SOC 310: US Society
Winter 2016
Meeting times: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:50pm

Professor: Heidi Esbensen
Email: esbensen@pdx.edu
Office hours: By appointment in Cramer Hall 217 T/TH

TA (Graduate): Madeline
Email: moneil@pdx.edu
Office hours: TBA, Cramer Hall room 209

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

While the title of this course – ‘US Society’ – is rather general, the course itself will be an in-depth examination of the values, institutions, and cultural forms in contemporary American society. The course is designed to be an exposition of the structural patterns of US society, using sociological theories and data but integrating them into a general view. Among the subjects we will explore are: inequality through a lens of race and class, community relations, social institutions, crime, gender and sexuality, and entertainment culture.

Students will learn about the systematic study of human behavior and of the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions, particularly those of the contemporary United States; and of the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources. We will also be exploring key themes in the course through the use of the book, *Righteous Dopefiend*, an ethnographic examination of drug addiction in America.

*** IMPORTANT NOTE: The content of *Righteous Dopefiend* is graphic in nature but is absolutely required reading for this course. There are photos and detailed descriptions of homelessness and heroin drug addiction. If you feel that reading or looking at this material will be too difficult for you personally, please consider taking this course at another point in time.

REQUIRED READINGS


3) All other readings will be available through D2L online. Readings posted online are required for class.
You can choose to purchase an e-book version of Righteous Dopefiend if you prefer. The Wright & Rogers text is not yet available as an e-book. Both are available in the PSU Bookstore.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Paper/Assignment/Test policy

Late work will not be accepted. If exceptional circumstances occur, it is your responsibility to notify me in advance to make appropriate arrangements.

Syllabus

Any revisions to this syllabus will be announced in class or sent through pdx email and will take precedence over this document.

Classroom Etiquette

Please turn off and put away cell phones – they are not to be used in class. Computers are okay to use only in the first two rows of class and if you are using a computer for something other than course notes, you will not be able to use one in the future (such things are disruptive to those around you). Please be on time, if you are late, please enter quietly. This course may have some sensitive topics and different opinions are appreciated, so please be respectful to peers and professor.

Disability

Students with disabilities who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the PSU Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) and the instructor 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.

A Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is academically dishonest. Any unacknowledged borrowing of another’s work constitutes plagiarism and has serious consequences, which can range from a failing grade to disciplinary action by the Office of Student Affairs. Many students are unaware of what constitutes plagiarism and unfamiliar with proper citation format. It is plagiarism when:

- You use more than five words in a row directly from another text, without citation. While correct citation is important, please use quotes sparingly in your writing. Too many quotes are a sign of bad writing.
- You paraphrase too closely the work of others.
- You do not cite the source of any idea you got from another text. Remember that you need to cite ideas, not just direct quotes.
- This also applies to materials from films and websites.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Book Analysis</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly participation/attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Final Project 20%

Bi-weekly quizzes 20%

Final exam 20%

**Bi-weekly Quizzes: (100 pts total – 25 pts each)**

Every other week, you are required to complete one quiz covering the previous two week’s course materials and readings. The quizzes consist of approximately 15-25 multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes cover material from the lectures and required readings of both weeks (the course schedule on the last page of the syllabus gives guidelines for which material will be on each quiz). The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

- The quiz will be available on D2L beginning at 6am Friday morning and must be completed by 11:59pm on Sunday nights.
- You may want to print your completed quizzes and use them as study guides for the final exam.
- Once you begin a quiz, **do not exit** until you have completed it. If you encounter any problems, click on D2L Help at the top of the page.

**Book Analysis (100 pts.) Due week 10**

In addition to your regularly scheduled readings from the text and those posted online, you must read *Righteous Dopefiend* and complete a 3-4 page written assessment of the book. You will be required to cite at least two chapters from Wright and Rogers in your analysis, use in-text citations, and have a works cited page. A detailed guideline will be posted online and distributed in class later in the term.

