

COURSE SYLLABUS

SOCIOLOGY 499.01
SENIOR SEMINAR IN SOCIOLOGY
3 CREDIT HOURS
FALL, 2007
TDC/WYNNE UNIT
12:50 – 3:50 p.m. Wednesday

PROFESSOR: Walter H. Bennett
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OFFICE HOURS

I. **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S) AND/OR REFERENCE(S)/READING LIST**

Sources, Notable Selections in Sociology, Kurt Finsterbush, ed. Dushkin/McGraw Hill Publishing Companies, 3rd edition, 1999

The Sociology Student Writer's Manual, William Johnson, Jr. Richard Retting, Gregory M. Scott, Stephen M. Garrison. Prentice-Hall, 2nd edition, 2000

II. **COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES**

This course is intended to be a capstone for the student major or minor of Sociology. The primary learning goal is to assist and encourage students to apply their cumulative knowledge, critical thinking and effective writing skills in the study and analysis of selective and notable topics in Sociology. The seminar's specific objectives include:

1. Provide an overview of 'The Sociological Perspective' in terms of core ideas, major assumptions, general principles and major theoretical and methodological orientations.
2. Provide students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and abilities from the study of essays and exercises addressing the following four topics:
 - a. The Individual and Society
 - b. Stratification
 - c. Social Institutions
 - d. Social Change and The Future

III. **SEMESTER COURSE GRADE**

The semester grade will be based upon performance on two exams, as formally scheduled in the this syllabus, and weekly class activities or exercises. The mid-term exam and class activities/exercises will each contribute twenty five percent toward the semester grade and the comprehensive final exam will contribute the remaining fifty percent of the semester grade.

Students will be graded on the following scale:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = below a 60 average

Specific and detailed information will be provided during the first class meeting in matters that include any missed work.

IV. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. ATTENDANCE POLICY

SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leaves early, may be counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting. A student is not only expected to show appropriate cause for both absences and tardiness, but he/she is also expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work, whether assigned or not.

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2. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

3. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. ***This meeting should take place within the first two weeks of the semester.*** <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

4. RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911(a)(2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20..." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent him/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

5. VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to classes must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

6. CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of the component, copies of which shall be available to each student for review online and/or at various locations on each campus. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

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- a. Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect.
- b. Students are not allowed to use cell phones, I-Pods, MP3, etc., they should be stowed and **turned off** during class.
- c. Computers may be used to take notes ONLY.

7. INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the semester.

V. **COURSE OUTLINE/ASSIGNMENTS**

August 22-29,2007

Part I: Introduction to Sociology

1. The Sociological Perspective
 - A. Peter L. Berger, Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective
 - B. C. Wright Mills, The Sociological Imagination
 - C. Using and Doing Sociology, The Sociology Student Writer's Manual

Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007

Oct. 3, 2007

Part II: The Individual and Society

2. Culture
 - A. Clyde Kluckhohn, Mirror for Man: The Relation of Anthropology to Modern Life
 - B. Horace Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema," American Anthropologist
 - C. Colin M. Turnbull, The Mountain People
 - D. Elijah Anderson, "The Code of the Streets," The Atlantic Monthly
 - E. Deborah Tannen, You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation
3. Socialization, Personality Development, and the Social Construction of Society
 - A. George Herbert Mead, Mind, Self and Society
 - B. Margaret L. Andersen, Thinking about Women: Sociological Perspectives on Sex and Gender
 - C. Herbert Blumer, "Society as Symbolic Interaction," in Arnold M. Rose, ed., Human Behavior and Social Processes
4. Social Rules and the Presentation of Self
 - A. Peter L. Berger, Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective
 - B. Erving Goffman, The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life
5. Deviance, Crime and Social Control
 - A. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "Defining Deviancy Down," The American Scholar
 - B. Stanley Milgram, "Some Conditions of Obedience and Disobedience to Authority." Human Relations
 - C. Herbert C. Kelman and V. Lee Hamilton, Crimes of Obedience: Toward a Social Psychology of Authority and Responsibility
 - D. James Q. Wilson, "What to Do About Crime," Commentary

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6. Social Organization: Groups, Associations, Communities, and Rational Organizations
 - A. Charles Horton Cooley, Social Organization
 - B. Robert D. Putnam, "The Prosperous Community: Social Capital and Public Life," The American Prospect
 - C. Louis Wirth, "Urbanism as a Way of Life," American Journal of Sociology
 - D. Max Weber, "Bureaucracy," in H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, ed. and trans., From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology

Oct. 10

EXAM

Oct. 17, 24, 31, 2007

Part III: Stratification

7. Social Inequality
 - A. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Communist Manifesto
 - B. Kingsley Davis and Wilbert E. Moore, from "Some Principles of Stratification," American Sociological Review
 - C. Barry Bluestone, "The Inequality Express," in Robert Kuttner, ed., Ticking Time Bombs
 - D. Daniel D. Huff, "Upside-Down Welfare," Public Welfare
8. Views of the Top and the Bottom
 - A. Michael Useem, The Inner Circle: Large Corporations and the Rise of Business Political Activity in the U.S. and U.K.
 - B. Jonathan Kozol, "Poverty's Children: Growing Up in the South Bronx," The Progressive
9. Racial and Sexual Inequality
 - A. Andrew Hacker, Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal
 - B. William Julius Wilson, The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Under-class, and Public Policy
 - C. Judith Lorber, Paradoxes of Gender
 - D. Toni Nelson, "Violence Against Women," World Watch

Nov. 7, 14, 2007

Part IV: Social Institutions

10. The Political System
 - A. G. William Domhoff, Who Rules America? Power and Politics in the Year 2000. 3rd ed.
 - B. Marvin J. Cetron and Owen Davies, "The Future Face of Terrorism." The Futurist
11. The Corporate World
 - A. Rosabeth Moss Kanter, Barry A. Stein, and Todd D. Jick, The Challenge of Organizational Change: How Companies Experience It and Leaders Guide It
 - B. Mark Dowie, "Pinto Madness," Mother Jones
 - C. George Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society: An Investigation into the Changing Character of Contemporary Social Life, rev. ed.

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12. The Family

- A. Stephanie Coontz, The Way We Really Are: Coming to Terms with America's Changing Families
- B. Kathleen Gerson, "Coping with Commitment: Dilemmas and Conflicts of Family Life," in Alan Wolfe, ed., America at Century's End
- C. Peter L. Berger and Hansfried Kellner, "Marriage and the Construction of Reality," Diogenes

13. Other Institutions: Religion and Health Care

- A. Robert Wuthnow, "How Small Groups are Transforming Our Lives," Christianity Today
- B. D. L. Rosenham, "On Being Sane in Insane Places," Science

Nov. 28 , Dec 5, 2007

Part V: Social Change and the Future

14. Population, Environment and the Future

- A. Robert D. Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," The Atlantic Monthly
- B. Bill McKibben, "A Special Moment in History," The Atlantic Monthly

15. Social Movements and Collective Behavior

- A. Mancur Olson, Jr., The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups
- B. Anthony Oberschall, Social Movements: Ideologies, Interests, and Identities

16. Global Social Change

- A. Daniel Chirot, How Societies Change
- B. Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" Foreign Affairs

Dec. 12

FINAL EXAM