Introduction to Sociology 1001
Spring Semester, 2005
Tuesday 5:45-8:15pm, Blegen 10
Course Website: [http://www.soc.umn.edu/~meierann/Teaching/IntroSoc.htm](http://www.soc.umn.edu/~meierann/Teaching/IntroSoc.htm)

Professor Ann Meier
1146 Social Sciences Tower
meierann@umn.edu
612-626-7230
Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00-2:00pm

Teaching Assistants:
Shawn Wick. email: wickx068@umn.edu Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00am or by appt.
04:40-05:30pm T, BlegH 115 (023 DIS)
08:30-09:20pm T, BlegH 115 (025 DIS)

Kasia Polanska. email: pola0024@umn.edu Office hours: Tuesdays 1:15-2:15pm or by appt.
04:40-05:30pm T, BlegH 260 (022 DIS)
08:30-09:20pm T, BlegH 260 (024DIS)

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 and is packaged with:


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

Assignments: You will have three short writing 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 or on the due date.
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 Report
Based on real experiences as a social observer using your sociological imagination, you’ll write ONE short report describing and analyzing your experiences. The short report is related to our section on deviance and social control. The report will be 3-4 typed, double-spaced pages using a standard 12-point font and 1 inch margins. The short report assignment 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 3-4 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 two, non-cumulative exams. Each exam will consist of 60-80 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 percentage 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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Report</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction papers</td>
<td>24% (12% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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## 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.

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## Course Outline and Assignments:

### PART I – THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

**Tuesday, Jan 18**

- Introduction
- Syllabus
- What is Sociology?

Readings:

- Ferrante Chapter 1
- Peter L. Berger, *The Craft of Sociology* from “Invitation to Sociology” in reader
- C. Wright Mills, “The Sociological Imagination” in reader

**Tuesday, Jan 25 (required attendance)**

- Historical Foundations of Sociology - Theory
- Methods of Sociological Research
- Ethics in Social Research

Readings:

- Ferrante, Chapter 2
Tuesday, Feb 1
Culture
Media and Society

Readings:
Ferrante, Chapter 3
Marvin Harris, “India’s Sacred Cow” in reader

Tuesday, Feb 8
Socialization
Social Interaction

Readings:
Ferrante Chapter 4
Ferrante Chapter 5
Kingsley Davis, “Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation” in reader.

*Tuesday, Feb 15 (required attendance)
Organizations

Readings:
Ferrante Chapter 6

*Tuesday, Feb 22 (required attendance)
Reaction Paper #1 Due
Crime, Deviance
Law, Social Control
Guest Lecture: Restorative Justice

Readings:
Ferrante Chapter 7
Robert K. Merton, “Social Structure and Anomie” in reader

PART II – STRUCTURES OF POWER

Tuesday, Mar 1
Stratification, Class, Inequality
Video: People Like Us

Readings:
Ferrante Chapter 8
Andrew Hacker, “Money and the World We Want” in reader
Herbert Gans, “No, Poverty Has Not Disappeared” in reader
Tuesday, Mar 8
*Short Report #1 Due*
Race/Ethnicity
Video: RACE: The Power of an Illusion

Readings:
Ferrante Chapter 9
Robert Merton, “Discrimination and the American Creed” in reader

March 14-18 Spring Break!!!!

Tuesday, Mar 22
*EXAM 1*

Tuesday, Mar 29
Gender
Education

Readings:
Ferrante Chapter 10
Ferrante Chapter 14

**Part III – SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Tuesday, April 5
Family
Aging

Readings:
Ferrante Chapter 13
Skolnick & Skolnick “Family in Transition” in reader

*Tuesday, April 12 (required attendance)*
Religion
Guest Lecture: Cults

Readings:
Ferrante Chapter 15
Tuesday, April 19

*Reaction Paper #2 Due*

Work, Economic Life  
Power & Politics  
Social Movements

Readings:  
Ferrante Chapter 11  
Ferrante Chapter 16

*Tuesday, April 26 (required attendance)*  
Population  
Urbanization  
Immigration

