Introduction to Sociology

Sociology 101-3792 (Ace Plus)
Spring, 2010
Dr. Elaine G. King

Home phone: 602-588-1465
Text: Sociology: John J. Macionis, 12th edition

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 five 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. 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.
As stated in the Student Handbook, any indications of cheating or plagiarism, including lack of, or incorrect citations, will result in either a grade of F, or lowering of the grade, as determined by the instructor.

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. (602-588-1465) 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.
This is your reading and discussion schedule. This course will use a number of videos to illustrate the material given in the text. Therefore, the 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 before the beginning of each class; if you have questions about it, you are encouraged to ask them in class. If it puzzles you, it puzzles others.

Your opinions and comments are welcome, as long as they are relevant. You may speak up at will, as long as rules of politeness are observed. You are encouraged to discuss with each other points being made in class, as long as the entire class is able to hear what you are saying. It is especially encouraged that you relate the material being discussed to events in the world.

January 23 - Housekeeping and getting acquainted. Explanation of course requirements including grading and observational study.

January 30 - Chapter 1. The Sociological Perspective
Chapter 2. Sociological Investigation

February 6 - Chapter 3. Culture. Be prepared to discuss your culture and how it is different.
Chapter 4. Society

February 13 - Chapter 5. Socialization. Be prepared to discuss how you were raised.
Chapter 6. Social Interaction in Everyday Life
Video “The Wild Child”

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

February 20 - Chapter 7. Groups and Organizations
Beginning of Video “Ellis Island”
Chapter 10. Social Stratification

February 27 - Continuation of Video “Ellis Island”
Chapter 11. Social Class in the United States. Be prepared to discuss your class.
Chapter 12. Global Stratification

March 6 - Chapter 13. Gender Stratification. Be prepared to discuss examples you bring to class.
Chapter 14. Race and Ethnicity
Chapter 15. Aging and the Elderly

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

March 13 - Chapter 18. Families. Be prepared to discuss different types of families, yours and others.

March 20 - Spring break, no class

March 27 - Chapter 20. Education. Bring to class a plan for an ideal school system to discuss.

April 3 - Video. Sicko
Chapter 21. Health and Medicine. Be prepared to discuss ramifications of health
bill.

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

April 10 - Chapter 16. The Economy and Work. Be prepared to discuss unemployment.
    Chapter 17. Politics and Government
    Video “Roger and Me”

April 17 - Chapter 8. Sexuality and Society. Bring to class any questions about sex.
    Chapter 9. Deviance

April 24 - Chapter 22. Population, Urbanization, and Environment. Be prepared to discuss environmental issues.

May 1 - Chapter 23. Collective Behavior and Social Movements. Be prepared to discuss the holocaust and similar events in other countries.
    Video - “Paper Clips”

*Take home final exam.

May 8 - Final Exam & Book Report Due

Scheduled exam date: Return of exam and book report, and final grade.