

SOCIAL ISSUES: PERSPECTIVES OF SOCIOLOGY (SOCI 2105-03)

Fall 2012 Kennesaw State University
Monday & Wednesday 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Social Science Building 1021

Instructor:	Lisa M. Lepard	Office:	Social Sciences Bldg. 4005
✉: Email	llepard@kennesaw.edu lisamlepard@gmail.com	☎:	Call the Sociology Department 770.423.6739
📍:	GeorgiaView Vista		
🕒	Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday: before & after class; 5p.m. – 6:30; & by appointment		

REQUIRED TEXT:

☐ Conley, Dalton. 2011. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*, 2nd ed. NY: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

☐ Additional readings will be posted on Vista.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, students will be introduced to the discipline of sociology. The purpose of this course is to increase students' awareness of their social world with an emphasis on the social nature of human behavior, culture, social structure, and socialization. We will explore such topics as deviance, stratification, family, gender, and race/ethnicity.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- ◆ Differentiate between individualistic (non-sociological) & sociological (external) explanations for social facts
- ◆ Explain & critically analyze social facts based on the development of one's "sociological imagination"
- ◆ Apply various sociological concepts & theoretical perspectives to the understanding of society
- ◆ To understand the reciprocal relationship between individual & society
- ◆ To understand the diversity of American society

REQUIREMENTS:

- Do not talk during lecture, while other students are asking questions, or during movie/video presentations.
- Turn off cell phones, iPods, or other electronics during class. No laptops.
- Late arrivals & early departures disrupt not only me, but also other students; therefore, if you know that you need to leave early—please talk to me *before* class (or email me).

Sociology is one of the few academic disciplines that many students enter into with strong and established beliefs concerning the subject matter. This is especially true when controversial topics such as the ones that we will be discussing are challenged and critiqued. With this said, there are a few classroom rules that will be established:

- Acknowledging that racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, and other forms of institutionalized forms of oppression exist, we agree not to blame others or ourselves for the misinformation we have learned but accept responsibility not to repeat misinformation and to use our sociological knowledge to change perceptions.*
- We agree not to "blame the victim(s)" for the conditions of her/his life because this type of explanation ignores the institutionalized social structures that block progress and perpetuates social inequality*
- Never demean, devalue, or ridicule someone for ideas expressed, personal experiences shared, or dissenting opinions. *
- Create a safe atmosphere for open discussion. If personal experiences are shared with the class, it should be agreed upon that these comments are not repeated outside of the classroom and the rules of confidentiality apply. *1

MY ROLE AS A PROFESSOR

As the professor, I am responsible for creating a safe, creative, and (maybe) fun environment for you to learn in. As a professor I am not responsible for telling you "what to study for the test." I will not go over every piece of information

¹ Ideas based in part on: Cannon, Lynn Weber. 1990. "Fostering Positive Race, Class, and Gender Dynamics in the Classroom." *Women's Studies Quarterly* 18 (2): 126-134.

that you will need to know for the exams or quizzes. If you hoped that I, as the professor, would be a resource for you to find how you can put out the least amount of energy while still earning a good grade, I am probably not the professor you are looking for. I respect you and your other time commitments enough to share this with you up front.

YOUR ROLE AS A STUDENT

As a student in this class your primary responsibility is to come to class prepared. That includes doing the assigned reading and taking the time to think about how it relates to your experiences and the world around you. In class you are expected to give all of us your attention and participate in class and group activities and discussion. To put it simply, if you hope to do well in this class you have to be an *active* participant in your education.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CLASS TIME

In class we will talk about the main ideas discussed in the assigned readings and then apply them with activities, discussions, etc. We may also extend the discussions beyond what the readings covered by watching a video or having a guest speaker. Our class time is a supplement to the readings not a replacement for doing the readings.

USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY DURING CLASS

Because this class is highly interactive and your participation is important to its success, the use of personal laptops, iPods, and cell phones during class is prohibited.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Please be advised of the Student Code of Conduct as published in the KSU Undergraduate Catalog. Section III addresses issues on academic honesty, including cheating and plagiarism, among other violations. If you are unsure of how *plagiarism* is defined or if you are not clear on what “academic honesty” means, go to the catalog and familiarize yourself. Ignorance of the policy is not an acceptable excuse! Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be investigated and if confirmed, will receive a zero on the assignment and potentially fail the course.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

If you are a student with a documented disability, come & talk to me as soon as possible (either after class or during my office hours) to discuss accommodations.

