SOCIOLOGY 1301 - HUMAN SOCIETIES - FALL 2012

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Pamela Slaughter Meyer
OFFICE: Bay Hall, 338
HOURS: 11:00-12:00; 3:00-4:00 MW or by appointment
PHONE: 825-5818 (TAMU-CC);
E-MAIL: Pamela.Meyer@tamucc.edu
WEB: Blackboard SOCI 1301.111 and Facebook page for Triad B

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The basic aim of the course is to increase your understanding of the modern world and your place in it by increasing your knowledge of the sociological perspective. The sociological perspective allows us to see the general patterns of society in the lives of particular people. The sociological perspective also allows us to gain a better understanding of people by examining their social situations and cultural heritage.

Sociologists use many theories as lenses for examining social phenomena. The three main theories are symbolic interactionism, social conflict theory and structural functionalism. Each theoretical perspective is different and, like a prism, provides different views of our social world. This course is designed to introduce you to the main sociological theories, basic sociological concepts, social research methods and findings. The goal is to enhance your own Sociological Imagination.

“...the individual can understand his own experience and gauge his own fate only by locating himself within his period, that he can know his own chances in life only by becoming aware of those individuals in his circumstances.” --- C. Wright Mills

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES
By the end of the semester students should be able to:
➢ To describe the basic concepts, methods, and theories used in sociology
➢ To understand the relationship between technology and social change
➢ To recognize the reciprocal relations between individuals and society

This course is part of the Core Curriculum: one of its goals is to show students the continuity of knowledge or connections across courses and disciplines. As Human Societies is linked with composition and seminar, your Triad instructors have made an effort to demonstrate the connections that underlie what may appear to be very different courses. In composition, you will write about sociological topics while in seminar you can discuss them. These classes share common integrative assignments.
TEXTBOOKS

The following required books are in the Bookstore and available on-line. Please read them.


For each test, students will be provided an assignment sheet indicating the appropriate chapters to be read for each lecture topic. Each student should be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for each class period. A good strategy is to read through the material BEFORE it is scheduled for class discussion and then read it again AFTER it has been discussed. Plan ahead and pace yourself so that you do not get behind in the reading assignments. Putting yourself in control of your responsibilities now will reduce potential stress later.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE = 600

Evaluation is done on a point basis as listed below:

Exams ................................................................. 400
includes three (3) exams and a final exam, each worth 100 points. The exams have multiple choice, identify, and short essay questions. All exams are compulsory regardless of the number of points you earn. If you miss an exam, then you will take a comprehensive make-up (aka optional) exam. If you perform poorly on one of the first three (3) exams, you may take the comprehensive make-up/optional exam. THE OPTIONAL/MAKE-UP EXAM IS GIVEN ON DAY OF THE FINAL AND IS COMPRISED OF ALL MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS.

Learning Community Assignments. ........................................ 100
The course has two learning community assignments due throughout the semester each worth up to 50 points.
The written assignments are usually two to five pages in length and require proper grammar and citation protocols. Instruction sheets outlining the exercise’s requirements will be distributed during class and posted on Blackboard. The assignment is due on the assigned date and will be accepted late only with the instructor’s approval. The Learning Community assignments’ grades will be shared with seminar and composition):
  • Norm Busting visual presentation
  • Investigating the Developing World Paper

In-class activities and participation (Quizzes, exercises, etc.) ............. 100
Class activities are designed to integrate information from the text, class discussions, and/or readings. Some of the in-class activities are done by groups. Each group is required to turn in written responses for individual points. You must be present to receive points. No make-ups are given for In-class activities.

Grading Scale:
A = 540-600
B = 480-539
C = 420-479
D = 360-419
F = 359 and below

During the semester you can check your grades on Blackboard. To calculate your grade before the end of the semester, total the number of points you have earned thus far and divide by the total number of points possible. Then, multiply by 100.