Readings:  
Ferrante Chapter 12  
Jennifer D. Mitchell, “Next Doubling” in reader

Tuesday, May 3

*EXAM 2*

Course schedule subject to change.
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS POLICY

GRADES: University academic achievement is graded under two systems: A-F (with pluses and minuses) and S-N. Choice of grading system and course level (1xxx/3xxx/5xxx) is indicated on registration forms; changes may not be made after the FRIDAY of the second week of the semester. Some courses may be taken under only one system; limitations are identified in the course listings. The Department of Sociology requires A-F registration in required courses for the major. University regulations prescribe the grades that will be reported on your transcript.

A Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements (4.00 grade points)
A- 3.67 grade points
B+ 3.33 grade points
B Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements (3.00 grade points)
B- 2.67 grade points
C+ 2.33 grade points
C Achievement that meets the basic course requirements in every respect (2.00 grade points)
C- 1.67 grade points
D+ 1.33 grade points
D Achievement worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements (1.00 grade point)
F Performance that fails to meet the basic course requirements (0 grade points)
S Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.
N No credit. Its use is now restricted to students not earning an S on the S-N grade base
I Incomplete, a temporary symbol assigned when the instructor has a "reasonable expectation" that you can successfully complete unfinished work in a course before the end of the next semester. You and your instructor should arrive at a clear understanding, in advance, about whether you will receive an I and what the make-up work conditions will be. The instructor may set date conditions for make-up work. If a course is not completed as prescribed or not made up as agreed within the next semester of registration, the I will lapse to an F if registered on the A-F grade base or an N if registered on the S-N grade base.
W Official withdrawal from a course after the end of the second week of the semester. You must file a course cancellation request before the end of the sixth week of the semester to ensure that the W, rather than the F, will be formerly entered on your record.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS (see CLA Bulletin): You are required to take final examinations at the scheduled times (see the Class Schedule). Under certain circumstances, however, you may request final examination schedule adjustment in your college office. Instructors are obligated to schedule make-up examinations within the final examination period for students who have three final examinations within a 16-hour period. Instructors also are encouraged to reschedule examinations for students with religious objections to taking an examination on a given day. You must submit your request for an adjustment in your schedule at least two weeks before the examination period begins. For assistance in resolving conflicts, call the CLA Student Information Office at 625-2020. If you miss a final, an F or N is recorded. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make up the examination. Final examinations may be rescheduled by the instructor only through the official procedure for that purpose (see the Class Schedule). Final examinations may not be scheduled for the last day of class or earlier or for Study Day. If an examination is rescheduled at the instructor's request, and you have an examination conflict because of it, you are entitled to be given the final examination at an alternative time within the regularly scheduled examination period for that semester.

CLASS ATTENDANCE (see CLA Bulletin): As a CLA student, you are responsible for attending class and for ascertaining the particular attendance requirements for each class or department. You should also learn each instructor's policies concerning make-up of work for absences. Instructors and students may consult the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook for more information on these policies.

COURSE PERFORMANCE AND GRADING (see CLA Bulletin): Instructors establish ground rules for their courses in conformity with their department policies and are expected to explain them at the first course meeting. This includes announcement of office hours and location, the kind of help to be expected
from the instructor and teaching assistants, and tutorial services, if available. The instructor also
describes the general nature of the course, the work expected, dates for examinations and paper
submissions, and expectations for classroom participation and attendance. Instructors determine the
standards for grading in their classes and will describe expectations, methods of evaluation, and factors
that enter into grade determination. The special conditions under which an incomplete (I) might be
awarded also should be established. The college does not permit you to submit extra work to raise your
grade unless all students in the class are afforded the same opportunity.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR (see CLA Bulletin): You are entitled to a good learning environment in the
classroom. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or to other students will be
asked to leave.