QUIZZES:

- ☐ Every week there will be an online quiz posted on Vista based on the scheduled readings.
 - The dates that quizzes will be available are posted on the Course Outline (pg. 4 of Syllabus).
 - Every quiz will open at 8:00am on the date scheduled and will close at 11:59pm on the date scheduled. FYI: If you are taking your quiz at 11:59pm, Vista will stop your quiz and assign the grade based on completed progress; therefore, time maintenance is important!
 - For each scheduled quiz, you will be given two opportunities to take the quiz. Vista will take the higher grade from the two quizzes.
 - Because there will be multiple days for you to complete quizzes, I WILL NOT allow any make up quizzes. Furthermore, even if you are absent from class you are still responsible for your online quizzes.
 - Before beginning your quiz, please keep in mind when Vista is closed for maintenance (this is typically every other Friday night at 10pm to Saturday morning at 7am).

EXAMINATIONS:

- ☐ There will be 3 exams during the semester. **Exams are not cumulative.**
 - Exams will consist of multiple choice.
 - Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade.
- ☐ **MAKE-UP EXAMS** ARE ONLY GRANTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR. EMAILING THE INSTRUCTOR THE MORNING OF AN EXAM DUE TO ILLNESS, CAR PROBLEMS, OR OTHER ISSUES DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO MAKE UP AN EXAM. FURTHERMORE, MAKE UP EXAMS ARE ONLY GIVEN WHEN PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE INSTRUCTOR. THEREFORE, STUDENTS MUST HAVE A DOCUMENTED REASON FOR MISSING THE EXAM. MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE IN ESSAY FORMAT.

☒ **DURING EXAMS:** turn off phones and all other electronic gadgets. Go to the restroom before the test begins because if you leave the room—you must turn in your exam and I will consider it completed.



BE ON TIME FOR EXAMS! Students who are late for class on exam day may not be allowed to take the exam if they arrive after the *first* student has already turned in her/his exam. This policy is to put in place to ensure academic honesty.

Grading:

Exam 1 = 25%
Exam 2 = 25%
Exam 3 = 25%
Quizzes = 25%

Keep Track of Your Own Grade!!

Exam 1: (your grade x .25) = a
Exam 2: (your grade x .25) = b
Exam 3: (your grade x .25) = c
Quizzes: (avg. all grades x .25) = d

Your Final Course Grade= a + b + c + d (out of 100)

Final Grade:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 59 & below

Course Outline

★ I reserve the right to change the syllabus; however, students will be notified in advance either in class or on Vista

Date:	Topic:	Required Reading:	Quiz dates: Opening time for all quizzes will be 8am on the date given & the ending time for all quizzes will be 11:59pm on the date given
M 8.20	Introduction to course		
W 8.22	Sociological Imagination: An Introduction	Ch. 1	Dates available: 8/20 – 9/8
M 8.27	Culture & Media	Ch. 3	Dates available: 8/27 – 9/8
W 8.29	Culture & Media continued...		
M 9.3	Labor Day: NO CLASS		
W 9.5	Socialization & The Construction of Reality	Ch. 4	Dates available: 9/5 – 9/11
M 9.10	Socialization continued... Article: "The Social Construction of Gender"	Article on Vista	
W 9.12	EXAM 1		
M 9.17	Stratification Article: "Imagine a Country"	Ch. 7 Article on Vista	Dates available: 9/17 – 9/23
W 9.19	Poverty	Ch. 10	Dates available: 9/19 – 9/25
M 9.24	Poverty continued... Article: "The Costs of Poverty"	Article on Vista	
W 9.26	Race In class documentary		Dates available: 9/26 – 10/2
M 10.1	Race continued... Article: "Unpacking the Knapsack"	Ch. 9 Article on Vista	
W 10.3	EXAM 2		
M 10.8	Gender	Ch. 8	Dates available: 10/8 – 10/14
W 10.10	Gender continued... Article: "The Heterosexual Questionnaire" AND "The Wage Gap and Its Costs"	Articles on Vista	
M 10.15	Education	Ch. 13	Dates available: 10/15 – 10/21
W 10.17	Education continued... Article: "Bad Boys"	Article on Vista	
M 10.22	Family	Ch. 12	Dates available: 10/22 – 10/28
W 10.24	Family continued...		
M 10.29	EXAM 3		