Course Syllabus **Sociology 2000 (Understanding Human Society)** Spring2013

Course: Sociology 2000; section 003and 501 (Understanding Human Society)

Classes meet: Tuesdays and Thursdaysfrom 10:40am – 11:55am in in Science Hall 1109

Dr. Zachary W. Brewster

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 Phone: (313) 577-**2930 (main office)**

 E-mail: zbrewster@wayne.edu(Best way to contact me)

Teaching Assistant: AnabelStoeckle (lisa.stoeckle@wayne.edu)

**Office Hours**: Tuesday:9:00-10:00am and 12:30 – 2:30pm

Thursday: 9:00 – 10:00am and 12:30 – 4:00pm

 M/W/F: by appointment

**Required Text:** Customized book derived from *The Sociology Project*(Manza et al. 2013), Pearson Publishing*.*

 \*Additional readings are required and made available on Blackboard.

**Course Objective**:

This course is intended to introduceyou to the field of sociology. In this class, you will be exposed to the general ideas, concepts, theoretical perspectives, and research methods within the field of sociology. The underlying objective of this course is to help you develop a sociological imagination that will foster an enhanced awareness concerning the effects that social forces have on your lives and the lives of your fellow human beings. Areas of inquiry include social organization and institutional life, processes of socialization, culture, conflict, and social change—just to name a few. This course will stress abstract and critical thinking and to foster such thinking skills the sharing of personal perspectives is encouraged. . Specifically, in this course you will have the opportunity to:

1. Develop an understanding of and apply the sociological perspective towards understanding the world in which you live.
2. Develop an understanding of the basic elements of the scientific process.
3. Develop a “theoretical tool bag” that you can draw from to further understand the observations that you make in the social world.
4. Learn about yourself by applying course content to your everyday experiences in the social world.
5. Cultivate abstract and critical thinking skills.
6. Engage in intellectual discussions with your classmates.
7. Work on your reading, writing, and verbal skills.

**Expectations**

Students taking this course will be tested over material derived from the text, articles, film/videos, lectures, and class discussions—in short, everything is fair game for the exams. A good portion of the material that you will be tested over will not be found in the readings. For this reason, it is imperative that students attend class. However, attending class alone will not ensure course success. In addition to class attendance, you will need to study each assigned reading carefully. I strongly recommend that you complete the assigned readings prior to class and take summary notes that capture the readings main ideas. Class lectures and discussions will incorporate material from the readings but I will not devote an exorbitant amount of class time to “teaching” the specifics of each reading. In fact, I will not discuss some of the material derived from the readings at all. In other words, I am working under the assumption that everybody can read and comprehend basic ideas and issues derived from the readings and I will thus spend the limited class time focusing on issues that are more complicated and connecting the readings to broader issues/ideas/concepts. With that said, I am not discouraging you from asking questions about things that remain unclear after you complete the readings. Some of the readings are difficult and to foster learning we, as a class, will need to discuss them in detail. Also, remember that if you do not understand something it is inevitable that others do not understand it as well so please ask questions, ask questions, and ask more questions. In short, careful preparation of the reading assignments is a crucial area in which you will need to exercise self-discipline (reading before the class that the assigned reading(s) will be discussed), independence (trying to understand the author's argument on your own), and initiative (asking questions about anything that remains unclear to you).

Blackboard is an instrumental part of this course and as such, you are expected to login to Blackboard on a regular basis to access course materials (e.g., readings, study guides, lectures, etc.), check email, and review announcements. If you do not login to Blackboard on a regular basis you will not know what is going on in the course and your chances for success will thus be diminished greatly!

This is a college course; therefore, I expect that you are all adults and will act accordingly. The success of this class depends largely on the students, making class participation imperative. All expressions of ideas are welcome assuming that these expressions are not uncivil to your classmates. Harassment of any nature will not be tolerated. Students are also expected to maintain academic integrity and therefore, cheating of any sort may result in failure of this course. For additional information on academic integrity and related issues refer to the Student Conduct Services homepage (<http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct/index.html>). The student code of conduct is also available on BlackBoard for you to review. Remember, ignorance is not a viable defense against allegations of student conduct violations.

