HONORS - Introduction to Sociology 1011V
Fall Semester, 2004
MWF 1:25-2:15pm, Blegen 155

Professor Ann Meier
1146 Social Sciences Tower
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612-626-7230
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-5pm or by appointment

Course Objective: This course will introduce basic sociological concepts including theories, methods and common subjects of sociological study. We will accomplish this through, lectures, readings, assignments and videos.

Required Readings:

Sociology: A Global Perspective (fifth edition, 2003) by Joan Ferrante, is available at the University Bookstore in Coffman Union.


These two books are also available on reserve in the Wilson Library basement.

Service Learning: Community service learning is a component of this course. On Friday, Sept. 10, you will receive an additional hand-out with more details on service learning requirements, and we will have a panel of people describe the service learning opportunities available to you. In brief, here are the service learning requirements for the class:

1. Choose one of six organizations where you will volunteer for at least 20 hours over the course of the semester.
2. Attend a training session.
3. Keep a weekly log of your volunteer time.
4. Complete three short (1-page) assignments updating me on your service learning experience. Due dates on syllabus. I will describe these further in class.
5. Work in a group to understand how sociological concepts apply to your service learning experiences. I’ll assign groups. Your group will give a short (5-7 minute) presentation at the end of the semester based on sociological patterns that you see in your service learning organizations.
6. Write a 6-8 page final paper using your service learning experience as primary material for the paper. I will give more details in class.

Assignments: You will hand in your assignments in class on or before the due date.

Late assignments will receive half credit. You can do these assignments in any on-campus computer lab or using your home computer. Please use Microsoft Word or Wordperfect to complete these assignments. Do not collaborate on the assignments.
**Reaction Papers:** Based on readings from the course reader, you’ll write **TWO** reaction papers to questions based on selected readings. You will be given several choices for readings to discuss in each reaction paper. Each reaction paper will be 3 typed, double-spaced pages using a standard 12-point font and 1 inch margins. The reaction paper questions will be distributed in class.

**Service Learning Written Update:** **Three** times during the semester, you are required to complete a written update of your service learning experience. In this update, you need to answer three questions: 1) What have you done in your organization; 2) what did you feel about what you have done; 3) what patterns or interesting events did you notice in your organization? Each update will be 1 typed, double-spaced page using a standard 12-point font and 1 inch margins.

**Exams:** There will be three, non-cumulative exams. Each exam will consist of 50-70 objective questions (true/false and multiple choice). These are in-class, closed book exams. You cannot use notes or any supplementary material during the exams. Make-up exams will be given only to students with legitimate excuses. Legitimate excuses include verified illnesses and family emergencies, which require written documentation to excuse your absence. If you have a disability that affects your exam-taking ability, you must consult with me within the first two weeks of class so that we can make the necessary accommodations for you.

**Final Paper:** This paper is an analysis of your service learning experience. The assignment for the paper will be handed out in class. The paper will be 6-8 typed, double-spaced pages using a standard 12-point font and 1 inch margins.

**Incompletes:** No incomplete will be given for this course unless you have a prior written agreement with me.

**Attendance & Participation:** Lectures and reading materials are meant to complement each other rather than repeat each other; thus, class attendance is critical. Good news! You will grade yourself on participation in class each time we meet. Grading will be on a scale of 1-5, 1 indicating no participation and 5 indicating active participation and good listening. I will review your self-grades and adjust them if necessary (e.g. if you give yourself a 5, but you were snoozing during class).

**Support Services:**
For assistance with writing:
Writing Center, 306B Lind Hall, 612-625-1893

Skill-building, test-anxiety, counseling, etc.:
Learning & Academic Skills Center, 109 Eddy Hall, 612-624-3323

For assistance with physical or learning disabilities:
Disability Services, 30 Nicholson Hall, 626-1333
Grading

Sources of grade:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Papers</td>
<td>15% (7.5% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<td>Service learning updates</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Group presentation</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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Grading Scale:

- A 94-100
- A- 90-93
- B+ 87-89
- B 84-86
- B- 80-83
- C+ 77-79
- C 74-76
- C- 70-73
- D 60-69
- F 59 and below

Academic honesty

I take academic integrity seriously and expect you to do the same. Academic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) interfering with another student’s work, plagiarism, and cheating on exams. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty in any portion of your work for the course, please talk to the instructor and teaching assistants. Strictest disciplinary action allowed by University policy will be pursued in all instances of academic misconduct.