SCHOLASTIC CONDUCT (see CLA Bulletin): The college has broadly defined scholastic dishonesty
as any act violating the rights of another student in academic work or involving misrepresentation of your
own work. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, cheating on assignments or
examinations; plagiarizing, misrepresenting as your own work any part of work done by another;
submitting the same work, or substantially similar works, to meet the requirements of more than one
course without the approval and consent of all instructors concerned; depriving another student of
necessary course materials; or interfering with another student's work. The Student Scholastic Conduct
Committee, composed of students and faculty members, investigates charges of academic dishonesty
referred to it by CLA faculty members. When charges are upheld, the student may be placed on
disciplinary probation, failed in a course, or suspended from the college. CLA faculty members may act
on cases involving CLA students in their classes; such actions may not exceed modification of a course
grade. Instructors must report any action to the conduct committee, and the student will be informed of
the right to ask for a committee hearing. Specific information on report and appeal procedures may be
obtained by calling Student Academic Support Services (625-3846). Disciplinary or conduct cases that
are nonacademic in nature or that involve two or more colleges are referred to the Campus Committee on
Student Behavior.
A REMINDER OF RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
* SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES *

GRADE INFORMATION: Grades are due in the Office the Registrar within 72 hours after the final examination. No information regarding grades will be released by the department office staff to anyone except designated personnel in Records and college offices. Students may access their own grades through their computer account. They may do this by following the directions in the semester class schedule.

INCOMPLETES: It is the instructor's responsibility to specify conditions under which an Incomplete (I) grade is assigned. Students should refer to the course syllabus and talk with the instructor if they anticipate not completing the course work. Coursework submitted after the final examination will generally be evaluated down unless prior arrangements are made in writing by the instructor. University policy states that a student must reregister to attend the same course the following semester in order to make up incomplete work. Incompletes are appropriate only if the student can make up the coursework independently with the same professor.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS: Each semester the Sociology Department arranges a special time for make-up examinations, with proctors arranged by the department. This exam is mainly for students who need to make up work from the previous semester, (i.e. quiz, midterm, or final) and who have made arrangements with the instructor to do so. A make-up session is held near mid term each semester, including summer session. It is announced in the Daily, on department bulletin boards, and in classes. Students who wish to take the exam must come into the Sociology office (909 Soc Sci) early in the semester, obtain the necessary forms, and get approval to attend the make-up session. Any other arrangements for special examinations must be made directly with the instructor who taught the course and who is responsible for approving and supervising the examination or making individual arrangements.

GRADE CHANGES: Grades properly arrived at are not subject to renegotiation unless all students in the class have similar opportunities. (See CLA Bulletin, p.29) Students have the right to check for possible clerical errors in the assignment of grades by checking with the instructor or teaching assistant.

Students with justifiable complaints about grades or classroom procedures have recourse through well-established grievance procedures. You are expected to confer first with the course instructor. If no satisfactory solution is reached, the complaint should be presented in writing to the department associate chair (909 Soc Sci). If these informal processes fail to reach a satisfactory resolution, other formal procedures for hearing and appeal can be invoked. See the departmental advisor in 923 Social Sciences to explore options.

SOCIOLOGY PROGRAMS INFORMATION: The Sociology Department offers two options for the Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree. We also have an Honors Program. Students interested in majoring in Sociology should attend an information meeting about the major. Meetings are held about once a week. Sign
up for a meeting in 909 Social Sciences. Further information can be obtained from the following persons and offices:
General information, Sociology Department, 909 Social Sciences - 624-4300
Undergraduate Advisor, Ann Miller, 923 Social Sciences – 624-6013
Director of Undergrad Studies, Professor Rob Warren, 1172 Social Sciences - 624-2310
Sociology Honors Advisor, Professor Joachim Savelsberg, 1181 Social Sciences - 624-0273
Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Elizabeth Boyle, 967 Social Sciences - 624-3343,
and/or Graduate Secretary, Jessica Matteson, 931 Social Sciences - 624-2093

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