Society and Identity
SOC253.591 (Online)
Spring 2016

INSTRUCTOR(s): Dianne Dentice, Ph.D.
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PHONE: 936-468-2241
OFFICE: LAN330
OFFICE HOURS: MW1:00 PM to 2:00 PM; TR 1:00 to 2:00 PM; TH 4:00 to 5:00 PM or by appt.
DEPARTMENT: Anthropology, Geography, Sociology
CLASS TIMES: ONLINE (no face to face)


SECONDARY READING SOURCE (required):

A full Course Calendar Grid and a Calendar Outline are located in the Getting Started Module of this online class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores how the individual is affected by other people; self-identity, interpersonal relationships, interpersonal attraction, reference group, attitudes, values, leadership, aggression, conflict, and love. This course is writing enhanced.

*Sociology program learning outcomes include the following:

1. The student will be able to identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and contemporary theories.
2. The student will be able to identify the principles of good social scientific research design. Such principles include validity, reliability, precision in measurement, and sampling methodology.
3. The student will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations, deviance, and globalization.
4. The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.
5. The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the social world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises.
6. The student will be able to read theoretical arguments and to identify their major strengths and weaknesses.
7. The student will be able to analyze a data set using statistical techniques and draw conclusions from the results.

*Student learning outcomes for this course include the following:

1. Students will compare and contrast theories associated with sociological perspectives in social psychology.
2. Students will be able to appreciate the interconnectedness of the individual and society.
3. Students will recognize and discuss social psychological research methodologies.
4. Students will gain an understanding of how diversity in human society is a vital element of the social world.
5. Students will learn to analyze a specific social phenomenon, issue, or problem.
6. Students will learn the differences between macro-sociology and micro-sociology.
7. Students will gain an understanding of how society impacts their day-to-day lives.

COURSE ASSESSMENT:

Each student will be assessed on the following items: exams, blogs, three short reflection papers, and a review of the secondary book, *Blue*.

**Exams**

There will be four exams during this online course. The first three exams emphasize the readings and class material since the previous exam. Each of these exams is worth 100 points and they consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The fourth exam is a comprehensive final which will be over all of the material covered during the semester. The final is also worth 100 points. Exams = 400 total points. **Since you have a window of time to complete your exams, anyone who misses any of the first three exams will only get to have a retake with a documented absence from the Student Office of Rights and Responsibilities. There will be no retakes for the final exam.**

**Blogs**

At the end of each learning module you will participate in a class blog. Blogs will incorporate any additional readings that are posted in your learning module along with readings from your book. In every blog you will respond to each question posed by the instructor(s). In a separate post, you will add to the discussion by substantively responding to one of your classmates. In order to get full credit for these blog assignments you must: 1) answer each question posed by the instructor(s); 2) respond to a classmate in a way that adds to the discussion. Short responses such as “I agree with what you said and you were really right about the importance of in-group solidarity” will not get credit. A substantive response post is one which deals with the essentials of the content of the blogs for the week and adds to the discussion. Blogs are worth 25 points each: 20 points for answers to instructor(s) questions and 5 points for responding substantively to a classmate. Blogs = 275 points.

**Position Papers**

During the semester you will write three position papers; three full pages in length. These papers should be double-spaced and submitted appropriately and on time in D2L. Instructions and a grading rubric will be posted in your Getting Started Module. After all three position papers are returned to you with instructor comments; you may rewrite ONE paper in order to improve your grade. Position papers are worth 100 points each. Again, make sure you understand the guidelines and rubric. Any questions, please email me in the D2L course.

Those of you who take advantage of the rewrite opportunity will submit in the D2L dropbox labeled Paper Rewrite. Again, this will be done at the end of the semester – refer to your Course Calendar for due dates for all your assignments.

**Book Review: Blue**

In preparing your book review you should adhere to the following guidelines:
1. Briefly contextualize the book by summarizing the contents and goal of the author. Avoid any lengthy blow by blow accounts of individual chapters.

2. Write in a lively fashion but remember that you will lose points for poor grammar and misspelled words – so always use your computer’s grammar and spell check function.

3. Your book review should be three pages in length, typed, and double-spaced.

4. The title of your paper (no need for a separate title page) should look this way, followed by the text of your review:

   *Blue*
   
   A book review by Dianne Dentice
   
   SOC253.591, Spring 2016

5. Book reviews should not contain footnotes or references to other works. Page references to the reviewed work should be bracketed in text: [p. 16].

6. Avoid abbreviations and never use contractions in college level papers. You will lose 1 point for every contraction contained in the book review.

7. References to specific chapters should carry a capital letter and be numbered: In Chapter 7, the author argues……

8. I have posted a PDF from the University of North Carolina Writing Center in Getting Started. This handout gives specifics about how to go about setting up your paper. I expect for your paper to have an Introduction, Summary, Analysis, and Conclusion. FOLLOW THE UNC GUIDELINES and you will do well with this assignment.

**Withheld Grades Policy:**

*The Grade of WH* is at the discretion of the instructor and with the approval of the department chair, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work due to unavoidable, documented circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Note that a grade of WH is given at the discretion of the course instructor and department chair. Both must agree that a WH is appropriate. Furthermore, only students who have completed almost all of the course work will be considered for a grade of WH.

**GRADING RUBRIC for the Course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blogs (required)</td>
<td>20 pts. for each post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 pts. for response to 1 classmate post</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(see course calendar for dates &amp; times)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Component</td>
<td>Points</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (required)</td>
<td>100 x 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book review (required)</td>
<td>100 x 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position papers (required)</td>
<td>100 x 3</td>
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</tbody>
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Total: 1050 pts.

Grading Scale (based on total accumulation of points)

945 to 1050 = A; 840 to 944 = B; 735 to 839 = C; 630 to 734 = D; < 630 = F

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Participants in this course will adhere to the SFA Academic Integrity Policy (A-9.1). Details of the policy are described online at http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs/academic_integrity.html.

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:** Check with the Office of Disability Services to determine any necessary course adaptations or accommodations. Please make an appointment with me via email during the first week of class to discuss your needed accommodations. “The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services, Human Services Building, Room 325, Voice: 936-468-3004, TDD: 936-468-1004; FAX: 936-468-1368 or online at http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/index.htm.”

**DISCLAIMER:** This syllabus represents a “best” plan for the course; but, as with most plans, it is subject to change. Any changes will be announced by email or chat. *Your course calendar with important dates is posted in an announcement on your D2L homepage.*

**ABBREVIATED COURSE CALENDAR***

February 12 (Friday): First exam posted

February 17 (Wednesday): First position paper due

March 4 (Friday): Second exam posted

March 9 (Wednesday): Second position paper due

April 1 (Friday): Third exam posted

April 6 (Wednesday): Third position paper due

April 18 (Monday): Position paper rewrite due

April 22 (Friday): Book review due

May 11 (Wednesday): Final exam due by noon
*A calendar grid and PDF calendar file are posted in Getting Started in D2L.