“The sociological imagination is the quality of mind which grasps the interplay of man and society, of biography and history, of self and world.” ~ C. Wright Mills
Course description:
This course will provide a general introduction to the discipline of Sociology. Core topics that will be examined and discussed include social order, research methodology, social structures and institutions, interface of individual and society, deviance and crime, racial and ethnic relations, sex and gender, social inequality, demography, and social change. Further, students will understand the sociological perspective (e.g., structural, systematic, critical) as a social science. Students will apply this understanding through various theoretical frameworks within the discipline of sociology.

Course outcomes:
- Elaborate the sociological perspective and key classical and contemporary thinkers
- Understand various theoretical frameworks within the discipline of sociology
- Identify and describe sociological scholarship in central areas of social life
- Demonstrate critical thinking

Required Text:


**Any other readings will be available via Blackboard and indicated by BB in syllabus.

Course requirements:
To complete this course, you must satisfy the following requirements: Read all assigned material. Students are responsible for all materials presented in text, class notes or handouts. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain class notes from a fellow student for any missed classes.

Grading:
2 exams (50%), 1 short paper (20%), in-class writings (20%), attendance & participation (10%).

Exams will consist of T/F, multiple choice, and short essay format. Exam questions will be drawn from texts, lecture, and in-class materials (including films). Short paper assignments will be announced in class and via Blackboard. Short papers topics will require students to analyze and apply specific concepts from course materials. A paper writing guide will be available via blackboard. Several in-class writing exercises/quizzes will be assigned; they will be based on the day’s topic and readings. These assignments are _not announced in advance_ and _no make-up assignments_ will be given. Several in-class group exercises will occur over the course of the semester; you will need to bring the textbook to class in order to complete these activities. Finally, if an extra-credit assignment is offered, the assignment will be graded according to expectations for correct grammar, spelling, structure, and substantive content. Therefore, full extra-credit may not be awarded if such errors are present in submitted assignment.

_The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but in having new eyes ~Marcel Proust_
Attendance and Class participation
Attendance is mandatory—be sure to initial the in-class attendance sheet, especially if you are late to class (initial at end of class). For students with multiple unexcused absences, final grade will be lowered. Please inform me beforehand if you will be absent from class (e.g. student-athlete, or commuter issue, or other issue preventing coming to class). If an exam is missed, the instructor must receive notification by email (preferably) or phone *before* the scheduled exam. Missed exams must be made up prior to the next class meeting through special arrangement with the instructor. Any students requesting a make-up exam may be required to provide documentation of extenuating circumstances that interfere with taking the exam as scheduled.

*Some themes in this course are socially sensitive. Consequently, respect towards all individuals’ viewpoints will be emphasized in the classroom.

**Also, the syllabus is subject to change (readings, assignments, etc.). To maintain the integrity of the course, the instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus. Please pay close attention to class announcements made either in class or via Blackboard.

Other classroom guidelines:
*Please mute your cell phone before class. My policy is if it rings during class, I answer it! MUUahhhhhhhhh! 😂 Also, please keep your phone off your desk and in your bag during class (i.e., no stinking texting!!!).

Disability Resources
If you are a student with accommodation needs, please feel comfortable in seeing me about your needs or meeting with the coordinator of Disability Resources to arrange such accommodations.

The sociological imagination is the most fruitful form of this self-consciousness. By its use men whose mentalities have swept only a series of orbits often come to feel as if suddenly awakened in a house with which they had only supposed themselves to be familiar….their capacity for astonishment is made lively again….~ C. Wright Mills

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 (June 17, 18, 19)
Introductions & syllabus, The Sociological Perspective Chap 1, The Sociological Imagination, Ferrante Mills, The promise, BB

Roger & Me
Week 2 (June 24, 25, 26)
Chap 2, Theoretical Perspectives & Methods of Sociology, Ferrante

Walking the Line
Walsh & Walsh “Working Longer, Living Less: Understanding Marx through the workplace today” BB
Ain’t No Makin It, Chaps. 1-3
Thurs: begin reading Chap 5

Week 3 (July 1, 2, 3)
Chap. 5, Social Interaction, Ferrante
Aint No Makin It, Chaps. 4-6
Thurs: Midterm exam

Week 4 (July 8, 9, 10)
Chap. 7, Deviance, conformity, and social control, Ferrante
Aint No Makin It, Chaps. 7, 8, 9
Thurs: begin reading Chap 9
Short paper assignment due

Week 5 (July 15, 16, 17)
Chap. 9, Race and Ethnicity, Ferrante

Understanding Race
Water’s Optional ethnicities: For whites only?, BB
Chap. 10, Gender, Ferrante
Risman’s “Gender as Structure”, BB
Lucal’s “What it means to be gendered me”, BB

“As far as I’m concerned, being any gender is a drag.”
~ Patti Smith

“Diversity may be the hardest thing for a society to live with, and perhaps the most dangerous thing for a society to be without.” ~ William Sloane Coffin
Week 6 (July 22, 23, 24)
Chap. 12, Population and Urbanization, Ferrante

World in the Balance
Aint No Makin It, Chaps. 10 & 11

Thurs: Final exam

“The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point, however, is to change it”
~ Karl Marx, 1845