

**Case Western Reserve University, Ohio**  
**SOCI 112B Intro to Sociology: Human Interaction**

Spring semester, 2008

Tues & Thurs, 2:45-4:00 p.m.

Bingham / Room # 204

Tanetta Andersson, M.A., PhD Candidate

Email contact: [tea@case.edu](mailto:tea@case.edu)

Mather Memorial, Rm 222A, 368.2698

Off hrs M,W 12:45-1:30 or by appt.

[www.zephyrintheskyatnight.net](http://www.zephyrintheskyatnight.net)

“The sociological imagination is the quality of mind which grasps the interplay of man and society, of biography and history, of self and world.”~ C. Wright Mills



*“We think in generalities, but we live in detail”~ Alfred North Whitehead*

### **Course description:**

This course will provide a general introduction to the discipline of Sociology. Core topics that will be examined and discussed include social order, research methodology, social structures and institutions, interface of individual and society, deviance and crime, stratification, racial and ethnic relations, sex and gender, social inequality, globalization, and social change. Further, students will understand the sociological perspective (e.g., structural, systematic, critical) as a social science. Students will apply this understanding through various theoretical frameworks within the discipline of sociology.

### **Course outcomes:**

- **Elaborate the sociological perspective and key classical and contemporary thinkers**
- **Understand various theoretical frameworks within the discipline of sociology**
- **Identify and describe sociological scholarship in central areas of social life**
- **Demonstrate critical thinking**

### **Required Text:**

*Sociology: A global perspective* (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.). (2008). Ferrante, J. Wadsworth: Belmont, CA. ISBN 13: 9780495390916

*Mapping the social landscape: Readings in sociology* (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). (2008). Ferguson, S. J. McGraw Hill: New York, NY. ISBN 13: 9780073528076

*Aint no makin it.* (1995). MacLeod, J. Westview Press: Boulder, CO.

\*\*Any other readings will be available via Blackboard and indicated by BB in syllabus.

### **Course requirements:**

To complete this course, you must satisfy the following requirements: Read all assigned material. Students are responsible for all materials presented in text, class notes or handouts. It is the student's responsibility to obtain class notes from a fellow student for any missed classes.

### **Grading:**

3 exams (45%), 2 short papers (20%), in-class writings (15%), sociological mosaic poster (10%), attendance & participation (10%).

3 exams will consist of T/F, multiple choice, and short essay format. Exam questions will be drawn from texts, lecture, and in-class materials. Short paper assignments will be announced in class and via Blackboard. Short papers topics will require students to analyze and apply specific concepts from course materials. A paper writing guide will be available via blackboard. Several in-class writing exercises/quizzes will be assigned; they will be based on the day's topic and readings. These assignments are *not announced in advance* and *no make-up assignments* will be given. Several in-class group exercises will occur over the course of the semester; you will need to bring the textbook to class in order to complete these activities.

### **Attendance and Class participation**

Attendance is mandatory--*be sure to initial the in-class attendance sheet, especially if you are late to class (initial at end of class)*. For students with multiple unexcused absences, final grade will be lowered. Please inform me beforehand if you will be absent from class (e.g. student-athlete, or commuter issue, or other issue preventing coming to class). If an exam is missed, the instructor must receive *notification by email (preferably) or phone* \*before\* the scheduled exam. Missed exams must be made up *prior to the next class meeting* through special arrangement with the instructor. Any students requesting a make-up exam may be required to provide documentation of extenuating circumstances that interfere with taking the exam as scheduled.

\*Some themes in this course are socially sensitive. Consequently, **respect** towards all individuals' viewpoints will be emphasized in the classroom.

\*\*Also, the syllabus is subject to change (readings, assignments, etc.). To maintain the integrity of the course, the instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus. Please pay close attention to class announcements made either in class or via Blackboard.

#### Other classroom guidelines:

\*Please mute your cell phone before class. **My policy is if it rings during class, I answer it!** **MUUahhhhahhhh!** ☺ Also, please keep your phone off your desk and in your bag during class (i.e., no texting!!!).

#### **Disability Resources**

If you are a student with accommodation needs, please feel comfortable in seeing me about your needs or meeting with the coordinator of Disability Resources to arrange such accommodations.

*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but in having new eyes ~Marcel Proust*



Communist Party”, #44 Weber’s “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism”

#### **Course schedule and assignments**

##### **Week 1 (January 15 & 17)**

Introductions & syllabus, The Sociological Perspective Chap 1, The Sociological Imagination, Ferrante

#1 The promise, Ferguson  
Out of class film (on reserve at



KSL): Roger & Me

##### **Week 2 (January 22 & 24)**

Chap. 1 cont.

#41 Marx’s “Manifesto of the Communist Party”, #44 Weber’s “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism”

**Week 3 (January 29 & 31)**

Chap 1 &amp; begin Chap 2

**Week 4 (February 5 & 7)**Chap 2, Theoretical Perspectives and Methods of Sociology, Ferrante  
Ain't No Makin It, Chaps. 1-3

Maquilapolis

**Th: Short paper 1 due****Week 5 (February 12 & 14)**

Happy Valentine's Day

Chap 2 cont.

# 5 Interpersonal dynamics  
in a simulated prison,  
FergusonQuiet rage: the  
Stanford prison experiment**Week 6 (February 19 & 21)**Chap. 4, Social Interaction, Ferrante  
Aint No Makin It, Chaps. 4-6**Week 7 (February 26 & 28)****T: Exam 1**Th: Chap. 6, Social Organizations, Ferrante  
#57 Ritzer's The McDonaldization of Society, Ferguson**Week 8 (March 4 & 6)**Chap. 7, Deviance, Conformity, and Social  
Control, Ferrante  
Aint No Makin It, Chaps. 7-9**Week 9 (March 11 & 13) No class—SPRING  
BREAK!!!!#\$%^@!!!!!!****Week 10 (March 18 & 20)**Chap. 9, Race and Ethnicity, Ferrante  
#31 Bonilla-Silva's "New racism", color-blind racism,  
and the future of whiteness in America", Ferguson  
Optional Ethnicities (BB)

Understanding Race

**Week 11 (March 25 & 27)****T: Exam 2****Th:** Chap. 10, Gender,  
FerranteMen are taught to apologize for their weaknesses,  
women for their strengths. ~Lois Wyse**Week 12 (April 1 & 3)**

Chap. 10 cont.

#27 Risman's "Gender as Structure", #28 Lucal's "What it means to be gendered me"

**Week 13 (April 8 & 10)**

Chap. 11, Economics and Politics, Ferrante

Aint No Makin It, Chaps.

Ferguson: TBA



Black Gold

**Short Paper 2 due****Week 14 (April 15 & 17)**

Chap. 12, Population and Urbanization, Ferrante



World in the Balance

**Week 15 (April 22) No class Thurs, April 24<sup>th</sup>**

Chap. 16, Social Change, Ferrante

#60 Johnson's "What can we do?", Ferguson

**Week 16****Sociological mosaic poster due**April 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>, Reading Days, Instructor available  
for appointment & to answer any questions. Review  
session??**Final exam: Thurs, May 1, 12:30-3:30**