Sociology 101
Introductory Sociology
FALL 2009
Section 8
MWF 9:00-9:50
Room: Bishop 103

Where is Leavell Hall? Leavell Hall is located on Dormitory Row West right across the street from the Johnson Commons cafeteria. If you need directions, or have any other questions about the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the programs we offer, please visit the Department website: http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/soc_anth/

Prerequisites: This course is open to any undergraduate student. Introductory Sociology is required for Sociology majors. This course may be counted toward the “Social Science” requirement for most University degrees.

Course Summary: This course will introduce students to the concepts and principles of sociology—“the scientific study of human social behavior.” We will focus on two central course objectives:

1.) To develop the critical thinking skills involved in "the sociological imagination"--the ability to see the private realities of our own lives in the context of common social structures; and...
2.) To use these skills to examine U.S. society as well as the larger global scene.

We will attempt to come to a preliminary understanding of our current social situation by placing it in historical perspective. By focusing on how our current cultural and political/economic circumstances affect the way we live our lives, we will be able to more clearly define the problems that we, as a society, are confronting at the start of the 21st century. In particular, we will look at how the social dynamics of wealth, power, and ideology lead to various forms of inequality. We will analyze gender, race/ethnic, and class inequality in some depth. We will also briefly examine many other social issues which confront us at this point in history. Among the topics we will investigate in some detail are: socialization, bureaucracy, consumerism, industrialization, post-industrial society, ethnocentrism, suicide, conforming to authority, rationalization, modernity, post-modernism, political systems, capitalism, socialism, the division of labor, the global economy, modernization, the environment, third world development, poverty, wealth, racism, genocide, patriarchy, feminism, sexual violence, and social change. It is my hope that every student in the class will find something of specific interest to him or her and that all students will come away from the course with an appreciation for what the sociological perspective has to offer.

Required Books: There are two (2) books required for this course. You should purchase them as soon as possible. They will also be available on reserve at the Library:

"The Text"
Available at Ole Miss Bookstore, 915-5896

"The Reading Packet"
Sociology 101 Reading Packet,
Available at Sir Speedy Copies, 236-0036

Course Requirements: (over)

Requirements: Grades in this course will be based upon the following:
Exams: There will be FOUR exams (3 mid-terms and 1 cumulative final) counting 100 points each. All exams will consist of multiple-choice, and short-answer/essay questions. Your grade will be determined by your THREE BEST exams. An unexcused absence from an exam will count as a zero. Since you will be allowed to drop your lowest exam score, there will be no make-up exams. Exceptions to this rule will be made only in extreme circumstances such as severe illness or family emergency. In these rare instances you must notify me in person (or call and leave a message at the above number before class on the day of the exam) in order to arrange a make up.

Essay Assignment: There will also be ONE written essay assignment. You will have a choice of 3 topics on which to write your paper. The assignment you choose will be worth 50 points and will consist of a 3-5 page paper. The purpose of this paper is to practice applying sociological concepts to observed social behavior. Details and instructions for each assignment will be handed out in class well before their due dates at various points in the semester (see "course calendar"). NOTE: You will only do ONE of the three choices!

In-class/Homework Assignments: There will be TEN unannounced class-room quizzes or homework exercises. The exercises will vary, but some may require you to summarize a concept from lecture or from a portion of the required reading. If you must miss lecture for a UNIVERSITY APPROVED reason on the day of the exercise, you must notify me before the date of the lecture you will miss in order to qualify for partial credit (3 of 5 points). If you miss an exercise because you are absent or late, you will not be able to make it up. Likewise, if you have not kept up with the required reading, it will be difficult to make a good score on these exercises. Each in-class/homework assignment will be worth 5 points.

Course Grade:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best 3 Exams</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Essay</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Short Assign</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
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Class Meetings: Due to the large size of this course, open class discussion can be a challenge. However, questions and comments from members of the class are not only encouraged but expected! Many issues in sociology lend themselves to dialogue and debate. While we do have much material to cover, I will make an asserted effort to engage in such discussions as they come up. My only requirement is that you come to class prepared! **Readings are to be done before each lecture.**

Attendance: Attendance in this course is required! Obviously, if you miss the majority or all of the in-class assignments, your grade will suffer. Moreover, if you make all of these assignments, you will be given the benefit of the doubt in borderline cases and will receive the higher grade. **DO NOT TAKE MY COURSE IF YOU PLAN ON MISSING LECTURES.** If there is a legitimate reason (illness, death in family, etc.) why you must miss a lecture, be sure to tell me before the date of the lecture you are going to miss so I can make note of it and you will receive partial credit for any in-class assignments you may have missed.

