Syllabus
SOCY100101 Introduction to Sociology (Soc. Majors)
Spring 2017

Tuesday, Thursday: 12:00-1:15pm
Devlin Hall 221
Professor Bates – batesju@bc.edu
Office: McGuinn 410A
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am-12:00pm. ALSO by appointment.
Please EMAIL ME to let me know you are dropping in for office hours

This course introduces students to essential concepts, ideas and theories of sociology. Special emphasis will be placed on social theories and issues relating to racial, gender and class inequities, as well as theories on deviance and social control. We deal with fundamental questions on what structures produce social inequities and what role human agency plays in challenging these structures.

Course Objectives

1. You will understand and demonstrate your knowledge of key sociological concepts. We will be extensively covering and discussing key concepts in the “Interpreting the Social World” unit. We will then have an in class exam defining these concepts and comparing them. For instance, what is the materialist perspective? What is the idealist perspective? How do the two differ in how they explain historical change?
2. You will understand and demonstrate your knowledge of the historical context, in which different social theories developed. Each theorist we cover, will begin with a lecture on what events that theorist was responding to at the time. For instance, what changes in the economy was Karl Marx responding to when he developed his theory of class exploitation?
3. You will demonstrate knowledge on what structures in American society produce raced, classed and gendered inequities, and analyze what role human agency can play in challenging these inequities. For instance, how does our criminal justice system produce differential effects for people depending on their race, class and gender?

Course Expectations

1. This is a reading and participation intensive course. Readings are due on the date they are listed. Come to class with HARD COPIES of the readings and be ready to discuss them. THERE WILL BE READING POP QUIZES IF NEEDED.
2. If you miss class, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate
3. A doctor, school administrator or other certified official must verify an absence in order for it to be excused. Notes from parents or other legal guardians will not be accepted
4. DO NOT come to class more than five minutes late unless you have permission from the professor. After the class has been in session for five minutes the door will be shut. DO NOT ENTER IF THE DOOR IS CLOSED

NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS
1. No computers will be allowed out in class. If you have a special reason why you need to use a computer to take notes, please speak with me.
2. No phones are allowed out in class. If you have a phone out in class it will negatively impact your attendance grade.

SNOW PROCEDURES
If for some reason I am not able to get to campus due to snow, but campus is still open we will follow these guidelines. Your reading summaries will still be due by 3am the night before class. Then I will post my own lecture notes to the Canvas module.

Grades
1. 20% Class Participation/Attendance
   Class attendance is obligatory and is a part of your participation grade; however, you do get one automatic excused absence during the semester. This grade will include reading summaries posted to Canvas by 3am the night before class and participation in class discussion.
2. 50% In Class Exams
   Exam 1 will be worth 25% of your grade and will be in class exam with written identifications and short answer questions on 3/2/17. Exam 2 will be worth 25% of your grade with written identifications and short answer questions on 3/30/17.
3. 30% Final Paper– Will be a five to eight page paper due in class on the day of the final.

Reading Summaries
You must post a two page double spaced summary of the reading/s to Canvas by 3:00am to Canvas the night before class. This summary should indicate you have done all the readings and highlight the main concepts, or themes of the reading

Extra Credit
There will be opportunities for extra credit for each section of the syllabus. NO EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER.

Grade Scaling
Lateness Policy  
Extensions on assignments will only be given in exceptional circumstances with documentation from a coach or dean. Otherwise, for the first hour late a letter grade will be taken off and for every day late after that a letter grade will be taken off.

Absences  
You will have one automatic excused absence. All other absences will only be excused if there is: (1) an EMERGENCY, defined as a death in the family or a contagious/incapacitating illness, or (2) an out-of-town sports event for athletes. In such cases, you will need to produce a note from your dean, coach, or doctor. Reading summaries are always due electronically unless there is a documented reason for why you can’t write one.

Academic Integrity  
Academic integrity is a standard of utmost importance in this class. Guidelines for academic integrity are posted on the Boston College website at:

bc.edu/bc_org/avp/enmgt/stserv/acd/univ.html#integrity

If you have any questions pertaining to the academic integrity guidelines, please come and talk with me. If you are caught violating Boston College’s policies on academic integrity, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment and the appropriate Dean will be notified.

Disability Policy  
Boston College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and integrated access for students with disabilities to all available academic, social and recreational programs and activities. Appropriate support and referral services are provided by the Disability Services Office, which serves students with hearing, visual, mobility, medical and psychiatric concerns.

If you are a student with a documented learning disability or ADHD and want accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connor Family Learning Center. If you are seeking accommodations for any other disability, including temporary disabilities please contact Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-2470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.
The Classroom as a Safe Space/Ally

“Introduction to Sociology” is a welcoming, supportive and safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) students. When expressing your sentiments you should use “I think...” statements, and be sure to not cut off or belittle other students’ sentiments.

Required Texts.


