



Course Title: Soc 110A, Introduction to Sociology (5 credits)

Term: Fall Quarter, 2007

Schedule: M-F 7:30 AM – 8:20 AM

Classroom: R-303

Instructor: Steven Wiseman, MSW

Phone: 253-838-2519 (daytime)

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Course Description: This course is designed to introduce you to the field of sociology, often referred to as the “umbrella” of the social sciences. The wide application and broad appeal of this subject gives us many opportunities to relate course material to our personal lives as well as the social forces that shape contemporary society. You will learn major theories in the field of sociology, and explore areas of sociological study and research. This course involves a good amount of reading and writing, as well as class participation. A focus will be in using and improving critical thinking skills.

Text: Curry, et al 2007 Sociology for the Twenty-First Century, Fifth Edition, Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ

Also Required: Canada, G 1996 Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun: A Personal History of Violence in America, Beacon Press: Boston

Attendance: To be a successful student, you need to attend class regularly. When you miss a class, you are not only missing the material for that day, you are also missing out on important interactions with your peers. I have no attendance policy. I will leave the commitment to your final grade up to you. If you have an unexpected occurrence that necessitates your absence, it is in your best interest to make arrangements with a fellow student for notes from that day.

Disability Support Services: If you have a documented disability, make sure to contact the campus office of Disability Support Services, located in B-131, or call them at 425-564-2498. If you met with them and have an approved accommodation, I am happy to make arrangements with you in a confidential manner.

Class Discussions: Class discussions constitute a large part of your learning experience. The more students feel free to share their opinions, ideas, and experiences, the more you will get out of the course. Therefore, please keep in mind that disagreeing with viewpoints is accepted, but personal attacks will not be tolerated. You must be mature enough to hear differing points of view, and to participate in honest discussions of controversial topics. While there are no points figured for participation, your enthusiasm in class will be rewarded at the end of the quarter if you are a few points short of receiving a higher grade.

Grading and Late Papers: All papers MUST be typed, double-spaced and written in 12-point font with standard margins (typically one inch). In addition to content, you will be graded on grammar, spelling and style. The writing lab in D-204 is a great resource to help you with your skills in these areas. Late papers will NOT be accepted, except for unique and serious circumstances. In this case, you must contact me no later than the due date of the paper, even if you simply leave me a voice mail message. This also applies to test days.

Tests: Three tests will be given, and are worth 40 points each. Each test will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions, and two “short answer” questions, not to exceed a paragraph each. Dates are listed on the next page.

Reaction Papers: There are five reaction papers due throughout the quarter, worth 30 points each (two pages, double-spaced). For each paper due, you will discuss a concept that relates to course material. This gives you an opportunity to think deeper and reflect on a topic of interest. You are encouraged to share your opinions and life experience, understanding that your viewpoints need not agree with the instructor to be considered valid. Papers not relating to the course material in a substantive way will be returned for a re-write.

Group Presentation: In accordance with social sciences content requirement, you will be working with a group of students to make a presentation on an assigned textbook chapter. Each group will be responsible for learning their assigned material and teaching it to the class. This is worth 50 points, with half of the points awarded by the instructor and half awarded by your fellow group members. Details will be discussed further in class. The final test will cover the chapters that have been taught by your peers, and will be taken as a group.

Social Issues Essay: This paper will be written as a “final”, and is worth 100 points. You are required to respond to ten questions (to be handed out in a few weeks), relating course material to the book Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun by Geoffrey Canada. You will respond to each question with one type-written page (double spaced) for a total of 10 pages. You will have approximately six weeks to work on this at home, keeping in mind that it is NOT a group project. Because we are all reading this book, you will have the opportunity to share ideas and viewpoints with other students while in class. There will be time for you to ask questions relating to the final paper. The “A” paper will relate specific theories and concepts from sociology to specific situations in the book.

A Note about Learning: Learning does not begin or end in the classroom. From the moment we were born, we began learning from everything around us. Therefore, I use many different materials to teach. In this course we will utilize videos, newspapers, personal stories, books, observations, lectures (and anything else that works) to immerse ourselves in learning. Sociology is one of the many college courses that inspires intellectual curiosity about the world- if we are willing to “tune in” to information all around us. This course isn’t simply a requirement that you are stuck taking- it can be the beginning of a conversation about our society that I hope you will carry on long after the course is over.

Point Total

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|
| 3 Tests | x 40pts = | 120pts |
| 5 Papers | x 30pts = | 150pts |
| 1 Group Project | x 50pts = | 50pts |
| 1 Final Essay | x 100 pts = | 100pts |

Total: 420 points

Grading

| | |
|----|-----------|
| A | 399-420 |
| A- | 378-398 |
| B+ | 366-377 |
| B | 349-365 |
| B- | 336-348 |
| C+ | 324-335 |
| C | 307-323 |
| C- | 294-306 |
| D+ | 282-293 |
| D | 260-281 |
| F | below 260 |

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Recall basic sociological concepts.
2. Identify significant sociological theorists.
3. List basic sociological theories.
4. Contrast popular and sociological findings.
5. Design simple sociological research projects.
6. Evaluate presentations on sociological topics.
7. Compare alternative explanations of social phenomena.
8. Participate in Learning Groups comprised of students who are multicultural.
9. Present learning group projects in front of the class.
10. Apply sociological imagination to personal experiences.
11. Employ the internet for research into topics relevant to Sociology.
12. Suggest additional topics of study for Sociology.
13. Critique the course experience.

Calendar

Week 1 – September 24th

Curry, Chapter 1

Video: Mill Times

Reaction Paper #1 due Friday!

Week 2 – October 1st

Curry, Chapters 2 and 4

Week 3 – October 8th

Curry, Chapter 3

Reaction Paper #2 due Friday!

Week 4 – October 15th

No class Friday October 19th

Curry, Chapter 6

Video: Social Class in America

Week 5 – October 22nd

Test #1 Monday!

Curry, Chapters 7 and 8

Week 6 – October 29th

No class Tuesday October 30th

Video: Flag Wars

Curry, Chapter 9

Reaction Paper #3 due Friday!

Week 7 – November 5th

Curry, Chapter 10

Reaction Paper #4 due Friday!

Week 8 – November 12th

No class Monday November 12th

Curry, Chapter 11

Video: Who Will Teach Our Children?

Reaction Paper #5 due Friday!

Week 9 – November 19th

Curry, Chapter 12

No Class Thursday and Friday - Thanksgiving!

Week 10 – November 26th

Monday Review

Tuesday Exam #2

Group Work Time

Week 11 – December 3rd

Group Presentations

Test #3 on Friday

Final – Monday, December 12th

Show up at 7:30 a.m. to turn in your Social Issues Essay