**Late Assignments**

I expect you to submit assignments in person (e.g., in class) on the designated due dates. However, in the event that you are unable to attend class on the day an assignment is due, you can email it to me but must do so before class begins and at your own risk. In other words, I am not responsible for “lost emails.” To minimize “risks” associated with submitting assignments electronically, I suggest that you utilize the Blackboard mail function or alternatively your WSU email account. If you do email me an assignment you should subsequently check your email for a confirmation message indicating that I received it. Turning in assignments late will result in a 5-point deduction per day and this includes weekends. I consider an assignment late at the beginning of class on the day that the assignment is to be submitted.

**Attendance**

Regular class attendance is expected. While there will be no formal attendance policy in this class excessive absences will inevitably be reflected in your final course grade. Excessive tardiness and leaving class early will be regarded as disrespectful. If there is a problem with getting to class on time or having to leave early, please see me as soon as possible. You are all adults and are capable of making the decision to attend class. In cases in which you unable to attend class you are responsible for obtaining missed information from a classmate (if you are sick, stay home and get better but **I do not need to see doctors’ notes** if this is the case). I will not provide students with my lecture notes nor will I reiterate lectures for individual students. In the case of an emergency, where excessive absences result, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can work with you.

**Makeup Exams**

I understand that we are all human and unexpected events often occur in our lives. However, I strongly discourage missing on days of scheduled exams. If a problem does arise and it is not possible to take the exam on the scheduled date, contact me as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements. Students who miss the scheduled date of an exam are expected to arrange to take a makeup exam within a one-week period. If arrangements are not made in this time a makeup exam may not be permitted. Makeup exams will be disproportionately essay format.

**Class Cancellations**

In the event that classes are cancelled for any reason on the scheduled day of the exam, the exam will be given the next scheduled class meeting. If classes are cancelled the class prior to the day of a scheduled exam, the exam will be given as scheduled. If this is the case, you will not have an opportunity to ask questions in the class prior to taking the exam so I would encourage you to contact me via telephone or email with questions.

**Students with Disabilities**

Wayne State University is working to build a community that is inclusive and welcoming to all people, including those with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TDD only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from me without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University. Please refer to the SDS website for further information about students with disabilities and the services we provide for faculty and students: <http://studentdisability.wayne.edu/>

**Extra Credit**

I do not give extra credit. Focus your time and energy on the learning opportunities that I have provided you with, instead of hoping to do additional work toward the end of the course. If you follow the course plan, you will not need extra credit opportunities! This course is intentionally designed with several different types of assignments to give you multiple and varied chances to succeed. However, it is imperative that you keep-up with the readings and projects to avoid falling behind. If you run into any difficulties, please see me immediately so that we can develop a plan for you to meet your goals.

**Components of Final Grade (Note: Students are required to keep backup copies of all their work and check Blackboard regularly to ensure that their grades are accurately posted.)**

*Exams*

Three exams consisting of bothsubjective (e.g., short answer) and objective (e.g., multiple choice, true/false, etc.)items will be given in this course. The first exam is worth a maximum of 100 points. The second exam will be worth a maximum of 110 points. The final exam will be worth a maximum of 120 points. The final exam will be comprehensive and must be taken at the scheduled exam date. (Maximum total exam points = 330).

*In-class quizzes*

There will be six announced quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will test reading comprehension and the application of course material. Each quiz will be worth a maximum of 25 points. Students can use **their own** written notes for all of these exams. Therefore, students should complete all reading before class and take well-organized notes on each reading. Students **will not be permitted to take these quizzes in the event of absences (excused or otherwise)**. However, to be fair, I will drop the lowest score at the end of the semester. Thus, six quizzes will be given and the highest five scores will be considered in determination of this component of your final grade. If a student does not perform well on these quizzes, it is in most cases a reflection of class absences, lack of class preparation, and/or lack of attentiveness while attending class. In short, students who **regularly** prepare for class, attend class, and maintain attentiveness while in class have the best chances for success on these quizzes (and all assignments for that matter!). (Maximum points for quizzes = 125)

