

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Discipline: Sociology
Fall 2008
SOC 100T: Introduction to Sociology
Lower Division
Faculty Name: Christine Wernet

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines how individual behavior is shaped by the social situation in which each person operates. Taking advantage of the opportunity the voyage offers us to look at how individuals behave in a wide variety of social settings and to compare what we see and learn about these societies to our experiences in the United States, the course provides a general introduction to the field of sociology, including sociological theories and concepts such as culture, race, social structure, deviance, population, urbanization, social institutions (such as religion, family, and education), social change and social inequality. The “sociological imagination” will be used to apply these theories and ideas to everyday life in the countries we visit.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course goals for the student are:

1. To use sociology to better understand the countries that we visit on our voyage,
2. To learn the basic terminology and concepts of sociology,
3. To develop your sociological imagination,
4. To learn to think critically about the social world, and
5. To learn the major Sociological Theories: Functionalism, Conflict Theory, and Symbolic Interactionism.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

I. An Introduction to Sociology Basics (Bahamas to Namibia- 6 periods)

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
A. Sociological Imagination Focus on Brazil Movie- Frontline	Chapter 1
B. Theoretical Perspectives	Chapter 2
C. Culture Focus on Namibia	Chapter 3
D. Socialization	Chapter 4

Exam # 1 Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4

II. Social Organization, Stratification and Demography (Namibia to Vietnam- 9 periods)

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
A. Social Organizations Focus on South Africa	Chapter 6
B. Global Stratification	Chapter 8
C. Population and Urbanization Focus on India	Chapter 15
D. Race and Ethnic Classification	Chapter 9
E. Reading on Vietnam: "The My Lai Massacre: A Crime of Obedience?" by Herber C. Kelma and Lee Hamilton p.34-53 in <i>Readings for Sociology</i> edited by Garth Massey	

Exam #2 Chapters 6,8, 9, 15 and Assigned Readings

III. Deviance, Gender, & Social Institutions (Vietnam- United States- 9 periods)

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
A. Deviance Focus on China Movie: Frontline- China Today	Chapter 7
B. Family and Aging Focus on Japan	Chapter 12
C. Gender	Chapter 10
D. Religion	Chapter 14
E. Social Change	Chapter 16

Exam # 3 Chapters 7, 10, 12, 14, and 16

FIELD COMPONENT

Students are required to complete three practica, either Faculty Directed Practica (FDP) or independent practica. At least two of these should be faculty-directed field trips lead by me (see list below). You are required to participate in at least one of the FDPs under my direction in Salvador, Walvis Bay, Cape Town, or Chennai, since they are central to the material covered in this class. For the remaining practica you can complete an independent practicum that is part of a regularly offered SAS trip, or one that stands alone. If an independent practicum is selected, then the student must meet with the instructor **prior** to arriving in port to discuss his or her approach and objectives. All students are required to keep a journal of their field observations and write a four page paper about each field experience.

Journals should be a record of the students' notes from the field experience. Specific instructions regarding approach and field notes will be given prior to arriving in port. Students are encouraged to engage locals in conversation about topics related to our course. I realize that language barriers may make this difficult or impossible. However, if discussion is not possible, make detailed observations regarding sociological topics covered in class. For example, sociological concepts such as family structure, social class, culture, minority groups, poverty, religion, education system, gender, etc... can be the topic of your papers. As you partake in the FDP or Independent practica think about how one or all of the sociological theories that we have discussed in class can be applied.

The paper should include a summary of the student's field notes, analysis of several sociological concepts, and conclusions about the role of the sociological concepts in the port-of-call. For example if you visit the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre you can discuss what you learned about apartheid, human rights and or sustainable development. These concepts will be discussed in class and at the center. If you choose to visit Cachoeira your paper can included topics such as

landless peasants or colonization or rural life in Brazil. Again, these are concepts that will be discussed in class and on the FDP. Basically, your papers should reflect your experiences in-port and as you write these papers you should draw on your sociological imagination and report how the individuals that you meet or observe are shaped by larger social forces (such as the economy, apartheid, religion, education systems, etcetera).

SUGGESTED PRACTICA:

BRAZIL:	Cachoeira (FDP); Afro-Brazilian Museum and Candomble House
NAMIBIA:	Meet a Peace Corps Volunteer (FDP); Ovahimba Tribe and Skeleton Coast Park
SOUTH AFRICA:	Desmond Tutu Peace Centre (FDP); Amy Biehl Foundation Trust
INDIA:	Socioeconomic Problems in Chennai (FDP)
MALAYSIA:	Service Visit: St. Joseph Orphanage (FDP)
VIET NAM:	Ben Thanh Market; Cu Chi Tunnels
CHINA:	Family Planning Neighborhood Committee (FDP)
JAPAN:	Hiroshima
HAWAII:	Bishop Museum; Polynesian Cultural Center
COSTA RICA:	Coffee: Costa Rica's Treasure

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Exams (3@ 20% each) are worth 60% of your final grade

The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. The evaluation of the exams will be based on your ability to meet the course objectives. They will test: your ability to apply the basic terms and concepts of sociology; your sociological imagination; your critical thinking skills; and your knowledge of Functionalism, Conflict Theory, and Symbolic Interactionism. Each exam must be completed within the class period. The exam questions are derived from material presented in class and in the text.

Field Papers are worth 25% of your final grade

The first three papers are each worth 5% of your final grade. The final, longer paper is worth 10% of your final grade.

In-Class Reflections are worth 15% of your final grade

At the beginning of most class periods, a reflection question will be asked by the instructor to encourage class discussion based on your sociological knowledge and your experiences in-port.

Grading for the course:

- A 90% to 100%
- B 80% to 89%
- C 70% to 79%

D 60% to 69%
F 59% or lower

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Joan Ferrante
TITLE: *Sociology: A Global Perspective*
PUBLISHER: Wadsworth
ISBN #: 10:0-495-55344-1
DATE/EDITION: 2007/ 7th Edition
COST: \$85.95 (new)/ \$44.00 (used)

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: Macionis and Benokraitis
TITLE: *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary Readings in Sociology*
PUBLISHER: Prentice Hall
ISBN #: 0-13-111557-x
DATE/EDITION: Sixth Edition/2004
COST: \$46.00

AUTHOR: Caroline B. Brettel & Carlyn F. Sargent
TITLE: *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*
PUBLISHER: Prentice Hall
ISBN #: 0-13-017487-4
DATE/EDITION: Third Edition, 2001
COST: \$57.00

AUTHOR: Garth Massey
TITLE: *Readings for Sociology*
PUBLISHER: Norton
ISBN #: 0-393-92700-8
DATE/EDITION: Fifth Edition/2006
COST: \$23.50