

Sociology may be defined simply as the study of people doing things together. This course is designed to introduce you to key ideas in sociology. How sociologists think and how they do their research. The course is divided into three sections and moves from the micro level of the “self” through to the “macro” level of social change in whole societies. It explores how society hangs balanced precariously between the institutions of social order and conflicting social divisions and social chaos. We will also be interested in how nature and nurture interplay in the evolution of human cultures.

Each class period will be divided between lecture and discussion of readings and related topics. You will be expected to bring a one page written set of notes to each class based on the readings for that class, along with a question for class discussion. These will be handed in and be part of your grade. In addition you will be assigned two papers from 2-3 pages in which you will be asked to apply some key concepts from the course readings in an analysis of some aspect of your own life situation.

Finally, there will be three short non-cumulative quizzes based on readings and lectures.

Books:

Wm. Kornblum and Carolyn Smith -Sociology: The Central Questions. Wadsworth, 2002.

Eve Howard.- Classic Readings in Sociology. Wadsworth. 2004

Barbara Ehrenreich – Nickle and Dimed. Henry Holt. 2002

Grades:

Grades will be based on three quizzes, two short papers (2 pages each) and class participation.

Quizzes (20 each)... 60

Papers. (15 each).....30

Participation10

PART I – THE DEFINITION OF THE SITUATION

Week 1 – The Social Construction of Reality

1/3 Kornblum – Ch. 1 – The Science of Society

Howard 1 – Mills – The Promise

Howard 2 – Berger - Invitation

Week 2 – Self and Society

1/10 Kornblum – Ch 3 - Socialization

Howard 7 – Mead - The Self

Ehrenreich – Intro – Getting Ready

Week 3 - Culture

1/17 Kornblum – Ch 2 - Culture

Howard 6 – Miner – Body Ritual Among Nacirema

Ehrenreich – 1 – Serving in Florida

PART II – UNITS OF SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Week 4 – Small Groups

- 1/24 Kornblum 4 – Social Structure & Group Interaction
Quiz 1 Kornblum 9 – The Family
Howard 5 – Merton – Manifest & Latent Functions
Howard 8 – Goffman – Presentation of Self

Week 5 – Formal Organizations

- 1/31 Kornblum 11 – Education
Howard 9 – Rosenhan – Being Sane in Insane Places
Ehrenreich 2 - Scrubbing in Maine

Week 6 – Community

- 2/7 Kornblum 13 – Population & Urbanization
Howard 15 – Wirth – Urbanism a a Way of Life

PART III – SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Week 7 – Social Class

- 2/14 Kornblum 6 – Stratification & Social Class
Quiz 2 Howard 10 – Gans – The Uses of Poverty
Howard 14 – Kozol – Savage Inequalities
Ehrenreich – 3 – Selling in Minnesota

Week 8 – Inequalities of Race, Ethnicity and Gender

- 2/21 Kornblum 7 – Inequalities of Race
Kornblum 8 – Inequalities of Gender
Howard 12 – Bernard – The Future of Marriage
Howard 11 – DuBois – The Souls of Black Folk

Week 9 - Institutions

- 2/28 Kornblum 10 - Religion
Kornblum 12 – Economics & Politics
Howard – 13 – Mills – The Power Elite
Ehrenreich - 4 - Evaluation

Week 10 – Social Change

- 3/6 Kornblum 5 – Deviance and Social Control
Kornblum -14 – Collective Behavior, Social Movements
Howard 3 – Marx & Engels – Manifesto of the Communist Party

Week 11 – Utopian Futures & The Happy Life

- 3/13
Quiz 3