Course Outline and Assignments:

Wednesday, Sept. 8
Introductions
Syllabus

PART I – THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

Friday, Sept. 10
Service Learning Panel

Monday, Sept. 13
What is Sociology?
Ferrante Chapter 1
Peter L. Berger, The Craft of Sociology from “Invitation to Sociology” in reader
C. Wright Mills, “The Sociological Imagination” in reader

Wednesday, Sept. 15
Historical Foundations of Sociology - Theory
Ferrante, Chapter 2

Friday, Sept. 17
Methods of Sociological Research
Monday, Sept. 20
Ethics in Social Research

Wednesday, Sept. 22
Culture
Ferrante, Chapter 3
Marvin Harris, “India’s Sacred Cow” in reader

Friday, Sept. 24
Culture
Buss, Shackelford, Kirkpatrick and Larsen, “A Half Century of Mate Preferences” in reader
*Service Learning Discussion

Monday, Sept. 27
Socialization
Ferrante Chapter 4
Kingsley Davis, “Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation” in reader.

Wednesday, Sept. 29
Socialization

Friday, Oct. 1
Social Interaction
Ferrante Chapter 5
Service Learning Update #1 Due

Monday, Oct. 4
Organizations
Ferrante Chapter 6

Wednesday, Oct. 6
Organizations
*Service Learning Discussion

Friday, Oct. 8
Crime, Deviance
Ferrante Chapter 7
Robert K. Merton, “Social Structure and Anomie” in reader
Reaction Paper #1 Due

Monday, Oct. 11
Law, Social Control
Wednesday, Oct. 13  
Guest Lecture: Restorative Justice

Friday, Oct. 15  
Exam 1

**PART II – STRUCTURES OF POWER**

Monday, Oct. 18  
Stratification, Class, Inequality  
Ferrante Chapter 8

Wednesday, Oct. 20  
Stratification, Class, Inequality  
Andrew Hacker, “Money and the World We Want” in reader  
Video: People Like Us

Friday, Oct. 22  
Guest Lecture: Minnesota’s Poverty Population

Monday, Oct. 25  
Poverty/Homelessness  
Herbert Gans, “No, Poverty Has Not Disappeared” in reader  
*Service Learning Discussion

Wednesday, Oct. 27  
Race/Ethnicity  
Ferrante Chapter 9  
Robert Merton, “Discrimination and the American Creed” in reader  
*Service Learning Update #2 Due

Friday, Oct. 29  
Race/Ethnicity  
Video: RACE: The Power of an Illusion

Monday, Nov. 1  
Power & Politics  
Ferrante Chapter 11

Wednesday, Nov. 3  
Immigration  
*Service Learning Discussion

Friday, Nov. 5  
Gender  
Ferrante Chapter 10
Monday, Nov. 8
Gender
Video: The Pinks and the Blues

Wednesday, Nov. 10
Exam 2

Part III – SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS
Friday, Nov. 12
Education
Ferrante Chapter 14

Monday, Nov. 15
Family
Ferrante Chapter 13

Wednesday, Nov. 17
Family
Skolnick & Skolnick “Family in Transition” in reader
Service Learning Update #3 Due

Friday, Nov. 19
Aging
Ervin, “Fourteen forecasts for an Aging Society” in reader.

Monday, Nov. 22
Religion
Ferrante Chapter 15
Reaction Paper #2 Due

Wednesday, Nov. 24
Religion
Marybeth Ayella, “Insane Therapy” in reader
*Service Learning Discussion

Friday, Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Break!

Monday, Nov. 29
Work, Economic Life

Wednesday, Dec. 1
Work, Economic Life
Video: Global Village or Global Pillage
Friday, Dec. 3
Population
Ferrante Chapter 12
Jennifer D. Mitchell, “Next Doubling” in reader

Monday, Dec. 6
Urbanization
Final Paper Due

Wednesday, Dec. 8
Social Change, Social Movements
Ferrante Chapter 16
Adam, “Globalization and the Mobilization of the Gay and Lesbian Communities” in reader

Friday, Dec. 10
Social Change
*Service Learning Discussion

Monday, Dec. 13
Service Learning Group Presentations

Wednesday, Dec. 15
Exam 3

Course schedule subject to change