S111: Introduction to Sociology
Summer 2008
Course Number 05144

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
11:00 - 11:50 pm
JFSB B032

Instructor: Curtis Child
Office: JFSB 2019
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:00 – 4:00, or by appointment
E-mail: cchild@indiana.edu
Phone: 422-5250

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the field of sociology. We will emphasize critical and sociological thinking while covering substantive topics such as culture, media, gender, power, class, race, democracy, the economy, and civil society.

Course Requirements

Readings:

This class is organized in such a way that you cannot do well if you do not read the assigned material. Exams will directly hold you accountable for readings, and writing assignments indirectly so. Required readings, available on Blackboard, are listed on the schedule according to the date they are due. I expect you to have them read before coming to class, and you should be prepared to discuss them. Some of the reading material is challenging. If you should find any of it difficult to understand, be sure to discuss readings with other students, use a dictionary for difficult words, and/or visit me during my office hours.

The success of this class depends on you staying on schedule with the required reading. Your incentives for doing so are threefold: If you read, you will find the class more intellectually rewarding, you will be able to answer the questions that I ask you during class, and your grade will be better than it would have otherwise been. I reserve the right to introduce reading quizzes into the class if I feel that the students are not regularly reading the assigned material.

Attendance:

I expect students to come to class on time and to be prepared by having assignments read and/or ready to turn in. I will not take attendance, but a good portion of the content of exams will come directly from class lectures. Because this is a summer course, each day of class will cover a substantial amount of material, so missing one day could put you significantly behind.
Short writing assignments:

At four times during the semester you will be required to submit a short essay (see schedule). These will be prepared outside of class; questions will be given during a prior class period. Essays should be typed single-space with your name and the date at the top. They will usually be roughly 500 to 600 words long (roughly three-quarters of one page). Questions may cover readings or lecture material and will ask you to summarize or reflect upon the core concepts presented therein. Grades will be based on content (i.e. getting the “right” answer and demonstrating critical thinking skills) as well as style (i.e. clarity of writing, grammar, etc.). Late assignments will be penalized (3 points off if not turned in when collected in class but turned in later on the day it is due; 3 more points off if turned in the day following its due date; 3 more points off if turned in the next day; and so on). Assignments are due at the beginning of class.

‘Sociology in the news’ presentation:

Once during the term, you will be required to present to the class a contemporary news article/segment that addresses a topic that we have discussed (or will discuss) in class. This might be from TV, a newspaper, magazine, or website. Be sure to bring to class something tangible (e.g. a transparency or copy of the article, a videotape or webclip of a TV-based news show, etc.) that you can show to other members of the class. You will turn this in to me. This does not need to be a full-fledged presentation. I simply want you to tell us what you found and how it relates to something we have discussed in class. It should take about 4 or 5 minutes.

Exams:

There will be three exams. The first two will be in the classroom during the allotted class time. The third and final exam will be in the classroom during the final exam period. Exams may include multiple choice, short essay, fill in the blank, and true-false questions. All course materials—readings (even if not discussed in class) and lectures—are fair game. No makeup exams will be given. The only exception to this will be under extreme circumstances and if you notify me prior to giving the exam. Regardless of the reason for missing the exam, makeups may be given in a form different from the original and are subject to an across-the-board penalty for being taken late (i.e. a one letter-grade reduction—A to B; B to C; and so on).

Grading

Grades will be based on the following allotment of points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>225 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments</td>
<td>60 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology in the news</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>300 points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2
Final letter grades will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 or lower</td>
</tr>
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Guidelines and Policies

Incompletes: According to departmental policy, I typically will not grant an incomplete for the course.

Special Needs: Students who have special needs that might affect their ability to complete the course requirements should contact me as soon as possible and provide the appropriate documentation so that we can make any necessary arrangements or modifications.

Academic Misconduct: Any activity that threatens the integrity of the university, such as cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference, violation of course rules, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will not be tolerated and will be punished severely. For definitions and university policies, please refer to the university's Honor Code.