*Chapter worksheets*

Time constraints will prevent us from covering in detail everything that we read for this class and this is especially the case with regard to the textbook.This material is nevertheless important and as such, you will be held accountable for this material on course quizzes and exams. However, I recognize that most textbooks, including the customized book for this course, (which comparatively speaking is a very condensed coverage of the material),cover a potentially overwhelming amount of material in each chapter. Thus, to focus your attention, Ms. Stoeckle will provide you with a worksheet that you are required to complete by consulting the appropriate chapters in your textbook. Worksheet questions will be short answer / essay format and your answers should be typed. If these worksheets are thoroughly completed, they should be excellent study tools for the exams. To assess and determine this component of your course grade, Ms. Stoeckle will collect these worksheets on four occasions. Each assessment will be worth a maximum of 25 points. These worksheets available to you in advance on Blackboard so that you can complete them as you read the material for each unit, or alternatively, right after you read the material. Worksheets will be graded on content (do you adequately answer the question and convey an understanding of the material as outlined in the textbook), structure (are your answers organized in a logical fashion, does your answer flow and make sense, etc.), and grammar (are there typos, do your sentences make sense, etc.). As a rule of thumb, each question will require 3-4 well thought out paragraphs, not one sentence! This component will require a timecommitment, organizational skills, and self-discipline. (Maximum points for quizzes = 100)

Grading Scale

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 97-100% A+ | 87-89% B+ | 77-79% C+ | 67-69% D+ |
| 93-96% A | 83-86% B | 73-76% C | 63-66% D |
| 90-92% A- | 80-82% B- | 70-72% C- | 60-62% D- |
|  |  |  | Below 60% F |

GRADING RUBRIC: Your grade is based on a total of **555** points.

**Tentative Schedule**(Tentative meaning that this is not sketched in stone and almost certainly will be altered according to class interest, time constraints, and other unforeseen events. As such, it is **your responsibility** to check Blackboard**regularly**to verify what you need to do in order to be prepared for each class session. If you do not do so you will not do as well in this class as you otherwise could have done.)

**Topic or Activity Readings Reading #**

**The Sociological Imagination** Chapter 1(textbook) 1

 The Promise (online) 2

 Teenage Wasteland (online) 3

**Social Theory** Theoretical Perspectives (online) 4

**Research Methods** Chapter 2 (textbook) 5

 Situationist Perspective on Evil (online) 6

**Culture** Chapter 5 (textbook) 7

 Culture of Fear (online) 8

 Code of the Streets (online) 9

**Interaction, Structure, and Socialization**  Chapter 3 (textbook) 10

 Chapter 4 (textbook) 11

Extreme Isolation (online) 12

Night to His Day (online) 13

 Sex Stereotypes and the Media (online) 14

Learning to Strip (online) 15

 Anybody’s Son Will Do (online) 16

 Becoming a Marijuana User (online) 17

**Stratification and Social Class** Chapter 9 (textbook) 18

The Power Elite (online) 19

Preparing for Power (online) 20

Droves of Unqualified Kids (online) 21

As American as Apple Pie (online) 22

Media Magic (online) 23

**Race and Ethnicity** Chapter 10 (textbook) 24

 Race at Work (online) 25

Getting a job, Not Getting a Job (online) 26

Savage Inequalities (online) 27

 Savage Inequalities Revisited (online) 28

**Sex and Gender** Chapter11 (textbook) 29

 Detours on the Road to Equality 30

Women and Weight 31

The Glass Escalator (online) 32

 The Mommy Tax (online) 33

**Important Dates**

**Monday, January 7—Welcome Back to Classes**

**Tuesday, January 22—First Quiz**

**Thursday, January 31— First Worksheet due Covering Chapters 1 & 2**

**Tuesday, February 5— Second Quiz**

**Tuesday, February 12—First Exam**

**Thursday, February 21—Third Quiz**

**Tuesday, March 5—Second Worksheet dueCovering Chapter 5**

**Thursday, March 7—Fourth Quiz**

**Thursday, March 21— Third Worksheet dueCovering Chapters 3 & 4**

**Thursday, March 28—Second Exam**

**Tuesday, April 9—Fifth Quiz &Fourth Worksheet due Covering Chapter 9**

**Tuesday, April 16— Sixth and final Quiz**

**Wednesday, April 24—Final Exam from 10:40am – 1:10pm**

**\*Class may be cancelled on Thursday, April 4th.**

**Other Important Dates**

**Saturday, January 12—Last day to add a class without departmental approval**

**Friday, January 18—Last day to drop a course with full tuition reimbursement**

**Monday, January 21—MLK Day / University closed**

**Saturday, February 2—Last day to drop a course with no grade reported (no refund)**

**Friday, February 8—Degree applications are due**

**Monday, March 11 – Saturday, March 16—Spring Break**

**Saturday, March 23—Last day to withdraw from a class**

**Wednesday, April 24 – Tuesday, April 30—Final Exams** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Have a Great Semester and Work Hard!**