INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
(Sociology 001A/Section ID12212)

Defining & Conceptualizing Sociology

Sociology is the scientific study of society. More particularly, sociology is the systematic study of the functioning, organization and development of various types of human societies. One issue that emerges with this definition is that it does not distinguish sociology from social science in general and it does not distinguish sociology from other, less generalist social sciences. Since no aspect of society is excluded from consideration by sociology, no simple distinction can be drawn between sociology and social science; in some uses the two terms are simply interchangeable. More usually, however, whereas sociology necessarily overlaps with the subject matter of more specialized social sciences (for example, economics, political science and anthropology), the discipline is conceived by its practitioners as distinguished from these more focused social science disciplines by an avowedly holistic perspective in social analysis, a commitment to analysis that studies the interrelation of social parts. This stated, it should be noted that sociology does not exist as a tightly integrated discipline; not only does the subject encompass many competing paradigms, theoretical orientations and approaches, it has also remained uniquely open to ideas imported from other disciplines.

Simply put, sociology is a discipline spanning a range of subjects that is concerned with all functions and aspects of society. Sociology can be defined as the scientific study and analysis of social relations, human group life and human behaviors influenced by social structure. Finally, Sociology is basic, important and foundational for understanding the social and behavioral sciences and fundamental background knowledge for such majors as Nursing, Business, Law, Urban & City/Regional Planning, Education, Psychology and Anthropology.

Course Objectives
Students will....
*Learn about the history and emergence of the discipline of Sociology in the U.S.
*Critically analyze fundamental assumptions of social theorists and social researchers
*Acquire knowledge regarding the complexities of social relations and social processes
*Learn about social constructions/engineering, institutional power and social control
*Gain a more in depth understanding of social organization
*Critique social stratification across lines of race, class and gender
*Learn about social change
*Learn to make linkages between macro and micro level phenomena (ie., political economy)
*Ultimately learn more about "the self" as a social being
Required Texts

*Sociology For The Twenty-First Century, 5th Edition, by Curry, Jiobu & Schwirian
*Various Handouts will also be required reading throughout the semester

Course Requirements

All students are expected and encouraged to complete all assigned readings on time (i.e., in preparation for the following class meeting) and attend class regularly, class will begin on time.

Note: You'll be at a disadvantage if you fall behind in the readings, playing catch-up can be stressful.

Quizzes/Final

(3) Quizzes will be administered throughout the quarter at the discretion of the instructor. You'll be notified well in advance regarding quizzes. Material on each quiz will include information relevant to readings, lectures, films and/or class activities.
(1) Final Exam.

Papers

There will be two papers/essays required of you during this semester (excluding the Autobiography homework assignment due 1/27/09.)

You are required to write two (2) 2-3 page papers for this course. Each paper must be typed and double spaced. It’s expected that you will write a number of drafts before handing in your final paper product. All papers must be your own work. Choose from 2 of the following 4 options below. You must not complete the assignments before we review the given topic/subject matter in class.

1) Socialization, Culture and & Sociological Perspective/Viewpoint. Attend a faith-based worship service different from the one you normally attend. If you do not usually attend a worship service, you can choose any one. Explore a different setting from the one with which you are familiar. Write a two page paper about your experiences explicitly discussing the cultural concepts of symbols, language, norms and values and material artifacts. Also, include a paragraph answering the following questions: What do you think about this other place of worship and belief system? How do you think someone of this other faith would perceive your religious services and beliefs? Why?

2) Deviance. Spend some time exploring the idea of norms in a particular manner. To do this you will have to go to a public setting or settings and violate a folkway. Do not do anything which may cause physical or emotional harm to you or others. Do not break any laws. If you have chosen a small act of deviance, you may have to perform it a number of times. Consider violating the folkway in a variety of settings. Try to keep your mind free of expectations and just explore the social world. Complete a 2-3 page write up of your experiences. What happened? How did people react? Did anyone
attempt to alter your behavior or get you to adjust your behavior. How did you feel while performing this act (these acts) of deviance?

3) Social Inequality (Class, Race & Ethnicity or Gender). Choose a problem that is relevant and related to the topics of social inequality, discrimination and or racism. After choosing your problem (can be historical or current/modern), complete a 2-3 page write up outlining the problem and presenting solutions to the problems that you’ve outlined.

