Introduction to Sociology

Sociology 200

Fall 2012

Lectures: T/R 10-12 CH 371

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Office Hours: MW 11-12 or by appointment
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Texts: Sociology Project (available at the PSU bookstore)

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.

Exams, Papers and 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 1 written assignments worth 100 points and 2 quizzes worth 50 points each for a total of 400 points possible for the course. The writing assignment will be approximately 3.5 pages in length double spaced and each one will be a critical analysis of a topic covered in lecture that is presented in a 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 3.5 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. Grading scale is as follows: 350-400=A; 300-349=B; 250-299=C; 200-249=D; 199 or below=F

Course Schedule- schedule is subject to change and changes will be clearly stated in class.
Sept 25  Introduction
Sept 27  Chapter 1 The sociological Imagination
Oct. 2  Chapter 2 Studying the Sociological World
Oct. 4  Chapter 3 Social Interaction
Oct. 9  Chapter 4 Social Structure
Oct. 11  Chapter 5 Culture, Media, and Communication- Film Shown
Oct. 16  Chapter 6 Power and Politics (quiz 1)
Oct. 18  Health and Sociology
Oct. 23  Cities and Communities
Oct. 25  Stratification, Inequality, and Poverty
Oct. 30  Test 1 (covering Chapters 1-6 as text material and lecture material)
Nov. 1  Chapter 10 Race and Ethnicity
Nov. 6  Chapter 11 Gender and Sexuality
Nov. 8  Chapter 13 Families
Nov. 13  Chapter 14 Religion
Nov. 15  Film Shown for Writing Assignment
Nov. 20  Film Paper Due! (quiz 2)
Nov. 22  NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Nov. 27  Education
Nov. 29  Crime, Deviance and Social Control
Dec. 4  FINAL EXAM 10:15 in this room

COURSE POLICIES
Please turn off your cellphones, ipods, etc. during class, and please turn your attention away from materials (e.g. newspapers) that are not relevant to the class.
Deadlines and Make-ups. Assignments and readings are to be completed by the beginning of class on their due date, and I prefer that you turn in a hard copy of all assignments. Prior approval is required for e-mailed assignments. (E-mail assignments at your own risk – they sometimes get...
lost in my inbox.) Late work is penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per each class day. Missed exams cannot be made-up without prior approval. Please document any family or medical emergency and notify the professor before the class you will miss. Make-up exams must be taken in the testing center [(503) 725-5301 or testing@pdx.edu].

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. Class participation will be taken into account for final grading as well; 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!).

Class Participation. This class is designed to promote students to think critically about assumptions regarding sociology, our own conventional wisdom, political structures affecting our everyday lives and more. Many of us may have strong feelings about these issues, and in order to make our class a safe and open place for discussion, respectful behavior towards classmates and the instructor are expected at all times. Moreover, hateful speech or attacks towards members of the class, instructor, or specific social groups will not be tolerated.

D2L. Course materials and grades will be available online at https://d2l.pdx.edu. I may also use D2L to communicate with the class. Please let me know if you are unable to access D2L. It is your responsibility to maintain an updated email address with D2L so that you can receive emails and announcements. **PLEASE DO NOT email me through D2L** The best way to get in touch with me is by emailing me directly at ulm@pdx.edu. If you are having trouble accessing your D2L account or do not have an ODIN account please contact the OIT help desk (Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU) 18) at 503-725-HELP (4357) or help@pdx.edu.

Plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense than can result in a failing grade and other serious consequences, including expulsion. Plagiarism occurs when you utilize the ideas, expressions, phrases or words of another person without correctly citing that person or source. Make sure you understand how to correctly cite sources, including when and how to paraphrase and quote.

Students with disabilities, who may require accommodations, are encouraged to contact the PSU Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) and the professor at the beginning of the term to arrange accommodations. The DRC is located in 435 Smith and can be contacted at 725-4150 or by email at drc@pdx.edu. Visit their site at www.pdx.edu/uasc/drc.

Recommended Materials
Here are some helpful on-line grammar and writing resources:
The OWL at Purdue University
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/01/
The Emory Writing Center
http://www.writingcenter.emory.edu/writing.html

Resources to Help You Succeed at PSU
Writing Center (http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu)
One-on-one help with writing, on a drop-in or appointment basis
188F Cramer Hall, 725.3570

Millar Library (http://www.lib.pdx.edu)
Reference desk, phone, IM, email, 24/7 chat: http://library.pdx.edu/askus.html
Research guides, research survival guide: http://library.pdx.edu/researchguides.html

Undergraduate Advising and Support Center (UASC) (http://www.pdx.edu/uasc)
Drop-in advising hours are Monday-Friday, 10-3 (subject to change) OR call to schedule an appointment
425 SMU, 725.4005, askuasc@pdx.edu

Student Health and Counseling Center (SHAC) (http://www.shac.pdx.edu)
Counseling, psychological evaluation and intervention, testing services, and all health-related concerns