INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (Sociology 110) - Fall 2012
Tu/Th 11am - 12:20pm, Leverone Hall - Coon Auditorium

Professor: Professor Mary Pattillo
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TAs: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Sociology is the study of the individual in a range of social contexts – from dyads (parent-child, romantic partners, boss-employee, assailant-victim) to large and anonymous, but somehow coherent, groups (e.g., Germans, Asian-Americans, bisexuals, lawyers), to institutions that surround and envelop us (religion, capitalism, sexism). This course aims to awaken students’ sociological imagination by going beneath our common sense assumptions to ask: How do social relationships, contexts, institutions and organizations work and how do we actively or passively participate? What are the major trends in employment, crime, political party affiliation, and racial inequality? How does sociology help to understand concepts like power, passion, and popularity? At root, all of these things are “social constructions,” but as the early sociologist W.I. Thomas teaches us “If men [and women] define situations as real, they are real in their consequences.” This course uses theory, research, and real-world examples to explore all three parts of this postulate: our definitions, the situations, and their consequences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the end of the course, students should be able to:
- Recognize unacknowledged social processes that underlie everyday phenomena
- Recognize, define, and utilize sociological vocabulary (e.g., stratification, correlation, reflexivity)
- Define “social structure” and identify structural causes of social patterns
- Apply your sociological imagination to generate questions about current and historical events

EVALUATION:
Grades will be based on a midterm (30%), research proposal (10%), paper (30%), and final (30%). *Please review statement on academic integrity at wcas.northwestern.edu/advising/academic.html

OFFICE HOURS:
My office hours are Wednesdays, 2-6pm in 5-111 Crowe Hall. You must sign up for an appointment. Follow the link below and sign up for no more than 3 consecutive 15-minute slots, depending on your estimate of how much time we’ll need. If you need to cancel the appointment, you can only do so through cancelling it on your own calendar. No need to send me any confirmation of the appointment you make. https://www.google.com/calendar/selfsched?sstoken=UUxzNEw2UWFqVkJ2fGRIZmF1bHR8MjNINDU1OTAZWQ2MWM0YWJM2N2V1ZWQwOTNINTdkZWU
TA’s office hours will be posted on Blackboard.

READINGS:
The following required book is available at Norris Bookstore. Various formats may be available, including standard new and used paperbacks and e-versions for purchase or rental. Make sure you’re looking at the correct (2nd) edition. Readings are to be completed for the day listed on the syllabus.

(http://books.wwnorton.com/books/978-0-393-93517-2/)

Choose from the following optional books for the required paper described below. Limited copies have been ordered at Norris, they are readily available on-line, and they have been placed on Library Reserve. You are responsible for obtaining one of the books in order to complete the assignment on time.


EXAMS, PAPERS:
- The research proposal is due Friday, October 12, by 11:59pm via Blackboard. The objective of this assignment is for you to utilize sociological approaches and methods to explore your own curiosities about the social world; that is, to apply your sociological imagination to a topic that interests you. Write a one-page, single-spaced research proposal that covers the following components: research question; data you would need to answer the question and method to analyze or interpret those data; relevant variables to include. Since you will not be able to review the existing theories and research on your topic, include your assumptions about what you will find and why you have those expectations. Of course, if you are familiar with some theories or research on your topic, you may include that information. Papers submitted after 11:59pm will be downgraded for each day late. No exceptions.
- The midterm (T/F, fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice) is Thursday, October 25th, during the regular class period in the regular classroom.
- The paper is due Friday, November 16th by 11:59pm via Blackboard. Write a 5-page double-spaced paper on one of the books listed on the “optional books” reading list above. The paper should discuss 1) what question(s) “you asked yourself” that caused you to choose that book, 2) what were the central questions of the book’s author(s), 3) what were the book’s answer(s) to those question(s), and 4) what critiques do you have or what questions linger for you. Papers submitted after 11:59pm will be downgraded for each day late. No exceptions.
- The final (same format as the midterm, and not cumulative) is Tuesday, December 11th from 12pm to 2pm in the regular classroom.
COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS:

YMA = *You May Ask Yourself* by Dalton Conley
BB = *Black Board*, indicates journal article readings on Blackboard

**Week 1: Sociology: What and How**
9/27 YMA, Chapters 1 and 2

**Week 2: Socialization and Groups**
10/2 YMA, Chapter 4
10/4 YMA, Chapter 5; BB, Harding 2009

**Week 3: Culture and the Media**
10/9 YMA, Chapter 3; BB, Dávila 2004
10/11 BB, Salganik and Watts 2008

*RESEARCH PROPOSAL is due FRIDAY, OCT 12TH, by 11:59pm via Blackboard*

**Week 4: Capitalism and the Economy**
10/16 YMA, Chapter 14
10/18 BB, Davis et al. 2003; Symposium on Subprime Crisis 2009

**Week 5: Family**
10/23 YMA, Chapter 12
10/25 *MIDTERM*

**Week 6: Education and Schools**
10/30 YMA, Chapter 13
11/1 BB, Carter 2006; Kaufman and Gabler 2004

**Week 7: Stratification, Wealth and Poverty**
11/6 YMA, Chapter 7; BB, Keister 2003
11/8 YMA, Chapter 10

**Week 8: Gender and Race/Ethnicity**
11/13 YMA, Chapter 8
11/15 BB, Loveman 2009; Lee and Bean 2007

*PAPER is due FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, by 11:59pm via Blackboard*

**Week 9: Health and Society**
11/20 YMA, Chapter 11; BB, Saguay et al 2010
11/22 THANKSGIVING

**Week 10: Social Movements and Activism**
11/27 YMA, Chapter 18

*FINAL EXAM is TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH from 12noon to 2pm in the usual classroom.*

HAPPY WINTER BREAK