CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Fall Semester 08

SOCI 112B-101 Introductory Sociology  T&TH 8:30-9:45  Mandel Center RM 108

Instructor: Christine Schneider  Cms80@case.edu

Office hours: 7 days a week via email, in person from 9:45-11am Tues/Thurs, and/or by appointment.

Required Textbook: Sociology a Down-to-Earth Approach by James Henslin (eighth or ninth edition)

I. Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce you to the basic ideas and concepts of sociology and to highlight the relevance of sociological perspectives, methodologies, and theories for understanding the social organization in society. An in-depth study of concepts such as culture, social interaction, norms, statuses, roles and social stratification allow the application of sociology to current events. By the end of this semester I am confident that you will be able to think critically about how individuals are affected by society and its institutions. While there are no official college prerequisites for this course, comprehension of the English language, reading, and analytical skills will be necessary throughout this course. I am here to help you develop these skills and to answer any and all questions to the best of my ability.

What I expect from you:

- To be on time AND come to class
- To be prepared with assignments read in advance (homework will be collected BEFORE class on the day it is due)
- To be willing to give and receive constructive criticism to/from your classmates
- To ask for help (from me or fellow classmates) if you ever feel confused, lost, or frustrated
- To contribute to discussions and listen respectfully to others
- Integrity and honest work

What you can expect from me:

- To be on time
- To be available via email 7 days a week (or face-to-face by appointment)
- There will be no surprises in this course. Any deviations from the syllabus will be discussed in advance and approved by the class.
- I will take attendance and participation into account when giving out midterm/final grades.
II. **Outcomes/Objectives**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the goals, methods, principles, theories, and concepts pertinent to the field of Sociology
- Recognize and apply at least three major theoretical perspectives in sociology:
  - Structural functionalism
  - Conflict theory
  - Symbolic Interactionism
- Understand sociological definitions and be able to provide examples of the core concepts:
  - Group culture
  - Society and Socialization
  - Social differentiation
  - Social organization and the normative system
  - Collective behavior and Socio-Cultural change
  - Formal organization and Social institutions
- Hone interpersonal skills through the understanding of and application of these principles in the field of Sociology
- Better appreciate the issue of diversity through sociological frameworks
- Propose policies and programs based on sociological understanding
- Apply understanding of the course content to your personal life choices

III. **Course Content**

A. The nature, history and development of the field of Sociology
B. Scientific method, scientific spirit and research ethics used in the field
C. Society, culture and environment
D. Social interaction, groups, and organizations
E. Socialization and identity in society
F. Conformity and deviance
G. Social differentiation and stratification
H. Challenges to the stratification system
I. Socio-Cultural change and current societal issues

IV. **Student evaluation**

**COURSEWORK FOR GRADING:**

- Attendance
- Small group assignments/current events
- Midterm
Final exam

I weight your grade in the following manner:

- Attendance/Participation: 10%
- Assignments: 40%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final exam: 25%

*An extra credit assignment for 10 pts toward Exams (50% of final grade) can be requested once during the semester. It is your responsibility to contact me for available assignments.

*Tentative schedule*

**Week 1**
8/26- Introduction
8/28- Chapter 2

**Week 2**
(HOMEWORK #1 over chap 2-4 DUE)
9/2- Chapter 3
9/4- Chapter 4

**Week 3**
9/9- Chap 1 (first half)
   George Carlin- nails it
9/11-Chap 1 (last half)

**Week 4**
9/16- Chap 5
9/18- small group assignment (pg 54) - collected at end of class: please don’t forget to sign the attendance sheet

**Week 5**
9/23 - Chapter 21, Homework 2 assignment given
9/25- **current event assignment presentations** (group discussion and assignment handed in end of class)

**Week 6**

9/30- Review for midterm

**10/2- MIDTERM (chapters 1-5 and 21)**

**Week 7 (HOMEWORK #2 chapter 8-10 DUE)**

10/7-Chapter 6 & 7 (Pages TBA)

10/9- Chapter 8

**Week 8**

10/14- Chapter 9

10/16- Chapter 10

**Week 9**

10/21 & 10/23: **MOVIE**: TBD

**Week 10 (HOMEWORK #3 Chapters 11-13 DUE)**

10/28-Chaper 11

10/30: -Chapter 12

**Week 11**

11/4-Chapter 13

11/6-TBD

**Week 12**

11/11- **Group Assignment** (Chapter 17)

11/14- **Group Presentation**

**Week 13**

11/18&11/20--**MOVIE**: TBD

(HOMEWORK #4 chapter 14 & 17: DUE)

**Week 14**
NO CLASS - Happy Thanksgiving

Week 15
12/2-Chapter 14
12/4- REVIEW for FINAL

Week 16

FINAL EXAM (chapters 8-14; & 17: December 17, 2008 8:30-11:30am

Intellectual Dishonesty:
To plagiarize is defined by The American Heritage College Dictionary as “to use and pass off as one’s own work (the ideas or writings of another).” This means that you must do your own original work in this class. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment in accordance with CWRU policy. Copies of the official college plagiarism policy are available upon request.

Disabilities Act:
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.