Kennesaw State University
Principles of Sociology:
FLC Explorations in Diversity
SOCl 2201 C21
Fall 2012

Classroom: EB 066  Instructor: Gail Markle, Ph.D.
Class Hours: F 11:00 – 1:45  Office: SSB 4071
E-mail: gmarkle@kennesaw.edu  Office Hours: TR 10:00 – 10:45, 12:15-1:45,
F 10:00 – 10:45

Course Description: Sociology is the systematic study of human interaction, group behavior and
social structure. This course will introduce you to the sociological perspective as well as
sociological research methods in order to understand how society works. We will use our
“sociological imaginations” to examine a variety of topics including culture, socialization, race,
class, gender, family, religion, deviance, work, social movements and the media. As part of the
Explorations in Diversity Learning Community this course will pay close attention to an
expanding view of diversity.

Course Goals:
• Develop an understanding of key sociological principles and theories
• Illustrate the applied use of sociology by introducing the basic methods of social inquiry
• Explore the ways in which social reality is constructed
• Examine how social institutions shape our lives and our interactions with others
• Examine the impact of race, class, gender, and other social identities on individuals and
  society
• Examine and discuss social change
• Cultivate the ability to think critically
• Improve analytical reading and writing skills

Principal Text: Conley, Dalton. 2011. You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like

The following articles will be posted on electronic reserve (password = XXXX):

McIntosh, Peggy. 2007. “White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to
See Correspondences through Work in Women’s Studies.” Pp. 344-352 in Intersections of
Gender, Race and Class edited by M. T. Segal and T. A. Martinez. New York: Roxbury
Publishing Company.

Class Format: Class meetings will include a mixture of lectures, films, and discussions.

Expectations: Please silence your cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices. Students are expected to read assignments prior to class, to listen to class presentations, and to participate in class discussions. You are under no obligation to agree with the authors or the instructor. Rather, your obligation is to demonstrate comprehension and thoughtful consideration. Critical thinking, a willingness to explore the ideas of others, and respect for other students are essential.

Attendance: Regular and punctual attendance in class is required. If you must be absent please be aware that you are responsible for all announcements, assignments, and material covered during class time. Your attendance record will affect your grade. For perfect attendance 2 points will be added to your final grade. For 1-2 absences 1 point will be added to your grade. Beginning with the 4th absence 1 point will be deducted from your final grade. For each successive absence an additional point will be deducted from your final grade. For example, five absences would result in a 2 point deduction from your final grade; six absences would result in a 3 point deduction, and so on. Absence for KSU business and mandatory court appearances may be excused with proper documentation. Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet. Anyone signing in for someone else is guilty of academic dishonesty and will be dealt with appropriately.

Class Requirements and Grading:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis Papers</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>60%</td>
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Analysis Papers:

Paper #1: Cultural Artifact. Choose an advertisement, newspaper or magazine article, cartoon, TV show, movie, commercial, policy or any other cultural artifact that you believe is prejudicial, discriminatory or perpetuates negative stereotypes toward a certain gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, religion, or any other social identity. Write a three page, double spaced paper with 1 inch margins and 12 point font in which you describe the cultural artifact and then discuss: a) the general message, b) the specific ways in which it is prejudiced, discriminatory or perpetuates negative stereotypes, c) the targeted audience for this message, d) the social group that is maligned, and e) the potential social consequences of this cultural artifact. Be prepared to discuss your artifact in class. Due September 7.

Paper #2. Invisible Privilege. Read the McIntosh article “White Privilege and Male Privilege.” Write a three page, double spaced paper with 1 inch margins and 12 point font in which you a) discuss your reaction toward the article utilizing sound sociological reasoning and critical thinking skills and b) develop your own list of privileges (at least 10) accruing to you as a member of at least one advantaged social group (gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, religion, age, ability/disability). Be prepared to discuss your list of privileges in class. Due October 5.

Paper #3. Hurricane Katrina. We will view an excerpt from the Spike Lee video, When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts in class on November 9. Write a three page, double spaced paper with 1 inch margins and 12 point font in which you a) discuss your reaction toward the video utilizing sound sociological reasoning and critical thinking skills, b) discuss the
systems of privilege and oppression revealed by the hurricane and its aftermath, and c) discuss the ways in which these systems of privilege and oppression might become further entrenched after the event. Be prepared to discuss your ideas in class. **Due November 16.**

Please **do not e-mail me your papers.** They are due at the beginning of class on the scheduled date. Late work will be penalized ten points per day (24 hour period).

**Exams:** Exams will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. They will cover lectures, videos, discussions, and reading assignments. Exams will be given on **September 21, October 19, and November 30.** Make-up exams will be given only for exceptional cases with appropriate documentation.

**Grading Scale:** 100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; 59 and below = F

**Earning Grades:** Grades are “earned” and are not arbitrarily “granted” in this class. Thus, unless I make an error in calculation, I will not change your grade at the end of the semester for HOPE eligibility, graduation requirements, or any other reason.

**Academic Honesty:** You are required to adhere to the tenets of the KSU Policy on Academic Honesty. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Definitions and consequences of plagiarism are posted on the following website. [http://www.kennesaw.edu/scai/cheating_plagiarism.shtml](http://www.kennesaw.edu/scai/cheating_plagiarism.shtml)

### SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>What is Sociology?</td>
<td>Ch 1</td>
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<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>Ch 2</td>
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<td>August 31</td>
<td>No Class; On-line assignment</td>
<td>Video: Quiet Rage</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDrecm5tyl0">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDrecm5tyl0</a></td>
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<td>September 7</td>
<td>Culture and Media</td>
<td>Ch 3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Class Discussion</td>
<td>Analysis Paper #1</td>
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<td>September 14</td>
<td>Socialization</td>
<td>Ch 4</td>
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<td>Groups and Networks</td>
<td>Ch 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
<td>Ch 6</td>
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<td>Social Control and Deviance</td>
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<td>September 28</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Ch 12</td>
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October 5  Stratification  Ch 7  McIntosh Article  Analysis Paper #2
          Class Discussion

October 12  Gender  Ch 8
          Last day to withdraw and receive a W

October 19  Exam 2  Ch 9
          Race and Ethnicity
          Video: Race, the Power of an Illusion, Part 1

October 26  Race and Ethnicity  Seidman Article

November 2  Sexualities
          Intersectionality

November 9  Video: When the Levees Broke

November 16  Social Movements and Social Change  Analysis Paper #3
          Class Discussion

November 23  No Class, Thanksgiving

November 30  Exam 3

Accommodations: This course will be conducted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and make the appropriate arrangements with Disabled Student Support Services located in Suite 267 of the Carmichael Student Center Addition, 770-423-6443.

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.