Soc. 200: Introduction to Sociology
Spring 2018

REQUIRED TEXT BOOK
DALTON CONLEY: YOU MAY ASK YOURSELF (5TH EDITION)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

“Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both.”

--C. W. Mills, The Sociological Imagination

This course is an introduction into the field of sociology. Among the topics we will cover are identity construction, social interactions, issues of social inequality, critical analysis, and empirical investigation of the social. In the spirit of C. W. Mills, students will be encouraged to examine how their individual biographies are connected to the larger historical and cultural context in which they take place. The primary objective of this course is to teach students how to use their sociological imaginations when interacting with the world on a daily basis.

The class will move rather rapidly through many topics and chapters. There will be considerable reading for this course. The lectures will NOT merely summarize the text, and students are responsible for keeping up in the different texts (please have the readings for that day done before coming to class). This will be a lecture-style class (given the size), however discussion, questions, and comments are welcome.

REQUIRED WORK
1. There will be two 50-point exams: one midterm and a final exam. You need to bring a Scantron 882 form, a number 2 pencil and a highlighter to take exams. The test format will be multiple-choice questions. Total of 100 points.

2. There will also be a weekly writing reflection based on the course. Each will be worth 5 points. (See “Writing Reflections” on next page for guidelines). Total 50 points.

3. Over the course of this class, two or more guest speakers will give presentations. You are expected to write a one-page reaction paper on each of these presentations. Each paper is worth 5 points (See “Requirements for all Writing Assignments” for guidelines). Total 10 points.

4. There will be a course project designed by the class to explore the sociological imagination outside the classroom (details for this assignment will be designed by the class). Total 40 points.

MISSED EXAMS
Exams cannot be taken early nor will I allow students to make up missed exams without the proper documentation from the Student Health Center or Disabilities Services. All students must take the final exam to pass the course.
Grading Scale (total of 200 points)

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**Format for Weekly Writing Reflection** (due Mondays before class on D2L)

The purpose of this assignment is to have the student thoroughly engage the material in a timely manner. Students are expected to have read all assigned material before class begins that day. To earn full credit on your paper, there are three basic elements needed:

1. Identify two themes: you will be expected to identify two themes or ideas that stood out for you. For example, reflect on anything you find useful, problematic, challenging to your worldview, or enlightening.
2. Please use at least one quote for each theme.
3. Tie each theme to either a biographic element in your life or a historical/current event.

Papers cannot be less than two FULL pages and no more than three pages. You will lose points for a paper that is only 1 and ¾ pages in length (see also “Requirements for all Writing Assignments”).

**Requirements for All Papers**

1. All written assignments must be type in 12-point font, double-spaced, using one inch margins on all sides. Each paper should only have your name, the date, and the title of the assignment (this should be single-spaced at the top left-hand corner of the paper). The actual assignment should begin after this information with **one space between**. Each assignment has a minimum page length requirement. If papers are not formatted as specified, you will lose points. Example below:

Matthew J. Geraths  
3/30/17  
**Weekly Writing Assignment-Week 2: The Sociological Imagination**  
My first theme is …

Mills states: “Neither an individual nor a society…”

I find that Mills’ statement relates to the Black Lives Matter movement because …

2. All papers need to checked and corrected for spelling errors and grammar. Please answer writing assignment questions in complete sentences. If you require assistance in this area, the PSU Writing Center can help. Papers with high numbers of spelling, grammatical, or sentence structure errors will be penalized 50% of assignment grade.
**Late Work & Missed Classes**

I do not accept any late work. Students must upload papers to the appropriate D2L drop box by the class deadline or the papers will not be accepted.

**Please Note:** If you are in need of an academic accommodations, please notify me (the instructor) immediately to arrange needed supports. I am happy to provide the Testing Center with a copy of the exam and quizzes.

**Class Conduct**

This class is designed to promote students to think critically about our assumptions regarding love, sex, marriage, and more. Many of us have strong views and feelings around these issues. With that said, this class is intended to be a safe space for everyone. To insure this goal, I ask all students to be respectful and considerate of each other as well as the instructor; there are many ways of being and it is the class philosophy to celebrate this diversity. No hateful speech or attacks on any particular student or groups will be tolerated.

In an effort to make this class a learning experience for everyone, please do not carry on conversations with your friends during the lecture. If these or other types of distracting behavior persist, the students involved will be asked to leave the class. And please remember to TURN OFF your cell phones.

**Title IX Reporting Obligations**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. We expect a culture of professionalism and mutual respect in our department and class. You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to either the Office of Equity and Compliance or the Office of the Dean of Student Life.

Please be aware that as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment or sexual violence to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module *Creating a Safe Campus in your D2L.*

Thank you for your participation and I look forward to the contribution each one of you will make!
Week 1: Introduction to the Sociological Imagination
   Monday April 2
      * Introduction to the overall class structure, the instructor, and the syllabus
   Wednesday April 4
      * Read Chapters 1-2

Week 2: Reality as We Learn it, Pop-Culture and the Social Construction of Reality
   Monday April 9
      Read Chapter 3
   Wednesday April 11
      Read Chapter 4

Week 3: In-Group Out-Group, and the Context of Social Control
   Monday April 16
      Read Chapter 5
   Wednesday April 18
      Read Chapter 6

Week 4: Social fault-lines…Ask yourself: where do you draw the line?
   Monday April 23
      Read Chapter 7
   Wednesday April 25
      Reach Chapter 8

Week 5: Continuing the conversation: social fault-lines
   Monday April 30
      Read Chapter 9
   Wednesday May 2
      Read Chapter 10

Week 6: The canopies under which we become…navigating systems of knowing
   Monday May 7
      ** MIDTERM (covering chapters 1-10) **
   Wednesday May 9
      Read Chapter 11

Week 7: Continuing to navigate our canopies
   Monday May 14
      Read Chapter 12
   Wednesday May 16
      Read Chapter 13

Week 8: Striking out, autonomy in systems of control
   Monday May 21
      Read Chapter 16
   Wednesday May 23
      Read Chapter 14

Week 9: Systems of control Cont.
   Monday May
      ** NO CLASS: Memorial Day **
   Wednesday May
      Read Chapter 15

Week 10: TBD
   Monday
      Read Chapter 17
   Wednesday
      Read Chapter 18

Week 11:
   Monday June 11th FINALS: 3:30-5:20