**Final Project (100 pts.)*** Due week 9

The Final Project is due anytime in the last two weeks of class, earlier in this block is better for you. This project has loose guidelines, as it is your chance to be creative in the way you show me what you have learned in this class. Further in depth instructions follow at the end of the syllabus.

**Weekly Participation (5 pts each)**

Every week during one of the class meeting times there will be a group discussion or assignment that will be counted as your in class participation and attendance.

**Exam (Final, 100 pts.)**

The final exam will be worth 17.5% of the course grade. This multiple-choice exam will include the material covered in readings, videos, lectures, and discussions. **It is your responsibility to make sure that you will be available at the scheduled exam time.** The final is mandatory and you will not pass the course if you do not take the final.

***DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO OR HAND IN ASSIGNMENTS, PLAN ACCORDINGLY OVER THE TERM TO SPREAD OUT WORK ON THEM OR THEY
WILL SEEM COMPOUNDED!! NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED!

**GRADING**
The following table is the final grade scale for the course
Grades will be kept up in D2L and anything not completed will be counted as a zero.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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CLASS OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE
(Any links needed will be posted in their most recent form on D2L in case of any changes, also additions and subtractions may be made as needed and posted on D2L and will override this syllabus)

Week 1 (January 4th thru January 9th)
- American Society Chapters 1 and 2
- Righteous Dopefiend Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 2 (January 11 thru January 16th)
- American Society Chapters 3 and 4
- Mills and Domhoff article on D2L
- Quiz One

Week 3 (January 18th thru 23rd)
- American Society Chapters 5 and 7
- Righteous Dopefiend Chapter 2

Week 4 (January 25th thru 30th)
- American Society Chapters 8, 10 and 11
- Righteous Dopefiend Chapter 3 and 4
- Quiz Two

Week 5 (February 1st thru February 6th)
- American Society Chapters 12 and 13
- Righteous Dopefiend Chapter 5

Week 6 (February 8th thru February 13th)
- American Society Chapter 14
- Western and Pettit article on D2L
- Quiz Three

Week 7 (February 15th thru 20th)
- American Society Chapter 15
- Pascoe article on D2L
- Righteous Dopefiend Chapter 6

Week 8 (February 22nd thru 27th)
- American Society Chapters 16 and 17
- Righteous Dopefiend Chapter 7
- Quiz Four
Week 9 (February 29th thru March 5th)
• American Society Chapters 19 and 20
• Righteous Dopefiend Chapter 8
• Final Project Due by Thursday Class time (you may hand in either day this week)

Week 10 (March 7th thru 12th)
• American Society Chapters 21 and 22
• Righteous Dopefiend Chapter 9 thru the end
• Quiz Five
• Book Analysis Due by Thursday Class time (you may hand in either day this week)

Final exam Monday, March 14
10:15am-12:05pm
GUIDELINES FOR FINAL PROJECT

This is an opportunity to express in a manner that is chosen by you (paper, art, music, video, etc.) what you have learned/gained from this course and presented materials that expanded and utilized your sociological imagination. These projects can be done alone, or in a group of no more than three of your classmates. Some suggestions for projects are listed below, but not limited to them. Email or talk with me if you want to clarify that a project you have in mind would be a good choice!

- Mixed media art piece
- Painting/drawing, etc.
- Song written by you
- Video (made by you) expanding on a topic
- Short Research Project
- PowerPoint
- Mixed CD (no less than 8 songs)
- Social experiment
- Activity in the community as activist or volunteer with write up
- THIS LIST IS BY NO MEANS LIMITED

Each of the projects needs to be accompanied by a short explanation of how it relates to class materials and what/why you did it. This should be around 2 pages. For a mixed CD you must briefly explain why and where each song relates to class material/content. This project should be submitted in class week 9, or dropped off in the Sociology department with me.

This project is due no later than March 3rd. Keep in mind that the end of the term is fairly heavy, so start early and plan accordingly.

GRADING

Grades for this project will be based on 1) relation to course material and ability to connect concepts with sociological imagination and 2) effort shown in completion of the project. Grading is non-specific because the projects will be different, but you need to show me that you put in worth A effort into the project to receive an A, etc.