Introduction to Sociology

Sociology 200 (Sec 003)

Spring 2012

Lectures: T/R 10-12 CH 150

Instructor: Kim Ulmer, M.S., M.A.

Office: CH 209

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2 or by appointment

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Texts: Second Thoughts 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. Attendance counts for 25 percent of your overall grade (it is just as important as a test or paper). If you are present each class, you get 100 points for your participation. If you miss 4 classes=75 points; miss 8 classes=50 points; miss 12 classes=25 points; and miss 16 classes=0; 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!)

Exams, Papers and Grading: There will be two multiple choice exams. They are both worth 100 points each. Each exam will consist of 50% lecture material and 50% text material. There will also be 1 written assignment worth 100 points for a total of 400 points possible for the course. The writing assignment will be approximately 4 pages in length and will be a critical analysis of a topic covered in lecture that is presented in the film 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 4 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 film shown in class is just as important as a test so make sure you are here on that day. Grading scale is as follows: 360-400=A; 320-359=B; 280-319=C; 240-279=D; 239 or below=F.

Course Schedule - schedule is subject to change and changes will be clearly stated in class.

Apr 3   Understanding Sociology- Introduction
Apr 5   Ruane and Cerulo- Essays 1,2,3
Apr 10  Ruane and Cerulo Essays 4, 7, 8
Apr 12  Ruane and Cerulo Essays, 9-12
Apr 17  Ruane and Cerulo Essays 13, 15, and 16
Apr 19  Ruane and Cerulo Essays 17 and 18
Apr 24  Ruane and Cerulo Essays 19 and 20
Apr 26  Ruane and Cerulo Essays 22 and 23
May 1   MIDTERM—Over Ruane and Cerulo essays covered
May 3   Wright and Rogers- 3 and 4
May 8   Wright and Rogers- 5 and 6
May 10  Wright and Rogers-7 and 8
May 15  Wright and Rogers- 10 and 11
May 17  FILM SHOWN FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENT
      FILM PAPER DUE---Wright and Rogers-12 and 13
May 22
May 24  Wright and Rogers- 14 and 15
May 29  Wright and Rogers- 16 and 17
May 30  Wright and Rogers-18 and 19
Jun5    Wright and Rogers 20 and 21
Jun 7   Wright and Rogers- 22 and 23
Jun 12  FINAL EXAM 10:15 in this room