

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
118 THOMAS BUILDING
SUMMER, 2005
MTWRF 02:20P - 03:35P

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Course website: <http://www.personal.psu.edu/aml286/>

Course Description and Objectives: The primary goal of this course is to provide students with the tools and knowledge necessary to examine and interpret social life. To this end, we will study existing theories and research on historically important topics in sociology. More importantly for most students, another aim of this course is to help students in developing their active reading, critical thinking, and analytic writing skills.

Course Materials:

Readings: Penn State's Electronic Reserves and paper handouts

Text: Ferguson, Susan J. (ed.) 2005. *Mapping the Social Landscape: Readings in Sociology*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

If you are unable to purchase the text for financial reasons, please see me immediately.

Calendar (day-by-day schedule will be reviewed in advance):

Week One (16-20 May):

Topics: What is Sociology?, Asking Sociological Questions, Social Basics

Read: Mills, "The Promise"

Gaines, "Teenage Wasteland"

Giddens & Duneier handout

Week Two (23-27 May):

Topics: Socialization, Conformity & Deviance

Read: Messner, "Boyhood, Organized Sports, and the Construction of Masculinities"

Dyer, "Anybody's Son Will Do"

Rosenhan, "On Being Sane in Insane Places"

Boswell, "Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture"

Due: Reading Notes, 23 May

Week Three (30 May – 3 June):

Topics: Stratification, Poverty, Power Structure, Global Inequality

Read: Davis & Moore; Tumin, "Some Principles of Stratification"

Domhoff, "Who Rules America?"

Ehrenreich, "Nickel-and-Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America"

Marx, "Manifesto of the Communist Party"

Due: Reading Notes, 30 May; **Monthly Budget, 1 June**

Week Four (6-10 June):

Topics: Life in Poverty, Meeting, Exam

Read: Duneier, "Sidewalk"

Anderson, "Code of the Street"

Due: Meetings, 7 June; **Exam, 9 June**

Week Five (13-17 June):

Topics: Gender Inequality, Race & Ethnicity, Sexuality

Read: Risman, "Gender as Structure"

Williams, "The Glass Escalator"

Omi, "Racial Formations in the United States"

Rubin, "Is this a White Country, or What?"

Delany, "Times Square Red, Times Square Blue"

Due: Reading Notes, 13 June; **Paper Draft, 13 June**

Week Six (20-24 June):

Topics: Institutions (Family, Education, Religion, Mass Media)

Read: Hochschild, "The Time Bind"

Stacey, "Gay and Lesbian Families Are Here"

Chaves, "Abiding Faith"

Marger, "The Mass Media As A Power Institution"

Kozol, "Savage Inequalities"

Due: Reading Notes, 20 June; **Final Paper, 24 June**

Assessment and Grading:

With the small size of this summer course, we have an opportunity to move away from simple memorization of facts and vocabulary words and work on developing *your* own sociological ideas. To facilitate this, only one of this course's five assessments will require memorization, *per se* (i.e., the exam). The following are the course assessments:

1. **Participation** (10%): Attendance is not mandatory, but participation is essential to having good class discussions. Therefore, you probably will not receive a very good participation if you don't show up for class. I will meet with all students on 7 June to discuss your progress in the course and at this time will give your participation grade to date.
2. **Monthly Budget Assignment** (10%): Due on 1 June.
3. **Reading Notes** (20%): With the exception of the first week and exam week, you will be required to turn in responses to critical reading questions. On Mondays, I will distribute a list of questions and on the following Monday, I will expect you to turn in your responses. Each of the four sets of responses will be graded on a five-point scale, totaling to twenty possible points.
4. **Major Paper** (30%): You will be required to write a paper of approximately 6-8 pg. in length. To encourage high quality thinking and writing, these papers will be assessed in two steps: your first draft will count for 10% of your course grade and your revision will count for 20%. More details on the papers soon.
5. **Mid-term Exam** (30%): A 60 question multiple-choice exam.

Summary:

10% Participation

10% Monthly Budget Assignment

20% Reading Notes

30% Paper (First Draft, 10%; Revision, 20%)

30% Mid-term Exam

100% Final Grade

Final Grades:

94%-100%	A	90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+	84-86	B
80-83	B-	77-79	C+
74-76	C	70-73	C-
60-69	D	<60	F

Late Policy: On any assignment, your grade will be reduce by one unit for each day late (e.g., 1 day, from A to A-; 2 days, B+; 3 days, B, and so on).

Missed Exam: Don't do it. A make-up exam will be given at my discretion and I reserve the right to change the format (e.g., essay or short answer). As a general rule, death and hospitalization are the only excuses.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Not tolerated. You will receive a zero for the exam/paper in question with no chance of a make-up. You will also be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further sanctions.

Civility and Respect: This course will include discussions of class, nationality, religion, gender, race, ethnicity, and sexuality. I expect students to show respect toward all the subjects of our study. More importantly, I expect you to treat your classmates and your instructor with respect and dignity at all times – especially when you disagree with them.