**SOC100E: Contemporary Society**

Instructor: Dr. Danielle Kane

Office: Asbury Hall 331

Email: daniellekane@depauw.edu

Office hours: Thursday, 1:30-4:30

Course times and locations: MWF 12:30-1:30 Asbury 112

An introduction to sociology: its questions, concepts and ways of analyzing social life. The focus is on how human societies organize themselves; how culture, socialization, norms, power relations, social institutions and group interaction affect the individual; and how, in turn, societies are transformed by human action. Of particular concern are problems facing contemporary societies.

**COURSE GOALS**

Over the course of the semester, students will gain exposure to:

* A sociological perspective, with some attention to data collection methods
* The variety of exciting subfields within sociology
* Sociological concepts in an international context
* Applying course concepts to new material

In this course we will use the lens of stratification, a central organizing theme of sociology, to provide an introduction to the field. Along the way you will gain acquaintance with a variety of subfields, including: race, gender, and sexuality; poverty; education; the family; medical sociology; the media and popular culture; and global sociology.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

The aim of the course texts is to provide broad exposure to the many subfields that contribute to the liveliness of the discipline while providing exemplars of sociological work. A major orienting theme of sociology, and hence the course, is race, class, and gender – we will bring this lens to bear on most readings, and it will be an emphasis in assessment and our writing projects. We will also consider other forms of social inequality, particularly heterosexism and the inequality associated with globalization.

Boo, Katherine. 2012. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in A Mumbai Undercity.* New York: Random House.

Lareau, Annette. 2011. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life. 2nd Edition.* Berkeley, CA: University of California.

Pascoe, C.J. 2012. *Dude, You’re A Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School, 2nd* ed. Berkeley, CA: University of California.

Other required material will be available on Moodle.

**EVALUATION**

This course will have three exams, a paper, and a group presentation. There will also be a number of homework, in-class assignments, and pop quizzes that will contribute to the participation grade.

*Grading Breakdown*

Exam 1 20%

Exam 2 20%

Exam 3 20%

Writing Project 20%

Presentation 10%

Participation 10%

*Explanation of Assessment*

* Exams will test understanding of key concepts; ask students to synthesize the material they’ve learned over the course of the semester; and extend their understanding to new situations
* Participation includes tasks related to being a ‘good citizen’ of the class that will help foster the student’s learning and that of his or her colleagues (e.g., showing up prepared for discussion, participating, providing useful feedback to others).
  + More specifically, the participation grade will include:
    - Attendance (2 classes can be missed without penalty)
    - Homework and in-class work that doesn’t receive a letter grade
    - Scores from pop quizzes

**\*\*Late work and make-up exams will be accepted only in the case of serious, documented illness or family emergencies.**

**Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to adhere to DePauw’s code of academic integrity.

**DePauw Disability Statement**

Special Needs: DePauw University is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities and reasonable modifications/accommodations to students with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended in 2008. Any student needing special accommodations due to a disability should contact the Coordinator of Student Disability Services, Pam Roberts, 302 Harrison Hall or call (765) 658-6267.

**Readings and Graded Work – Tentative Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | M | W | F |
| 1 | 1/27  Introduction | 1/29  Lareau 1 | 1/31  Lareau 2 |
| 2 | 2/3  Lareau 3-4 | 2/5  Lareau 5 | 2/7  Lareau 6 |
| 3 | 2/10  Lareau 7 and 9 | 2/12  Lareau 10 | 2/14  Lareau 11 |
| 4 | 2/17  **Exam 1** | 2/19  Pascoe 1 | 2/21  Pascoe 2 |
| 5 | 2/24  Pascoe 3-4 | 9/26  Pascoe 5 | 2/28  Pascoe 6 |
| 6 | 3/3  Screening: The Ad and the Ego | 3/5  Strate, Katz, | 3/7  Kilbourne |
| 7 | 3/10  Taylor et al; Wilson and Gutierrez; Mastro and Stearn | 3/12  Williamson  Bring ad to class | 3/14  **Writing Project due**  Presentation organization |
| 8 | 3/17  presentations | 3/19  presentations | 3/21  presentations |
| 9 | SPRING | BREAK |  |
| 10 | 3/31  TBA | 4/2  **EXAM 2** | 4/4  Boo Prologue |
| 11 | 4/7  Boo 1-2 | 4/9  Boo 3 | 4/11  no class |
| 12 | 4/14  Boo 4 | 4/16  Boo 5 | 4/18  Boo 6 |
| 13 | 4/21  Boo 7-8 | 4/23  Boo 9 | 4/25  Boo 10 |
| 14 | 4/28  Boo 11 | 4/30  Screening: *Slumdog Millionaire* | 5/2  Screening: *Slumdog Millionaire* |
| 15 | 5/5  TBA | 5/7  TBA |  |