Introduction to Sociology 1001
Fall Semester, 2004
MWF 9:05-9:55, Blegen 5

Professor Ann Meier
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-5pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistants:
Joyce Bell. email: roen0003@umn.edu
08:00am-08:50am M, BlegH 260 (016 DIS)
10:10am-11:00am M, BlegH 210 (018 DIS)

Minzee Kim. email: kimx0939@umn.edu
08:00am-08:50am W, BlegH 260 (019 DIS)
10:10am-11:00am W, BlegH 210 (021 DIS)

Colman Titus Msoka. email: titu0016@umn.edu
08:00am-08:50am F, BlegH 210 (022 DIS)
10:10am-11:00am F, BlegH 225 (024 DIS)

Lara Cleveland. email: clev0026@umn.edu
08:00am-08:50am W, BlegH 115 (020 DIS)

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

Assignments: You will hand in your assignments on or before the due date. You have three options for handing in your assignments:

1. Hand in assignment at lecture on the due date.
2. Hand in assignment at your lab before the due date or on the due date if your lab meets
   the day that the assignment is due.
3. Put assignment in your TA’s mailbox in 909 Social Science before 4:30pm on the due
date. 909 Social Science is locked after 4:30pm.

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.

Short Reports
Based on real experiences as a social observer using your sociological imagination, you’ll write TWO
short reports from three choices describing and analyzing your experiences and evidence. One report is on
deviance and social control, one on patterns of campus life and one on media and society. Each report will
be 4 typed, double-spaced pages using a standard 12-point font and 1 inch margins. The short report
assignments will be distributed by your TAs in lab.

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 by your TA in lab.

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 or your TA within the
first two weeks of class so that we can make the necessary accommodations for you.

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

Attendance: Lectures, reading material and labs are meant to complement each other rather
than repeat each other; thus, attendance at lecture and lab is critical. Attendance is required for
five specific lectures as designated by (*) in the course outline below. On these days, we will be
taking attendance in class and you will receive a point in your final grade for attending these
lectures.

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:

- Lecture attendance: 5%
- Lab participation: 10%
- Short Report assignments: 16% (8% each)
- Reaction papers: 16% (8% each)
- Midterm 1: 15%
- Midterm 2: 18%
- Final: 20%
- TOTAL: 100%

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

We 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
Introduction
Syllabus

PART I – THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

Friday, Sept. 10
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

Monday, Sept. 13
Historical Foundations of Sociology - Theory
Ferrante, Chapter 2

Wednesday, Sept. 15
Methods of Sociological Research

Friday, Sept. 17
Ethics in Social Research
Monday, Sept. 20
Culture
Ferrante, Chapter 3
Marvin Harris, “India’s Sacred Cow” in reader

Wednesday, Sept. 22
Culture
Buss, Shackelford, Kirkpatrick and Larsen, “A Half Century of Mate Preferences” in reader

Friday, Sept. 24
Media and Society

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

Wednesday, Sept. 29
Socialization
Short Report #1 Due

Friday, Oct. 1
Social Interaction
Ferrante Chapter 5

Monday, Oct. 4
Organizations
Ferrante Chapter 6

Wednesday, Oct. 6
Organizations

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 – required attendance day
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 – required attendance day
Guest Lecture: Minnesota’s Poverty Population

Monday, Oct. 25
Poverty/Homelessness
Herbert Gans, “No, Poverty Has Not Disappeared” in reader
Short Report #2 Due

Wednesday, Oct. 27
Race/Ethnicity
Ferrante Chapter 9
Robert Merton, “Discrimination and the American Creed” in reader

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

*Monday, Nov. 1 - required attendance day
Power & Politics
Ferrante Chapter 11

Wednesday, Nov. 3
Immigration

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

Friday, Nov. 19
Aging
Ervin, “Fourteen forecasts for an Aging Society” in reader.
* Short Report #3 Due

Monday, Nov. 22
Religion
Ferrante Chapter 15

Wednesday, Nov. 24
Religion
Marybeth Ayella, “Insane Therapy” in reader

Friday, Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Break!

Monday, Nov. 29
Work, Economic Life

Wednesday, Dec. 1
Work, Economic Life
Video: Global Village or Global Pillage
* Reaction Paper #2 Due

*Friday, Dec. 3 – required attendance day
Population
Ferrante Chapter 12
Jennifer D. Mitchell, “Next Doubling” in reader
Monday, Dec. 6
Urbanization

Wednesday, Dec. 8
Social Change, Social Movements
Ferrante Chapter 16

Friday, Dec. 10
Social Change

Monday, Dec. 13
Instructor’s Choice!!

Wednesday, Dec. 15
Exam 3

Course schedule subject to change