SO 221-05  Introductory Sociology  Spring 2012

(TThrs 12:30 - 1:45  R. Stevens Rm. 302)

Professor:  Dr. Alex Takeuchi, Ph.D. (a.k.a. “Dr. T”)
Office:  R. Stevens Rm.562 (765-4527)
e-mail: satakeuchi@una.edu*
Office Hours:  Monday and Wednesday:  11:50am-1:05pm
Wednesday:  7:30pm-8:30pm (Online only)
Tuesday and Thursday:  1:45pm-3:00pm
Fri:  by appointment only

*Regular “una.edu” e-mail is the most reliable means to reach me. When you contact me via your “una.edu” mail, always state clearly: 1) your full name, 2) Student ID#, and 3) exactly which class you are in (i.e., SO 221-05 TThrs 12:30-1:45).

COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OBJECTIVES

We humans are social animals. Sociology is the scientific study of human society and social phenomena. It offers a particular perspective on society and social phenomena, a viewpoint which is different from literature, theology or philosophy. It helps us understand how our behaviors are influenced by various social forces, as well as how individuals develop large scale social structures and institutions.

As part of the academic major, minor and general studies curriculum, this course serves as the survey of major subfields of sociology with emphasis on the descriptions and applications of fundamental theories, principles and concepts that sociologists have developed to understand the interrelationships among the economic, political, religious, educational, media, and family institutions and their roles in shaping diverse societies and cultures. The goal of this course is to facilitate your critical thinking and enable you to view our society and social phenomena from a sociological perspective. We will do this by examining various issues that we encounter in our daily life. Upon completion of this course, you should be able to express your understanding of the following:

1. The basic elements of the sociological perspective.
2. The discipline’s central theoretical perspectives and apply those perspectives.
3. The primary data collection strategies employed by sociologists.
4. Culture and social structure and their relationship to social organization.
5. The lifelong process of socialization and how it affects our social development.
6. The sociological perspective as it is applied to a wide array of specialties.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


*Though the 8th edition is the latest edition, the 7th edition is still acceptable.
ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION

Attendance and active class participation are vital to any course, and it is your responsibility to try not to miss a class. **In this course, your maximum allowance of absence, whether excused or unexcused, is six (6). In other words, if you make 7 or more absences for any reason, you will either have to withdraw from the course or receive “F” for the course grade due to excessive absence.**

A positive learning environment will be maintained for the benefit of everyone. Students who disrupt the class will be dismissed from the classroom. If you have to leave the class early for a legitimate reason, do not just walk out or disappear, but inform the professor before the class begins. **Notebook computers are NOT allowed in class unless it is authorized for a documented disability accommodation.**

ASSIGNMENTS

1. **UNA Portal Account:** All officially enrolled students should have their **UNA Portal** accounts to gain access to important course information such as Announcement, exam study guides in **ANGEL**. If you do not have one yet, go online to https://unaportal.una.edu/cp/home/displaylogin and activate your account by following the online instructions. (For more information on **UNA Portal** and related problems, contact UNA Computer Services at 256-765-PCPC.)

2. **Reading assignment:** You are expected to have read the assigned chapter(s) from the textbook before you come to the class.

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

There will be a number of Learning Enhancement Activities, on which you can earn extra credits.

1. **Learning Enhancement Bonus Questions on Each Exam:** On each exam, you will have 2 bonus questions. (Max. 5pts on each exam x 3 exams = 15pts) (See below for Exam procedure.)

2. **Learning Enhancement Pop Quizzes:** Occasionally you will be given a pop quiz on materials covered in a previous class. (Varying points; a maximum of 5pts)

3. **Learning Enhancement Class Discussions and Debates:** Occasionally we will have whole class (or group) discussions/debates on specific topics on contemporary social issues. (Varying points)

4. **Learning Enhancement Paper:** To enhance your understanding of the material, you can write one short paper based on assigned readings and class lecture. (Max. 10pts) Your paper must be double-spaced type-written with a proper title page and a “References” page following a standardized format (e.g., APA). It must also have proper in-text citations. The maximum page limit for the paper is 6 (not counting the title and the “References” page). Papers without proper citations will NOT be graded! Specific paper topics and due dates will be given in class and via **ANGEL** as we go over relevant course materials.

   The total of extra credits can be as much as 30pts or 10% of your course grade.

