

**WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL
SCIENCES
SUMMER 2008
OLD POST OFFICE (13)**

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

ANSO: 1010:05

Wednesdays

(5:30-9:30PM)

Instructor: **Donna Marshaye White**

Contact: donnawhite31@webster.edu Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to Sociology 101. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the discipline of Sociology. Broadly, Sociology is understood as the scientific study of societies past, present, and future. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the “nuts and bolts” of sociological thought. In the course, we will explore the factors that determine social organization and social behavior in modern society. To do this we will examine the social interactions of individuals with one another, individuals with groups, and groups with one another. Overall we will explore how people in the United States and abroad socially construct and survive through cultural practices. These practices or processes include religion, sexuality, ethnicity, and *culture*. Special consideration is given to *culture*, social stratification, demography, institutions, and major trends in sociology and the media. To better understand sociology as a discipline, we will explore who and what we are as human beings and the role of *culture* in our social worlds. Furthermore, this course examines social history and how human beings around the world construct unique versions of religion, race, sexuality, family, and much more. In terms of sociological research methods, we will explore various methods and conduct critical analyses of these methods. These aspects of Sociology are most significant.

TEXTS: *Sociology: The Essentials* (5th Edition) Andersen & Taylor,
Thompson/Wadsworth

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Through completing course assignments, students will become familiar with several aspects of Sociology as a discipline. This course is designed to:

- Acquaint students with Sociology as a discipline.
- Allow students to develop working knowledge *cultural processes* and explore how *culture* works in here in the United States, and abroad. Remember...*culture* is what human beings create to survive.
- Student will become familiar with social constructionist theories about racial identity in everyday society. Provide students with a greater appreciation of the consequences of ethnocentrism, homophobia, xenophobia, racism, prejudice, and discrimination.
- Improve student's oral participation and writing skills. A large portion of the course will focus on teaching students how to express (verbally and written) and grapple with (think about, analyze) newly acquire knowledge. Provide students with the necessary skills to become more critical in evaluating the various issues and aspects of American society and cultural diversity.
- Foster strong social analytical skills. We will approach a vast range of human behavior in our society. This course will challenge student's prior notions of what is normal, decent, and acceptable ways for thinking about society and identity in everyday society. Students will gain a better understanding of the behavior, motivations, values, and lifestyles of people in society.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

The primary method in this sociology course is lecture/discussion, based on the course text, supplemental readings & lectures, and films shown in class. You must read the course texts to do well in the course. Reading assignments are to be completed **before** class. Come to class on **Wednesday** prepared to discuss what you have read for the week. Overall, the emphasis in this course is on active learning and participating, rather than just lecture. Therefore, the learning methods in this course encourage student-faculty **and** student-student contact. This pedagogical method will foster cooperation among students. We are a team!

COURSE GRADING:

Mid-Term & Final Exams	100 Points (each)	200 Points
• Objective exams over reading assignments		
• 100 Multiple-Choice Questions		
Oral Part.	50 Points	50 Points
• Attendance and participation in class discussions		
2 Short Papers (Critical Response)	25 Points (each)	50 Points
• Word-Processed, 3 pages, 12FT, TNR, DS		
• Critical Analysis of Films shown in class		
	Total	300 Points

GRADING SCALE:

270-300 A
240-269 B
210-239 C
180-209 D
0 -179 F

ORAL PARTICIPATION:

Because class discussion is a crucial component of this course, I expect students to attend and actively take part in class. By “class discussion” I do NOT mean that I expect students to be fully versed in all areas of sociological study. What I do mean is that I expect students to come to class having read the assignment for that session with some care. Discussion does not require you to speak in eloquent Shakespearean phrases. It does require you to be willing to think out loud, to formulate and voice your views, and to take an intellectual risk occasionally. Social issues are often controversial. Class discussion, therefore, may involve disagreements among students. Such disagreement is healthy and can be quite intellectually stimulating. Please remember that reasonable people can (and do) disagree. Personal attacks are not necessary, nor are they appropriate.

CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPERS:

Because acquiring suitable writing skills is a crucial component of your college education, you will learn how to think critically and then express your opinion in writing, as we will analyze films and media this semester. In these short papers, called “critical response papers”, you will need to organize your writing skills. We will discuss these papers further as we approach their due dates. For now just know that these papers are not the typical “report” like papers. Instead you will be ask to use your brain and effectively voice you opinions on two films that will be shown throughout the semester. Stay Tuned...

READING ASSIGNMENTS & COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One:	6/11/08	Class Introduction & Sociology Open Lecture
Week Two:	6/18/08	Chapter 1 Sociological Perspective & Research Chapter 2 Culture
Week Three:	6/25/08	Chapter 3 Socialization & Life Course Chapter 4 Social Interaction & Social...
Week Four:	7/2/08	<u>MIDTERM EXAM</u> Chapter 6 Deviance & Crime ➤ CRP Film One
Week Five:	7/9/08	Chapter 7 Social Class & Stratification Chapter 9 Race & Ethnicity ➤ CRP DUE
Week Six:	7/16/08	Chapter 10 Gender

Chapter 11 Sexuality

Week Seven: 7/23/08

Chapter 12 Family & Religion

➤ CRP Film Two

Week Eight: 7/30/08

FINAL EXAM

➤ CRP DUE

SYLLABUS CHANGES:

This syllabus may need to be changed during the semester to accommodate time, student learning and interest, or other unanticipated circumstances. You will be given notice of any such changes. Exam dates, however, will NOT change unless the University closes for emergency reasons.

OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF:

SPECIAL NEEDS CONCERNS:

Please contact me as soon as possible if you require services available to you through the University. These services may include more time needed during exams, an additional note taker, Writing Center, etc.. Please feel free to contact me as soon as possible and I'll direct you to our Campus services.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

You need to attend class **every** class. However, if an emergency should emerge, please contact me ASAP. Overall, you can only miss **one** class session for "unexcused" absences. More than one requires special documentation. Attendance and oral participation points require that you come to class and actively participate in course discussions. You'll need to attend class regularly in order to do well in the course. Please remember to **turn off** your cell phone and other electronic devices during lecture. Don't be late!

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM:

Assignments that have been copied from another student or another source will not be scored. Academic dishonesty of any form violates the UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF ETHICS (Webster University Undergraduate Studies Catalog, pg. 14) and will lead to harsh disciplinary action, including expulsion. BEWARE! There is zero-tolerance for any form of academic dishonesty in this course. You only have exams in which you could be academically dishonest this semester. There is no need to "cheat" if you are a **proactive** student in the course! Code Violations ensure your failure in the course.