

Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
University of South Alabama  
Fall 2006  
Sociology 109, Introduction to Sociology (Honors)

Instructor: Dr. Nicole T. Flynn

Office: HUMB 22

Office hours: MWF 8:30-10:00, F 1:00-3:00, or by appointment

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is intended to introduce students to sociology. For many, this will require a new way of thinking about our relationships with people we know and those we don't. In addition, you will become aware of the "invisible" infrastructure of society. This includes realizing that what we think of as "society,"- including actions, groups, and institutions- continuously shapes, and is shaped by, our behavior. The knowledge and skills you gain in this class will benefit you in a myriad of settings: the dentist office, job interviews, meeting your future 'in-laws,' buying stock, and even in medical school.

### **COURSE GOALS**

To do well in this course, you will:

1. View life sociologically.
2. Understand how culture and how the collection of relationships or ties you have with society can influence your behavior.
3. Understand and be able to explain social life using three major theoretical perspectives: conflict, functionalism, and symbolic interactionism.
4. Learn the difference between qualitative and quantitative research.
5. Learn how sociologists study social life.
6. Learn how the major social institutions shape your self and social life in general.
7. Understand how power, class, and privilege shape the layers of societies.
8. Understand how poverty and wealth influence social location and life chances.
9. Understand how race, ethnicity, and gender condition social relationships.
10. Be able to explain how population trends, both in the US and globally, influence life around the world.

### **BOOKS**

Massey, Garth M. (ed), 2006. Readings for Sociology, 35<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Norton. **(M)**

Finsterbusch, Kurt (ed), 2006. Annual Editions for Sociology. McGraw-Hill: Dubuque. **(F)**

Giddens, Anthony, Mitchell Duneier, and Richard Appelbaum. 2005. Introduction to Sociology. New York: Norton.

### **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

You are responsible for one or two chapters of reading each week. The outline below details reading assignments. I strongly encourage you to read the assigned selections the weekend before we talk about them in class, and then after each class meeting read the material related to that day's lecture. Use the text as a reference tool; I plan to concentrate on the readings, which we will use to illustrate the concepts described in that chapter in the text.

#### What is sociology and how is it studied?

**Week 1** (8/21) What is sociology?

Readings: Chapter 1; M 1-4; F 43

**Week 2** (8/28) Asking and answering sociological questions?

Readings: Chapter 2; M 6-7

**Test 1** (9/6)

### The individual and society

**Week 3** (9/4- holiday, class 9/6) Culture

Readings: Chapter 3; M 8, 17, 45; F 1-5

**Week 4** (9/11) Socialization and social interaction

Readings: Chapter 4 & Chapter 5; M 9-13; F 6-8

**Week 5** (9/18) Groups, networks, & organizations

Readings: Chapter 6; M 5,29; F 32, 39

**Week 6** (9/25) Conformity, deviance, & crime

Readings: Chapter 7; M 30-33; F 9-11

### **Test 2 (10/2)**

### Structures of power

**Week 7** (10/2) Stratification, social class, and power

Readings: Chapter 8; M 20-23, 25-26; F 19-22, 31

**Week 8** (10/9) Global inequality

Readings: Chapter 9; M 19, 34, 42, 46

**Week 9** (10/16) Gender inequality and Sociology of the Body

Readings: Chapter 10 & *maybe* Chapter 18; M 10, 17, 20, 37, 39; F 15-16, 26, 28.

**Week 10** (10/23) Ethnicity & race

Readings: Chapters 11; M 12-13, 15, 18; F 23-25

### **Test 3 (10/27)**

### Power & Social institutions

**Week 11** (10/30) Government, power, and social movements

Readings: Chapter 13; M 5, 22, 48-49 (and recall readings from Week 7 on inequality and power); F 29-30

**Week 12** (11/6) Work & economic life

Readings: Chapter 14; M 27, 28 35, 40-42; F 32

**Week 13** (11/13) Families, intimate relationships, & religion

Readings: Chapter 15; M 36-39 (37 & 39 are review from Week 9) 15; Chapter 17; M 43-44, 46, 47; F 12-14; 36

**Week 14** (11/20) Education & mass media

Readings: Chapter 16; additional readings will be put on reserve or in the department office

### Social change

**Week 15** (11/27) Urbanization, population, and globalization

Readings: Complete 19 & *maybe* Chapter 20; M 16, 28, 51; F 18, 32, 38, 44-45

**Week 16** (12/4)

Readings: Complete Chapter 20

**TEST 4**, taken during the Final Exam period- which is Monday, December 11, at 10:30. This information is also in your Fall 2006 schedule of classes, and online at the University website ([www.usouthalabama.edu](http://www.usouthalabama.edu)). I reserve the right to **not** give an exam to any student later than 25 minutes to the final exam period.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Examinations. This course includes four examinations. Each will have an in-class and a take home component. The first exam is worth 5% of your total course grade, the second through fourth tests are each worth 15% of your total course grade. Collectively, the tests are worth **50%** of your total course grade. Although it is unlikely, **these exam dates may shift.** I will announce any changes in class.

2. Sociological analysis. At the end of the term, I will assign a small book that illustrates the concepts we covered in this course. You are to write a sociological analysis of this book that will incorporate the topics learned throughout the class. I will hand out more detailed instructions later in the semester. This assignment is worth **20%** of your course grade.

3. In-class assignments. Periodically, I will be handing out assignments to be done in class, either in groups or individually. These assignments will collectively be worth **15%** of your course grade.

4. Journals. Each week, you will write one entry in your sociology journal. Some weeks I may assign a specific article related to the readings for that week. Other weeks you are free to write about any of the assigned readings. In the journal entries, I want you to engage the readings and respond to them either from what you understand from other courses, from your personal experience, or from what you see reported in the mass media. Collectively these journal entries are worth **15%** of your final course grade.

If you need to be absent for any classes or tests, please inform me in advance (and provide your official university excuse) or bring in a medical excuse when you return to class immediately following your absence.

### **COURSE ENHANCEMENTS**

1. Supplemental instruction. This is available for my large section and you are welcome to attend. A senior sociology major provides supplemental instruction for my introductory courses.

### **GRADING SCALE**

90-100 = A    80-89 = B    70-79 = C    60-69 = D    59 or below will earn a failing grade

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY**

You are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. Readings should be completed prior to class; be prepared to contribute. Please feel free to express your point of view. You may not agree with all points made in lecture, discussion, or the text. However, all view points voiced in the classroom will be treated with respect and tolerance.

Attendance is important. It is your responsibility to get any assignments or notes during an absence. Because unforeseen circumstances may require changes in the assigned readings, the course outline, and the examination and assignment due dates, students are responsible for not only the requirements as outlined on the syllabus but also announcements made in class. Please notify me of any excused absences immediately. For more details regarding attendance, see the *USA Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin*. Tardy work is unacceptable, except in the case of a verified illness or extenuating circumstances. Please consult me during the semester about any problems you may encounter with the content of this course. **If you have a disability that will affect your performance in this class, please register with special student services and inform me as soon as possible so that I can plan accordingly.**

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is directed by Ms. Bernita Pulmas and is located in the Student Center, Room 270, 460-7212. (Statement of University policy)*

Exams are taken in class, unless otherwise specified. Missing an exam or failing to turn in an assignment without submitting a university or medical excuse may result in a grade of zero. Excuses must be submitted the first day back after an absence, and the nature of the make-up examination or grade reduction is at my discretion.