* Indicates the reading is in the book

**Introduction to Class**

**Tuesday 1/17 Review of Syllabus**

**Thursday 1/19 The Sociological Imagination**

- *The Spirit of Sociology*, Chapter 2 “The Sociological Imagination” pp. 11-21

**SECTION 1**

**Interpreting the Social World**

**Tuesday 1/24 Karl Marx – An Introduction to Marxist Theory**

- *Marx, Durkheim, Weber* – “The Historical Context of Karl Marx’s Work” (pp. 35-42)*

**Thursday 1/26 Karl Marx – Historical Materialism**

- *Marx, Durkheim, Weber* – “The German Ideology” (pp. 42-61)*)

**Tuesday 1/31 Karl Marx – Development of Capitalism**


**Thursday 2/2 Karl Marx – Capitalism and Class Conflict**

- *Contested Knowledge* – “Das Kapital: The Logic of Social Revolution (pp. 22-26)

- *Social Theory*, “The Manifesto of Class Struggle” (pp. 34-37)
Tuesday 2/7 Emile Durkheim – An Introduction to Durkheim’s Theory
➢ Marx, Durkheim, Weber – “The Historical Context of Emile Durkheim’s Work” (pp. 148-155)*

Thursday 2/9 Emile Durkheim – Mechanical and Organic Societies
➢ Marx, Durkheim, Weber – “The Division of Labor in Society” (pp. 155-169)*
➢ Social Theory, “Anomie and the Modern Division of Labor” (pp. 60-61)

Tuesday 2/14 Emile Durkheim – Sociological Study of Suicide
➢ Marx, Durkheim, Weber – “Durkheim’s Study of Suicide” (pp. 199-231)*

Thursday 2/16 Emile Durkheim – Film Viewing of “The Life and Death of People’s Temple”

Tuesday 2/21 Max Weber – An Introduction to Weber’s Theory
➢ Contested Knowledge – “The Ironic Theory of Max Weber” (pp. 42-54)
➢ Marx, Durkheim, Weber – “Debate with Marx” (pp. 273-277)*

Thursday 2/23 Max Weber – The Protestant Ethic
➢ Marx, Weber, Durkheim – “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism” (pp. 313-330)*
➢ Social Theory – “The Spirit of Capitalism and the Iron Cage” (pp. 79-83)

Tuesday 2/28 Critique of Social Theory
➢ Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory – “Persistent Orientalism: Seeing Like an Empire” (pp. 79-87) EMAILED TO CLASS
➢ Connected Sociologies – “Introduction” (pp. 7-9) EMAILED TO CLASS

Thursday 3/2 In Class Exam

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Section 2
Social Control and Social Deviance

Tuesday 3/14 Introduction to Foucault’s Theory of Social Control and Deviance
➢ Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory – Chp.12 “Defining the Possible and Impossible: Michel Foucault (1926-1984)” (pp. 275-284)

Thursday 3/16 The Panopticon and Social Control
➢ Social Theory: Roots and Branches, “Panopticism” (pp. 410-417)
➢ Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason, Chapter #3 “The Insane”
Tuesday 3/21 The Effect of the Panopticon and the “Deviant” Label
   ➢ The Spirit of Sociology, “On Being Sane in Insane Places” (pp. 188-202)

Thursday 3/23 Surveillance and Race

Tuesday 3/28 Surveillance and Race Continued

Thursday 3/30 In Class Exam

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Section 3
Social Inequities: Race, Class and Gender

Tuesday 4/4 Racial Inequities in American Society
   ➢ Social Theory, “Double Consciousness and the Veil” (pp. 167-172)
   ➢ Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil, “The Souls of White Folk” (EMAILED TO CLASS)

Thursday 4/6 Racial Inequities in American Society
   ➢ The New Jim Crow – “The Rebirth of Caste” (pp. 20-59)

Tuesday 4/11 Racial Inequities in American Society

Thursday 4/13 Racial Inequities in American Society
   ➢ The Strange Enigma of Race in Contemporary American “Racism without Racists” (pp. 1-17)

Tuesday 4/18 Gender Inequities in American Society
   ➢ Thinking About Women, “The Social Construction of Gender,” (pp.21-51)
   ➢ BBC Article “Men and Women’s Brains Wired Differently” (in the Canvas Module)
   ➢ “Nurture Affects Gender Differences in Spatial Abilities” (in the Canvas Module)

Thursday 4/20 Gender Inequities in American Society
The Spirit of Sociology, “Men as Success Objects and Women as Sex Objects”, (pp. 313-323)

Tuesday 4/25 Gender Inequities in American Society
➢ The Spirit of Sociology, “Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture” (pp. 202-213)

Thursday 4/27 Gender Inequities Film Viewing “Miss Representation”

Tuesday 5/2 Class Inequities in American Society
➢ The Spirit of Sociology, “The Power Elite” (pp. 387-396)*

Thursday 5/4 Class Inequities in American Society
➢ The Spirit of Sociology, “Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream” (pp. 406-415)