

Kennesaw State University
Principles of Sociology:
FLC Explorations in Diversity
SOCI 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 a Sociologist, Second Edition*. W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-93517-2

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.

Seidman, Steven. 2010. “Social Constructionism: Sociology, History and Philosophy.” Pp. 25-39 in *The Social Construction of Sexuality*. New York: W. W. Norton and 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:

Analysis Papers (3@ 13.333%)	40%
Exams (3@ 20%)	60%

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

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Topic	Assignment
August 17	Introduction	
August 24	What is Sociology? Research Methods	Ch 1 Ch 2
August 31	No Class; On-line assignment http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDreem5tyl0	Video: Quiet Rage
September 7	Culture and Media Class Discussion	Ch 3 Analysis Paper #1
September 14	Socialization Groups and Networks	Ch 4 Ch 5
September 21	Exam 1 Social Control and Deviance	Ch 6
September 28	Family	Ch 12

October 5	Stratification Class Discussion	Ch 7 McIntosh Article Analysis Paper #2
October 12	Gender Last day to withdraw and receive a W	Ch 8
October 19	Exam 2 Race and Ethnicity Video: Race, the Power of an Illusion, Part 1	
October 26	Race and Ethnicity	Ch 9
November 2	Sexualities Intersectionality	Seidman Article
November 9	Video: When the Levees Broke	
November 16	Social Movements and Social Change Class Discussion	Analysis Paper #3
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.