EXAMS

***** Bring your own No.2 (HB) Pencils, Eraser, and Student ID Card! *****

There will be a total of three exams in this course, and each exam carries an equal weight toward your course grade. (The final exam is NOT comprehensive.) Each exam consists of 40+2 multiple-choice questions including T/F questions. (2.5pts for each question x 42 questions = 105pts Max.) All exams in this course are designed to be completed within 50 minutes. A down-loadable Exam Study Guide with practice questions will be provided on the homepage of the course in **ANGEL** prior to each exam.

Though the final exam date has already been set by the university, **mid-term exam dates listed on this syllabus can change for adjustment as they are only tentatively scheduled.** Actual mid-term exam dates will be announced in class and via the “Announcement” function in **ANGEL** a few days in advance.
MAKE-UP POLICY

Make-up exam is only given in an extreme circumstance. That means if you ever miss any exam without a very serious and legitimate excuse, you cannot make it up and you will simply lose 1/3 of the course grade. If you miss an exam with a legitimate excuse (e.g., UNA sponsored activities, court appearance, serious illness, death of an immediate family member), you have three working days to contact me in person or via e-mail and schedule a make-up exam. If you absolutely cannot avoid missing an exam, you must provide a written statement explaining the reason along with supportive documentation (if available). A score of zero will be given to anyone who misses an exam and fails to follow this procedure. All make-up exams must be taken at a time specified by the professor. (If you find yourself in an extenuating circumstance, contact the professor promptly.)

GRADING PROCEDURE

Your course grade* will be based on the followings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>100pts x 3 = 300pts</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra credits</td>
<td>Maximum of 30pts</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total possible</td>
<td>330pts</td>
<td>110%</td>
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</table>

A: 90% or above  
B: 80% - 89.5%  
C: 70% - 79.5%  
D: 60% - 69.5%  
F: Below 60%

* % = (Your grand total points) /3

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Cheating on an exam, turning in an essay written by someone else, or plagiarizing someone else's work is not tolerated. If you are found cheating on any exam or assignment, or helping others cheat, you will automatically receive an "F" for the entire course grade.

LEARNING DISABILITIES POLICY

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the University offers reasonable accommodations to students with eligible documented learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as compared to an average person in the population. It is the responsibility of the student to contact Developmental Services prior to the beginning of the semester to initiate the accommodation process and to notify instructors within the first three class meetings to develop an accommodation plan. Appropriate, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow each student to meet course requirements, but no fundamental or substantial alteration of academic standards will be made. Students needing assistance should contact Developmental Services. (For more information, contact the Office of Student Life.)
TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

This is a tentative course schedule. Specific dates, except for the final exam date, may change for adjustments. Any change regarding the midterm exam schedules will be announced in advance in class and on the course homepage in ANGEL. It is your responsibility to be familiar with an updated class schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>What is Sociology? (Lecture-only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/16 (Mon)</td>
<td>Martin Luther, Jr. Day – No Class!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Sociological Perspectives</td>
<td>Ch 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>Ch 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/17 (Fri)</td>
<td>Winter Break – No Class!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>2/21 (Tue) - 2/23 (Thurs)</td>
<td>Exam #1 (Ch 1 - 2, and Lecture Only Materials)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Socialization</td>
<td>Ch 3</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Social Structure and Interaction</td>
<td>Ch 4</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Social Groups and Organizations</td>
<td>Ch 5</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>3/26 (Mon) - 3/30 (Fri)</td>
<td>Spring Break!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>4/3 (Tue) - 4/5 (Thurs)</td>
<td>Exam #2 (Ch 3 - 5)</td>
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<td>Week 14 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Deviance and Social Control</td>
<td>Ch 6</td>
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<td>4/22 (Fri)</td>
<td>Good Friday!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Class Stratification in the US</td>
<td>Ch 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 17</td>
<td>Global Social Stratification</td>
<td>Ch 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/3 (Thurs)</td>
<td>Study Day – No Class!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
<td>5/9 (Wed)</td>
<td>Exam #3 (Ch 6 - 8) @ 10:15am – Noon*</td>
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*Also to be completed in 50 minutes.

* Always bring 1) No.2 (HB) Pencils, 2) Eraser, and 3) Student ID Card to the exams.
* All exams are held in the regular classroom.
* All exams are designed to be completed in 50 minutes; thus you only have 50 minutes to complete each exam.
* No computers or dictionaries are permitted in the exams unless specifically authorized as a part of disability accommodation.
* All exams scores and course grades will be posted in ANGEL. If you have any question about your exam score or course grade, contact the professor via e-mail or the course mail after receiving the grade.