Scholastic Dishonesty (Cheating): You will not be permitted to cheat yourself, or the other students in this class, by engaging in scholastic dishonesty in this course. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, any effort to seek assistance during an in-class exam from persons other than the instructors. It is also scholastic dishonesty to submit assignments that are plagiarized or written by anyone other than yourself. Do not cheat. If I catch you, you will fail the class. The Dean will be notified. It will be a BIG mess and will make all of us feel very uncomfortable. (If you feel that you are in a situation which may compel you to cheat see "Help" below).

Help: I am available to help you with any problems you may have either during office hours (see above) or by appointment. Please take advantage of this resource. Both myself and the graduate teaching assistant are here to help you do well in the course. Have your questions ready when you arrive and schedule your visit well ahead of a test or paper due date. I cannot give you any real help fifteen minutes before the test. Also, if you feel that you may need extra help to do well in the course, be sure and see us as soon as possible. The sooner the better.

Course Calendar: (Subject to change).
("Chapt." readings are in "The Text," "Author" readings are in "the Reading Packet")

### UNIT 1: The Basics

#### Week 1: Introduction to Sociology
- **M** 8/24 Introduction to Course
- **W** 8/26 Defining Sociology
- **F** 8/28 The Sociological Imagination
  - Chapt. 1 (pp. 2-11)  
  - Mills

#### Week 2: The Scientific Study of Society
- **M** 8/31 The Sociological Imagination (cont’d)
- **W** 9/2 Observing the social world: Theory & Data
- **F** 9/4 Sociological Theory: Functionalism
  - Chapt. 1 (11-34)

#### Week 3: Theory and Methods
- **M** 9/7 ***"Labor Day Holiday. NO CLASS!***"
- **W** 9/9 Sociological Theory: Conflict Theory
- **F** 9/11 Methods
  - Henslin/Scully&M.

#### Week 4: The Social Mind and Symbolic Interaction Theory
- **M** 9/14 Learning to be Human: Nature vs. Nurture
- **W** 9/16 Theories of socialization
- **F** 9/18 The Social Construction of Reality
  - Chapt. 3, Davis  
  - Chapt. 4, Gracey  
  - Henslin #2

#### Week 5: Social Groups and Organizations
- **M** 9/21 Presentation of Self in Everyday Life
  - Chapt. 5 (pp. 122-130)  
  - Goffman
- **W** 9/23 Social Groups
  - (as 1st Essay choice Due)
- **F** 9/25 ***Exam I***
  - Chapt. 5, Meyer

### UNIT 2: How To Understand A Changing World

#### Week 6: Contemplating Society and History:
- **M** 9/28 Bureaucracy and Rationalization
- **W** 9/30 Modernity and Theorists of Modernity
- **F** 10/2 "Modern Times"
  - Chapt. 2  
  - Ritzer

#### Week 7: Sociological Analysis Part 1: Culture
- **M** 10/5 What is Culture?
- **W** 10/7 The Foundations of Culture
  - Chapt. 2  
- **F** 10/9 Culture Cont’d
  - Harris #1
  - Caplow  
  - Miner

#### Week 8: Sociological Analysis Part 2: Politics and Power
- **M** 10/12 Power and Political Systems
- **W** 10/14 Pluralist and Power-Elite theories of politics
- **F** 10/16 "Free Speech for Sale"
  - Chapt. 12 (pp. 352-368)  
  - Harris #2

#### Week 9: Sociological Analysis Part 3: Economics and Wealth
- **M** 10/19 Wealth and Economic Systems
  - (as 2nd Essay Choice Due)  
  - Chapt. 12 (pp. 336-352)  
  - Thompson
- **W** 10/21 Capitalism vs. Socialism
  - Chapt. 9  
  - Ehrenreich & Fuentes
- **F** 10/23 The Global Economy and review for Exam 2

#### Week 10:
- **M** 10/26 ***Exam II***
UNIT 3: Inequality in Modern Society: Class, Race & Gender

Week 10 (cont'd): Social Stratification and Class Inequality
W 10/28 Social Stratification in the U.S. (in class exercise)
F 10/30 Stratification in U.S. Society

Week 11: Class Inequality in the U.S.
M 11/2 Theories of Class and Inequality
W 11/4 “People Like Us”
F 11/6 Race and Ethnicity in American Culture

Week 12: Race and Ethnic Inequality in the U.S.
M 11/9 Ethnicity and Immigration
W 11/11 Racism in American Culture
F 11/13 Sex vs. Gender

Week 13: Gender Inequality in the U.S.
M 11/16 Gender in Advertising
W 11/18 Gender Inequality: The Wage Gap
(≈ 3rd Essay Choice Due)
F 11/20 ***Exam III***

Week 14:
M 11/23 *** Thanksgiving
W 11/25 *** Holiday!
F 11/27 *** No Class!!

UNIT 4: Sociological Visions of the Future

Week 15: Social Change and Future Public Issues
M 11/30 Modernism vs. Post-Modernism?
W 12/2 The Logic of Growth
F 12/4 Limits to Growth Thesis

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 9
8:00-11:00 am
Bishop 103