**Understanding Human Society**

SOC 2000

11:30-12:45pm.

Tuesday/Thursday

Lindsay Toman

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Office hours: Mondays 11-12 or by request.

**Welcome**

In this class we will analyze how society is constructed and the ways individuals are affected. We will talk briefly about sociological theory, while mainly concentrating on how race, class and gender affect individuals on a daily basis. You will be asked to think critically about sociological concepts and your place in this world.

**Required Readings**

The required book can be downloaded for free from blackboard. The link is currently available on blackboard. The book is titled, “Introduction to Sociology 2e.”

Additional readings will be posted on blackboard early in the semester. You are required to read all of the articles before the class date that they are assigned so that you are able participate fully in discussion. I highly suggest downloading all of the articles as soon as possible to avoid last minute complications. If you have any issues downloading the readings, contact me as soon as possible.

**Classroom Format**

Our classes will consist of group discussion, lectures, and interactive exercises. Since the course is dedicated to understanding human society, I ask that each of you come to class with an open mind, respect others opinions and participate in a cooperative manner. If you choose to be disrespectful you will be asked to leave and lose any participation points you earned that class period.

*Laptops and cell phones are not allowed.* Since most of our class is discussion-based, a laptop is unnecessary and distracting. Please turn off your cell phone before class and keep it in your backpack or bag. If caught texting or using a phone, students will be marked absent for that day. If there is some sort of emergency and you have to check your phone or you have to leave class early, please let me know ahead of time.

If I need to inform you about any additional information pertaining to the class, I will do so via email or blackboard. Please check both of these regularly to make sure that you are well informed. This syllabus should be used as a guide, but I may make changes during the semester.

**Grade Details**

Exam 1 30 points

Exam 2 30 points

Exam 3 30 points

In-Class Participation 10 points

**Total 100 points**

**Grade Details**

You will have three exams throughout the semester that are worth 30 points each. Each exam will be taken online through blackboard. You must take the exam on the day that it is given. Unless you give me prior notice as to why you cannot take the exam on the scheduled day, you will receive a zero for that exam. If you have a legitimate excuse, I will allow you to take the exam at a later date.

**In-Class Participation**

Throughout the semester there will be 10 in-class participation activities or assignments. You cannot make up the participation points from that day if you are absent without a legitimate excuse. If you give me an acceptable excuse, I will allow you to make up points.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) 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 accommodations are in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during office hours to discuss your special needs. 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 WSU.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism includes copying material (any more than 5 consecutive words) from outside texts or presenting outside information as if it were your own by not crediting authors through citations. It can be deliberate or unintended. If you're in doubt about the use of a source, cite it. Students caught plagiarizing information from other sources will receive a failing grade in the course. University policy states that students can be subject to multiple sanctions, from reprimand to expulsion as a consequence of academic dishonesty. To enforce this policy, all outside references must be submitted with assignments.

**Exams**

Aug 31: INTRODUCTION TO CLASS

Sep 5: What is sociology?

 Chapter 1: Introduction to Sociology

Sep 7: Sociological Imagination

 Blackboard: C. Wright Mills, “Sociological Imagination”

 In-Class Reading of Nacirema

Sep 12: “Personal” Choices

 Blackboard: Michael Schwalbe, “Relationships, Groups, and Interdependence”

Sep 14: Culture

 Chapter 3: Culture

Sep 19: Creating our World

 Chapter 4: Society and Social Interaction

Blackboard: Michael Schwalbe, “Inventing the Social World.” **\*Read chapter 2 only.**

Sep 21: Socialization

 Chapter 5: Socialization

 Zombie Exercise

Sep 26: Sociological Methods

 Chapter 2: Sociological Research

Sep 28: Society and the Media

 Chapter 8: Media and Technology

 Blackboard: “Learn Different: Silicon Valley Disrupts Education”

 Advertisements exercise

Oct 3: Review for Exam

**Oct 5: ONLINE EXAM #1**

Oct 10: Social Class and Stratification

 Chapter 9: Social Stratification in the United States

 Blackboard: “Nickel and Dimed”

Oct 12: Wealth and Inheritance

 Blackboard: “Common Wealth and the Self-Made Myth”

 Blackboard: “Of the 1%, For the 1%, by the 1%”

Oct 17: Economic Inequality

 Blackboard: “McDonalds Budget Plan Leaves out a Critical Line: Corporate Welfare”

 PaySpent activity

Oct 19: Details added at later date.

Oct 24: Race and Ethnicity

 Chapter 11: Race and Ethnicity

 Blackboard: “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”

Oct 26: Whiteness

 Guest Lecturer, Randall Wyatt

 \*Readings will be added at later date

Oct 31: How to resist racism

Blackboard: “How White People Can Serve as Allies to People of Color in the Struggle to End Racism”

 Blackboard: “Breaking the Silence”

**Nov 2: ONLINE EXAM #2**

Nov 7: Intro to Sex and Gender

 Chapter 12: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality

Nov 9: Gender and the Patriarchy

 Blackboard: “Oppression”

 Blackboard: “Patriarchy”

 Scavenger Hunt activity

Nov 14: Sexuality

 Blackboard: “Masculinity as Homophobia”

 Blackboard: “Dude You’re a Fag”

Nov 16: Healthcare Inequality

 Chapter 19: Health and Society

 Blackboard: “Millions for Viagra, pennies for Disease of the Poor”

Nov 21: Sexual Assault

 Articles added at later date

**Nov 23: NO CLASS THANKSGIVING**

Nov 28: Deviance

 Chapter 7: Deviance, Crime, and Social Control

Nov 30: Prison Industrial Complex

 Blackboard: “Cruel and Unusual: The True Cost of Our Prison System”

 Blackboard: “The Prison Industrial Complex”

Dec 5: Social Movements

 Chapter 21: Social Movements and Social Change

 Social Movement Exercise

Dec 7: REVIEW

**Dec 12: ONLINE EXAM #3 or maybe a group exam.**