Introduction to Sociology

Sociology 200 (Sec 003)

Winter 2012

Lectures: T/R 10-12 CH 271

Instructor: Kim Ulmer, M.S., M.A.
Office: CH 209
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2 or by appointment
E-mail: Ulm@pdx.edu
Texts: Second Thoughts: Sociology Challenges Conventional Wisdom by Ruane & Cerulo
American Society: How it Really Works by Wright & Rogers

Course Description and Objectives: This course is an introduction to sociology as a way of understanding the world. Sociology is a field of study that explains social, political, and economic phenomena in terms of social structures, social forces, and group relations. I will introduce you to the field by focusing on several important sociological topics, including socialization, culture, the social construction of knowledge, inequality, race and ethnic relations, poverty, and political sociology. You will leave this course with:

*An understanding of the three main sociological perspectives;
*Distinguish between Macro and Micro levels of social analysis;
*The ability to apply these perspectives and theories to contemporary social problems;
*Insight into the critical link between social structures, social forces and individual circumstances;
*Insight into how you shape society and how society shapes you.

Class Participation and Attendance: Attendance will be taken every class. This is a part of your overall attendance and participation grade. You will NOT be penalized for missing class, however, you will be rewarded for good attendance with a higher participation grade at the end of the term (this usually results in a letter bump up at the end). Each student is responsible for completing the reading and being prepared to contribute to class discussion. “90 percent of life is just showing up” (I have no idea who said that, but it’s true)

Grading: There will be two multiple choice exams including the final. They are both worth 100 points each. Each exam will consist of 50% lecture material and 50% text material. There will be also be 2 written assignments worth 100 points each and 2 quizzes worth 50 points each for a total of 500 points possible for the course. The writing assignments will be approximately 3 pages in length and each one will be a critical analysis of a topic covered in lecture that is presented in the two films shown in class.

Paper assignment requirements: *Critically analyze*tie in sociological themes*don’t just summarize*apply concepts in film to other areas in sociology*about 3 pages double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point font-you are not fooling anyone with large margins!
Questions to be answered in your papers: How did this film portray sociological concepts? (give concrete examples) What is a critique of this film? How can this film’s sociological topic be applied to an area not addressed in the film? The films shown in class are just as important as a test so make sure you are here on those days. Late papers will be accepted with a 10 percent deduction for each day late. Grading scale is as follows: 450-500=A; 400-449=B; 350-399=C; 300-349=D; 299 or below=F

Course Schedule- Days when films are shown are as important as a test day so mark your calendars.

Jan. 10
Introduction

Jan. 12
Ruane & Cerulo text: Introduction and Essays 1, 2, and 3

Jan. 17
Ruane & Cerulo text: Essay 4, 5, and 6

Jan. 19
Ruane & Cerulo text: Essays 7, 8, and 9

Jan. 24
Ruane & Cerulo text: Essays 10, 11, and 12

Jan. 26
Ruane & Cerulo text: Essays 13, 14, and 15 (QUIZ over essays 1-15)

Jan. 31
Ruane & Cerulo text: Essays 16, 17, and 18

Feb. 2
Film Shown for Paper Assignment

Feb. 7
Film Paper Due! Ruane & Cerulo text: Essays 19, 20, and 21

Feb. 9
Ruane & Cerulo text: Essays 22 and 23

Feb. 14
Test 1 (covering the entire Ruane & Cerulo text and class discussion)

Feb. 16
Wright & Rogers text: Chapters 1 and 2

Feb. 21
Wright & Rogers text: Chapters 10 and 11

Feb. 23
Wright & Rogers text: Chapters 12 and 13

Feb. 28
Wright & Rogers text: Chapters 14 and 15 (QUIZ over Chapters 1,2, & 10-15)

Mar. 1
Film Shown for Paper Assignment

Mar. 6
Film Paper Due! Wright & Rogers text: Chapters 3 and 4

Mar. 8
Wright & Rogers text: Chapters 5 and 6

Mar. 13
Wright & Rogers text: Chapters 7 and 8

Mar. 15
Wright & Rogers text: Chapters 16 and 17

Mar. 20
FINAL EXAM 10:15 in this room (covering the Wright and Roger chapters)