Classroom Behavior: We will discuss a variety of important social issues throughout the course of the semester. Some of these will be sensitive in nature to all or part of the class. I expect each student to interact with his or her fellow students in a professional, respectful, and considerate manner.

Absences: If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get lecture notes from someone who was in class. I do not provide my notes or Power-Point slides to students, and it is not my responsibility to fill you in on what you missed.

Technology: Turn off cell-phone ringers. Do not use cell-phones at all during class (i.e. no text-messaging, games, etc.). Laptops are permissible as long as students use them to take notes. I will revoke this allowance on a case-by-case basis if a student uses a laptop to play games, check email, or carry on activity that is not related to the class (or is in any way distracting to other students)—regardless whether he/she is also taking notes.

Summary of important dates

1. June 30 First writing assignment due
2. July 7 Second writing assignment due
3. July 14 Exam 1
4. July 21 Third writing assignment due
5. July 28 Exam 2
6. August 8 Fourth writing assignment due
7. August 12 Exam 3
8. _______ Sociology in the news presentation
Introduction
June 23 – Monday:
• No readings

Gender
June 25 – Wednesday:
• Weingarten: “Pearls Before Breakfast” (Washington Post)
• Davis: “Extreme Isolation of a Child” (American Journal of Sociology)

June 27 – Friday:
• Suellentrop: “Jesus Christ: Choose Your Own Savior” (Slate)
• Weil: “What if It’s (Sort of) a Boy and (Sort of) a Girl?” (New York Times Magazine)

Race
June 30 – Monday:
• Due: First writing assignment
• Pager: “Blacks and Ex-cons Need Not Apply” (Contexts)

July 2 – Wednesday:
• Bobo: “Laissez-Faire Racism” (excerpted from “From Jim Crow Racism to Laissez-Faire Racism: The Transformation of Racial Attitudes” in Beyond Pluralism: The Conception of Groups and Group Identities in America)

July 4 – Friday – NO CLASS

Culture
July 7 – Monday:
• Due: Second writing assignment
• Miner: “Body Ritual among the Nacirema” (American Journal of Sociology)
• Anderson: “Code of the Streets” (Atlantic Monthly)

Deviance
July 9 – Wednesday:
• Becker: “Becoming a Marijuana User” (American Journal of Sociology)
• Martin & Hummer: “Fraternities and Rape on Campus” (Gender & Society)

Social problems
July 11 – Friday:
• Moynihan & Cassels: “Advertising Disease: Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder” (excerpted from Selling Sickness: How the World’s Biggest Pharmaceutical Companies Are Turning Us All into Patients)

July 14 – Monday: EXAM 1
Structure and agency
July 16 – Wednesday:

Capitalism
July 18 – Friday:
• Bakan: “Business as Usual” and “The Externalizing Machine” (The Corporation)
• Friedman: “The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Its Profits” (New York Times Magazine)

Class
July 21 – Monday:
• Due: Third writing assignment
• Domhoff: “The Corporate Community and the Upper Class” (Who Rules America?)
• Golden: “College Ties” (Wall Street Journal)
• Golden: “Extra Credit” (Wall Street Journal)

Inequality
July 23 – Wednesday:
• Ehrenreich, “Nickeled-and-Dimed” (Harper’s)
• Block, et al.: “The Compassion Gap in American Poverty Policy” (Contexts)

Meritocracy
July 25 – Friday:
• Farkas: “The Black-White Test Score Gap” (Contexts)
• Tough: “What it Takes to Make a Student” (New York Times Magazine)
July 28 – Monday: EXAM 2

The state
July 30 – Wednesday:
• Esping-Anderson: “Equal Opportunities and the Welfare State” (Contexts)

Social change
August 1 – Friday:
• Zald: “Making Change” (Stanford Social Innovation Review)

August 4 – Monday – NO CLASS

Media
August 6 – Wednesday:
• Specter: “Kremlin, Inc.: Why are Vladimir Putin’s opponents dying?” (New Yorker)
Religion
August 8 – Friday:
- **Due:** Fourth writing assignment

Conclusion
August 11 – Monday:
- TBA

August 12 – Wednesday: EXAM