

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY
Sociology Department
Principles of Sociology, SOC 1010-80
Winter 2012, Dr. Gennifer Furst
furstg@wpunj.edu

Course Description

This course examines the structure and dynamics of human society and interprets social behavior within the context of modern society and culture. It includes an examination of such topics as culture; social structure and systems; socialization; conformity and deviance; social stratification and social class; inequalities stemming from gender, race and ethnicity, religion, and age; the major social institutions of the family, education, the economy, the political system, the crime and justice system; and belief systems; human ecology; rural, urban and suburban life; popular culture; and social movements and social change.

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Objectives

- ❖ to acquaint the student with the sociologic perspective based on systematic study rather than on common sense;
- ❖ to explore our own attitudes about other groups in society, and develop a sense of cultural relativism and an appreciation of other cultures;
- ❖ to develop a sense of global awareness;
- ❖ to make students aware of the crucial importance of the social structure of society in terms of social class, gender, age, education, income, race and ethnicity;
- ❖ to identify the persistent sources of strain and conflict among groups;
- ❖ to reveal how self-image and social identity emerge;
- ❖ to trace the ways in which social problems are identified, perceived & resolved;
- ❖ to demonstrate the differences between social problems and personal dilemmas;
- ❖ to show student how to interpret and use social scientific data, and methods;
- ❖ to teach students not to over generalize from personal experiences;
- ❖ to learn how to apply the sociological perspective to understanding everyday life.

Student Learning Outcomes

After taking this class, students should be able to

- ❖ comprehend the relationship between social structure, culture and individual/collective agency;
- ❖ clearly explain sociological theories and concepts in writing;
- ❖ have a deeper understanding of the issues of race, class, and gender;
- ❖ understand and utilize the primary sociological theoretical perspectives;
- ❖ utilize and critique basic methodological approaches in the field of sociology;
- ❖ apply sociological concepts and theories to their everyday lives.

Required Text

The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community, THIRD EDITION (PLEASE BE SURE TO GET THE THIRD EDITION--THE TESTS ARE BASED ON THIS NEW EDITION) by Kathleen Korgen and Jonathan M. White (Pine Forge, 2011).

Course Requirements

Your grade for the course will be determined by the following:

1. Two Discussion Boards 15% each (DBs worth 30% of final grade);
2. 11 multiple choice tests 4% each (quizzes worth a 44% of final grade);
3. Paper/Exercise 26% of final grade.

LATE PAPERS AND POSTINGS WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED!

Sociology Department Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

With documented evidence, a student who cheats on an exam or a paper for the first time will fail the course, and the record of the student's cheating will be sent to the Department Chair and the appropriate Dean. When a student cheats on an exam or a paper for the second time, the student will fail the course and be expelled from the sociology major. For those non-sociology major students who cheat for the second time, they will be banned from the sociology major and their cheating will be reported to the appropriate Dean.

Schedule of Assignments

DB 1 due BEFORE Midnight on *Friday, December 30th*

Paper/Exercise due BEFORE midnight on *Monday, January 7th*

DB 2 due BEFORE 10:00 A.M. *Friday, January 11th*

Be sure to follow the directions for each DB and the paper/exercise! You **MUST** cite your book and use proper spelling and grammar.

Grading

I will use the Rubric below to grade the Discussion Board (DB) postings. You may earn up to 10 points (100%) per DB.

9 points = 90%; 8 points = 80%; 7 points = 70%, etc.

Writing: Content (3 possible points)

0 points = Content is less than minimal AND/OR there are several factual errors.

1 point = Includes only minimal information about the topic.

2 points = Displays clear knowledge about the topic. Subject knowledge appears to be good and is different from postings submitted by other students earlier.

3 points = Covers topic in-depth with details and examples that are different from those submitted by other students earlier. Subject knowledge is excellent.

Writing: Grammar/Clarity (3 possible points)

0 points = Contains so many grammatical and/or spelling errors it is difficult to comprehend.

1 point = Contains multiple grammatical and/or spelling errors that make it somewhat difficult to follow.

2 points = Contains few grammatical and/or spelling errors. The quality of writing is not a distraction.

3 points = There are very few/no grammatical and/or spelling errors and the writing is excellent.

Locates, uses, and cites information appropriately, using ASA style. (1.5 possible points)

See <http://homepages.nyu.edu/~mma235/race05/styleguide/index.html>

0 points = Shows inability to find pertinent information and cite correctly.

.5 points = Shows the inability to find some key information and/or does not cite the work properly.

1 point = Shows the ability to find enough good information for a strong posting and cites properly throughout the posting.

1.5 points = Shows the ability to find information that makes an exceptionally strong case and uses proper citations throughout the posting.

Discusses topic effectively with others (2.5 possible points)

0 points = Does not mention any other student's posting.

1.5 points = Mentions a student's posting but does not discuss it in any depth.

2 points = Discusses a classmate's posting in some depth and with some substance.

2.5 points = Discusses a classmate's posting effectively and offers a substantive critique of or support for it.