**Course Description:**

“Fundamental concepts of social organization, culture, socialization, social institutions and social change.” The purpose of this course is for the student to develop an understanding and appreciation for the ways in which sociology may be used to understand life and culture. In particular, the student will be able to apply the three sociological perspectives and understand the variance of outcome that results from using each one.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To understand the history, development, and composition of cultures and societies.
2. To understand and be able to apply sociological perspectives as a means of explaining and analyzing cultures and societies.
3. To understand the implications of policy decisions in sociological terms.

**Course Evaluations (Grades):**

At the beginning of each class, attendance will be taken. Excessive absences or tardiness will result in either a lowering of your grade or withdrawal from class with a failing grade. (See below.)

There will be three take-home, open book exams, plus a final exam. These will be graded as A, B, C, D, or F. Because the number of items in each exam will differ, grading will be determined on the basis of the class curve: the students with the most points will receive an A, the next group a B, etc.

A list of books will be given to you from which to choose for the book report/analysis that will be due at the end of the semester. Other books may be chosen if approved by the instructor. The report must be at least three pages, and reflect an understanding of the content of this course. This means that you are to take to content of the book you choose, and apply to the various parts of it as much of the material from the course as you can. Grades will be determined by the quality of this analysis, content, grammar, spelling, and style. You are to use either APA or MLA for your format. It is suggested that you find someone to help with editing if needed. Reports must be typed in a 12 point font and double spaced on white paper with 1 inch margins. Pages should be stapled together; they should not be put in any kind of folder.

You will also be asked to give a report in class of an observation you have made of some kind of behavior from a qualitative perspective. Class reports will not be graded, but not giving a report will lower your final grade, and any report that is not given in the appropriate qualitative form will have to be redone.

Extra Credit may be earned for any project suggested by you and approved by the
instructor. Simply copying articles, unless specifically assigned, will not count for extra credit.

“If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you need to notify the Disability Services and Resources office, located in TDS 100. Their phone number is 623-845-3080.”

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is required. Absence is allowed only in the case of extreme illness or emergency, or by submission of the appropriate official excused absence form. The instructor must be notified of absences at least an hour before the time of the class by leaving a message on her answering machine. (623-977-0927) Unexcused and/or unreported absences may affect your grade, unless special arrangements have been made with the instructor, such as in a case of extreme illness or surgery, or death of a family member.
Class Schedule

This is your reading schedule. This course will use a number of videos to illustrate the material given in the text. Therefore, the discussion schedule will be somewhat flexible, and while based on the material in the text, will not necessarily recapitulate it. You will be expected to read and understand the material on your own; if you have questions about it, you are encouraged to ask them in class.

January 24 - Housekeeping and getting acquainted. Explanation of course requirements including grading and observational study.

January 31 - Chapter 1. The Sociological Perspective
            Chapter 2. Sociological Investigation

February 7- Chapter 3. Culture
            Chapter 4. Society

February 14 - Chapter 5. Socialization
            Chapter 6. Social Interaction in Everyday Life
            Video “The Wild Child”

*Take home exam. Due at beginning of next class.

February 21 - Chapter 7. Groups and Organizations
            Chapter 10. Social Stratification

February 28 - Chapter 11. Social Class in the United States
            Chapter 12. Global Stratification
            Video “Ellis Island”

March 7 - Chapter 13. Gender Stratification
            Chapter 14. Race and Ethnicity
            Chapter 15. Aging and the Elderly

*Take home exam. Due at beginning of next class.

March 14 - Chapter 18. Families

March 21 - Spring break, no class

March 28 - Chapter 20. Education

April 4 - Video. Sicko

April 11 - Chapter 21. Health and Medicine

*Take home exam. Due at beginning of next class.
April 11 - Chapter 16. The Economy and Work
    Chapter 17. Politics and Government
    Video “Roger and Me”

April 18 - Chapter 8. Sexuality and Society
    Chapter 9. Deviance

April 25 - Chapter 22. Population, Urbanization, and Environment

May 2 - Chapter 23. Collective Behavior and Social Movements
    Video - “Paper Clips”

May 9 - Final Exam & Book Report Due