COURSE POLICIES
**CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance records are not maintained daily, but daily **class attendance is important**. Many class sessions incorporate materials that are not in the textbook and would be difficult to get outside of class. In addition, **group activities and quizzes take place during class times**. There are no make-ups for missed in-class assignments and quizzes. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with the work. It is also the responsibility of the student to personally withdraw from the course if necessary.

**ACADEMIC ETIQUETTE AND HONESTY**

Academic etiquette is required in universities to insure an atmosphere conducive to learning. Universities expect students to demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction and acceptable social behavior in and out of the classroom. In any class, an individual can feel anonymous and his/her behavior may seem irrelevant. As a result, an individual may feel that his/her talking with a neighbor, using a cell phone, leaving early or arriving late will not matter. Such actions, however, are distracting for both other students and the instructor. My job is to provide the best learning environment possible. If a student’s behavior interferes with others’ learning in the classroom, the student may be asked to leave the classroom.

As discussed in the college catalog, students are expected to demonstrate academic honesty. All forms of cheating, forgery, or plagiarism (presentation of the work of another as one’s own) are grounds for disciplinary action. **Any student caught cheating will be reported to the Department Chair and Vice President of Student Affairs.**

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The College of Arts and Humanities requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**ADA**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**GRADE APPEAL PROCESS**

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure
13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**TALK2ME** (825-5263) If you have questions about the campus, student organizations, colleges, programs, and other campus resources, call this number for assistance from a peer ambassador.

**BY THE WAY....**
If you have any questions about the class material or the class assignments (or if you just want to chat), please do not hesitate to contact me. If you feel your test was not graded fairly, please visit with me without delay. My phone numbers and office hours are listed above.

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### HUMAN SOCIETIES TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE - FALL 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/22</td>
<td>INTRODUCTIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/28+8/30</td>
<td>PERSPECTIVE, THEORY AND METHODS</td>
<td>TEXT Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sociological Imagination homework</td>
<td>iSoc: Mills, p.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/4+9/6+9/11</td>
<td>CULTURE</td>
<td>TEXT Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Hunting and Gathering homework</td>
<td>iSoc: Benibo, et al. p. 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/13+9/18</td>
<td>SOCIALIZATION</td>
<td>TEXT Chapter 3</td>
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<td>iSoc: Davis, p. 41</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>iSoc: Furstenburg, et al., p.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>****************************************************************</td>
<td>TEST I *************************************************</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/25+9/27</td>
<td>SOCIAL INTERACTIONS &amp; EVERYDAY LIFE</td>
<td>TEXT Chapter 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Media and Society)</td>
<td>iSoc: Martin, p. 143</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>article posted on Blackboard: Ryan, &quot;Getting Framed&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/2+10/4</td>
<td>GROUPS &amp; ORGANIZATIONS</td>
<td>TEXT Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/9+10/11</td>
<td>DEVIANCE</td>
<td>TEXT Chapter 6</td>
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<td>10/9</td>
<td>Norm Busting Assignment</td>
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<td>10/16</td>
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<td>TEST II ***********************************************</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/18+10/23</td>
<td>SOCIAL STRATIFICATION</td>
<td>TEXT Chapter 8</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>iSoc: Women at Work pp168-175</td>
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10/25-10/30 GLOBAL STRATIFICATION TEXT Chapter 9

11/1-11/6 RACE & ETHNICITY TEXT Chapter 10

11/8 ****************** TEST III **********************

11/13-11/15 FAMILY & RELIGION TEXT Chapter 13
   iSOC: Giddens, p. 195

11/20-11/27 POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT TEXT Chapter 15
   Investigating the Developing World
   Assignment
   iSOC: PRB, p. 275
   iSOC: Cohn, p. 279

11/22 ****************** THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY **********************
   (GOBBLE, GOBBLE)

11/29 NO CLASS MEETING Celebrations!

12/4 SOCIAL CHANGE TEXT Chapter 16

12/11 8:00-10:30AM****** FINAL EXAM **********************
   All make-up/optional exams given on this day

NOTE: TEXT = Macionis, Society: The Basics
   iSOC = Meyer, et al. iSoc: Introduction to Sociology Reader