leading discussions in each class. This is considered part of your participation grade. We will devise a schedule within the first week that covers the rest of the semester. You will likely be a discussion leader/facilitator at least once and possibly twice, depending on the number of students in the course. When it is your turn to lead the discussion, please come prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. In addition to assigned readings, please bring 1 supplementary topic per discussion leader. It can be from a local newspaper article, magazine article, TV news, or other topic of interest- so long as it pertains to the topic of the day!
3. **Assignments** – a variety of assignments will be announced throughout the semester and posted on Moodle. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.

- *Reading assignments:* please read assigned readings before attending class in order to effectively participate in learning and small group sessions. Bring 1-2 questions on student facilitation days pertaining to the relevant readings.
- *Book Group/Presentation:* We will choose book groups based on the listed titles below at the beginning of the semester. You and your group will be responsible for reading the book and discussing the major topics and points in it. You will devise a 10 minute presentation for the end of the semester that uses 2 theories from this class to describe the book to your classmates.

4. **Exams** – The semester will be broken into 3 main sections. Exams will be given after the first and second, and a final paper will examine the third.

A few notes on exams: please be on-time and prepared for exams; late arrivals disrupt concentration and are disrespectful to your fellow students. Cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. I do not offer make up exams. If you have a university recognized excuse to miss an exam, it is up to you to notify me BEFORE you miss the exam. Please keep me informed if something is going on in your life that makes it difficult for you to take the exam on time- it is hard to help after the fact, but I'm more than willing to help out if you keep me in the loop.

Total Points:

• Attendance:	20 points
• Participation:	50 points
• Quizzes (5):	25 points
• Exam 1:	30 points
• Exam 2:	30 points
• Exam 3:	30 points
• Book Group Presentation:	25 points
• Total Points:	210 points

GRADING POLICY:

Final grades will be based on a percentage of total possible points.

A	= 90% of total points
B	= 80-89%
C	= 70-79%
D	= 60-69%
F	= below 60%

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

As the semester unfolds, changes may be made to the syllabus. (I can just about assure you changes will be made). Any changes will be announced in-class and on Moodle. It is your responsibility to get up to date information by attending class. If I change dates related to assignments or exams, I will never move a date forward, only later than the original date. I also reserve the right to cancel assignments as I see fit- so total points for the semester can change as a result.

-Topics marked with * will have a discussion leader

- **Week 1-1/25-1/29**

Theme- Introduction to Community

Readings and Discussion Topic

Monday- Introduction and Syllabus

Wednesday- "What is Community?" article on Moodle

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 2- 2/1- 2/5**

Theme- Historical Developments

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- Hutter- Ch. 1 and Ch. 2

Wednesday- Student facilitation

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 3- 2/8-2/12**

Theme- Disciplinary Perspectives

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- Hutter- Ch. 3 and 4 (pg. 59-71)

Wednesday- Student facilitation

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 4- 2/15- 2/19**

Theme- Historical Developments

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- NO CLASS

Wednesday- Simmel, Worth, and Tonnies articles on Moodle

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 5- 2/22- 2/26**

Theme- Community and Social Capitals

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- Flora- Ch. 1 and Ch. 2

Wednesday- Student facilitations

Friday- In class Exam 1

- **Week 6- 2/29- 3/4**

Theme- Strangers and the Ecology of Fear

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- Hutter- Ch. 9 and Ch. 10

Wednesday- Student facilitations

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 7- 3/7- 3/11**

Theme- Social Policy and Poverty

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- Flora- Ch. 6 and Hutter- Ch. 11

Wednesday- Student facilitations

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 8- 3/14- 3/18**

Theme- Natural and Built Capitals

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- No class

Wednesday- Flora- Ch. 2 and Ch. 8

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 9- 3/21- 3/25**

Theme- City People

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- Hutter- Ch. 12 and Ch. 13

Wednesday- Student facilitations

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 10- 3/28- 4/1**

Theme- Rural People

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- Flora- Ch. 3

Wednesday- Student facilitations

Friday- In Class Exam 2

- **Week 11- 4/4- 4/8 Spring Break- NO CLASSES THIS WEEK!!!!!!!!!!**

- **Week 12- 4/11- 4/15**

Theme- Technology

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- “Whispy Communities” article on Moodle

Wednesday- Student facilitations

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 13- 4/18- 4/22**

Theme- Creating Change and Communitarian Movement

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- Flora- Ch. 12, and TBA

Wednesday- Student facilitations

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 14- 4/25- 4/29**

Theme- Book Group Presentations

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- Groups 1, 2, and 3

Wednesday- No Class

Friday- Book Group

- **Week 15- 5/2- 5/6**

Theme- Book Group Presentations

Readings and Discussion Topics

Monday- Group Presentations- Groups 4, 5 and 6

Wednesday- Group Presentations- Groups 7, 8, and 9

Friday- Course Wrap up- Essay 3 hand out (take home essay) due during finals week

Book Group Presentation Choices:

1. Elijah Anderson- *The Cosmopolitan Canopy: Race and Civility in Everyday Life*
2. Robert Bellah & Richard Madsen- *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life*
3. John Freie- *Counterfeit Community: The Exploitation of Our Longings for Connectedness*
4. Thomas Lyson- *Civic Agriculture: Reconnecting Farm, Food, and Community (Civic Society: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives)*
5. Sonya Salamon- *Newcomers to Old Towns: The Suburbanization of the Heartland*
6. William Wilson- *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, The Underclass, and Public Policy*
7. Robert Nisbet- *The Quest for Community: A Study in the Order and Ethics of Freedom*
8. Daniel Kemmis- *The Good City and the Good Life: Renewing the Sense of Community*
9. Paige Hall Smith and Miriam Labbok- *It Takes a Village: The Role of the Greater Community in Inspiring and Empowering Women to Breastfeed*

General Information

UNIVERSITY REQUIRED STATEMENT:

"All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University."

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPsA/index.cfm/page/132>

[FOR COMPLETE ACADEMIC POLICIES PLEASE VIEW THE UM CATALOG.](#)