

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2010

SOCI 112B-101 Introductory Sociology T&TH 2:45-4:00pm Clark 309

Instructor: Christine Schneider [Cms80@case.edu](mailto:Cms80@case.edu) 440.897.3816

Office hours: 7days a week via email, in person from 2pm-2:45pm Tues/Thurs, and/or by appointment.

**Required Textbook: The Real World by Ferris and Stein**

***I. Course Description:***

This course is designed to introduce you to the basic ideas and concepts of sociology and to highlight the relevance of sociological perspectives, methodologies, and theories for understanding the social organization in society. An in-depth study of concepts such as culture, social interaction, norms, statuses, roles and social stratification allow the application of sociology to current events. By the end of this semester I am confident that you will be able to think critically about how individuals are affected by society and its institutions. While there are no official college prerequisites for this course, comprehension of the English language, reading, and analytical skills will be necessary throughout this course. I am here to help you develop these skills and to answer any and all questions to the best of my ability.

What I expect from you:

- To be on time AND come to class
- To be prepared with assignments read in advance (homework will be collected BEFORE class on the day it is due)
- To be willing to give and receive constructive criticism to/from your classmates
- To ask for help (from me or fellow classmates) if you ever feel confused, lost, or frustrated
- To contribute to discussions and listen respectfully to others
- Integrity and honest work

What you can expect from me:

- To be on time
- To be available via email 7 days a week (or face-to-face by appointment)
- There will be no surprises in this course. Any deviations from the syllabus will be discussed in advance and approved by the class
- I will take attendance and participation into account when giving out midterm/final grades

## II. Outcomes/Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the goals, methods, principles, theories, and concepts pertinent to the field of Sociology
- Recognize and apply at least three major theoretical perspectives in sociology:
  - o Structural functionalism
  - o Conflict theory
  - o Symbolic Interactionism
- Understand sociological definitions and be able to provide examples of the core concepts:
  - o Group culture
  - o Society and Socialization
  - o Social differentiation
  - o Social organization and the normative system
  - o Collective behavior and Socio-Cultural change
  - o Formal organization and Social institutions
- Hone interpersonal skills through the understanding of and application of these principles in the field of Sociology
- Better appreciate the issue of diversity through sociological frameworks
- Propose policies and programs based on sociological understanding
- Apply understanding of the course content to your personal life choices

## III. Course Content

- A. The nature, history and development of the field of Sociology
- B. Scientific method, scientific spirit and research ethics used in the field
- C. Society, culture and environment
- D. Social interaction, groups, and organizations
- E. Socialization and identity in society
- F. Conformity and deviance
- G. Social differentiation and stratification
- H. Challenges to the stratification system
- I. Socio-Cultural change and current societal issues

## IV. Student evaluation

### COURSEWORK FOR GRADING:

Attendance

Small group assignments/current events

Midterm

Final exam

I weight your grade in the following manner:

Attendance/Participation	10%
Assignments	40%
Midterm	25%
Final exam	25%

\*An extra credit assignment for 10 pts toward Exams (50% of final grade) can be requested once during the semester. It is your responsibility to contact me for available assignments.

**\*Tentative schedule\***

**Week 1**

1/12- Introduction

1/14- Chapter 1

**Week 2-**

1/19-Chapter 2

1/21- Chapter 3

**Week 3 (HOMEWORK #1 over chap 1-4 DUE 1/28)**

1/26-Chap 4

1/28-Finish 1-4 and review

**Week 4**

2/2 –Chap 5-

2/4 –**small group assignment** (pg 54) -collected at end of class: please don't forget to sign the attendance sheet

**Week 5**

2/9 – Chapter 6

2/11-**current event assignment presentations** (group discussion and assignment handed in end of class)

**Week 6**

2/16- Chapter 7

**2/18- Review for midterm**

**Week 7**

**2/23-Midterm**

2/25- Chapter 8

**Week 8 (HOMEWORK #2 chapter 5-10 DUE 3/2)**

3/2- Chapter 9

3/4 –Chapter 10

**Week 9**

SPRING BREAK: Be safe and have fun!

**Week 10 (HOMEWORK #3 Chapters 11-13 DUE 3/18)**

3/16-Chaper 11

3/18: -Chapter 12

**Week 11**

3/23-Chapter 13

3/25-**Group Assignment** (Chapter 17)

**Week 12**

3/30- **Group Presentation**

4/1- **Finish Group Presentation**

**Week 13**

4/6&4/8--MOVIE: TBD

**(HOMEWORK #4 chapter 14 & 17: DUE)**

**Week 14**

4/13 -Chapter 14

4/15- Chapter 15

## **Week 15**

4/20-Chapter 16

4/22- **REVIEW for FINAL**

## **Week 16**

**FINAL EXAM: TBA**

### **Intellectual Dishonesty:**

To plagiarize is defined by *The American Heritage College Dictionary* as “to use and pass off as one’s own work (the ideas or writings of another).” This means that you must do your own original work in this class. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment in accordance with CWRU policy. Copies of the official college plagiarism policy are available upon request.

### **Disabilities Act:**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.