4) Social Institutions(Marriage & Family, Education or Religion). Approach a topic relevant to either of the above (3) social institutions. Write a 2-3 page essay re: some dynamic or aspect of these institutions----BE CREATIVE.

Attendance/Tardiness Policy

Everyone is expected to attend class on time (ie., the beginning of class). Three (3) tardies will equal one (1) absence. Attendance and being absent (non-attendance) will impact your final course grade.

Grading Policy

Your grade on any given assignment can be calculated using percentage points.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Assignment Breakdown</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100% = A</td>
<td>Quiz #1 = 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89% = B</td>
<td>Quiz #2 = 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79% = C</td>
<td>Quiz #3 = 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69% = D</td>
<td>Essay #1 = 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59% = F</td>
<td>Essay #2 = 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participation/Autobiography = 10%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final Exam = 25%</td>
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T = 100%

Class Participation (active engagement) in class is expected throughout the semester and Will account for 10% of your grade.
NOTE: Assigned reading from Race, Class & Gender, 6th Ed. by Andersen & Collins will be announced by Instructor. The following synopsis of readings to be covered throughout the semester only include readings from Sociology For The Twenty-First Century, 5th Edition, by Curry, Jiobu & Schvirian, the primary text for this course.

1/13/09 Introductions/Expectations (mine & yours)/Why you're here?
other nuts & bolts. Syllabus Review. Claiming vs. Receiving an Education.

Homework Due 1/27-- Prepare a 1-2 page type-written autobiography and how you arrived here, at Delta or what brought you to Delta. Read Ch. 1--What is Sociology? )After reading this chapter reflect on and write (type-written only) about how your interpretation/perception of Sociology has taken on new meaning, prior to reading Chapter 1. In short, discuss how your understanding has been altered, clarified, confused or broadened from your original understanding of Sociology. Due 1/27

1/20 Submit homework from 1/13--begin discussing Ch. 1 What is Sociology? and Your Interests.
Coming to understand the discipline of Sociology.
Homework Due 1/27--Homework (read Ch. 2--Sociological Research Methods)

1/27 Discuss Ch. 2 and coming to understand the discipline of Sociology.
Due 2/3-- Homework (read Ch. 3--Culture, Society & Social Change)

2/3 Discuss Ch. 3
Due 2/10-- Homework (read Ch. 4--Socialization)

2/10 Discuss Ch. 4
Due 2/17-- Homework (read Ch. 5—Deviance & Crime)

2/17 Discuss Ch. 5
Due 2/24-- Homework (read Ch. 6—Interaction, Groups & Organizations)

2/24 Discuss Ch. 6 QUIZ # 1 (Chapters 1,2, 4 & 5)
Due 3/3-- Homework (read Ch. 7—Inequalities of Social Class)

3/3 Discuss Ch. 7
Due 3/10—Homework (read Ch. 8—Inequalities of Race & Ethnicity)

3/10 Discuss Ch. 8 Homework (read Ch. 9—Inequalities of Gender) PAPER #1 DUE
Due 3/17

3/17 Discuss Ch. 9, Due 3/24—Homework (read Ch. 10—The Economy)

3/24 Discuss Ch. 10 QUIZ # 2 (Chapters 7, 8 & 9)
Due 4/14—Homework (read Ch. 11—The Political Order)

3/31 STUDENT HOLIDAY/NON-DUTY DAY

4/7 SPRING BREAK OBSERVED, NO CLASS

4/14 Discuss Ch. 11
Due 4/21—Homework (read Ch. 12—Marriage & Family)

4/21 Discuss Ch. 12
Due 4/28—Homework (read Ch. 13—Education)

4/28 Discuss Ch. 13
Due 5/06—Homework (read Ch. 14—Religion)  PAPER #2 DUE

5/5 Discuss Ch. 14
Due 5/12—Homework (read Ch. 15—Medicine & Health Care)

5/12 Discuss Ch. 15  QUIZ #3 (Chapters 12, 13 & 14)
Due 5/19—Homework (read Ch. 16—Population, Ecology & Urbanization and Read Ch. 17—Collective Social Action)

5/19 FINAL EXAM  (Chapters 3, 6, 10, 11, 15 & 17)

YOUR SYLLABUS IS A GUIDEPOST AND WE WON'T BE BOUND BY IT... ADJUSTMENTS IN OUR SCHEDULE MAY OCCUR THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.