

Course Syllabus
SOCI 2201/ 07 Principles of Sociology
CRN 80180

Kennesaw State University
Fall 2014

Elena Gheorghiu, M.S.,
PhD Candidate in International Conflict Management,
Kennesaw State University,
email: egheorgh@kennesaw.edu
678 559 5652

Questions about the class should be addressed in D2L

Required Text:

The course uses one major textbook: **Sociology: A Global Perspective**, by Joan Ferrante, **the 8th Edition**, Thomson Wadsworth 2012 - which is not the last one. It is available at the campus bookstore. Everyone in the course is required to have a copy of this text.

Book: **Amusing Ourselves to Death** by Neil Postman
(You can find this book on AbeBooks.com, or Amazon.com)

Other readings may be posted on D2L throughout the semester

Course Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm (with 5 minutes break)

Room 2027 (Social Science Building)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 5:30-6:30 pm **by appointment**. (Room – to be announced)

Course Content Description

This course is intended as a general introduction to Sociology. The academic discipline of Sociology encompasses analysis of a wide array of social issues, from a diversity of perspectives, including, inequality in society, deviance and crime, families and workplaces, identity, culture, etc. They share a common approach of viewing society through the lens of a ***sociological imagination***. This means that large institutions such as the family or the economy, or social structures such as gender, race, class, age, or the times one lives in (historical period), all external to the individual, become crucial in understanding personal troubles. As sociologist C. Wright Mills warned us, an honest understanding of our own experiences and chances in life comes only from locating ourselves within our period and from becoming aware of the experiences of individuals in our circumstances. In C. Wright Mills' words, this can be "***a terrible lesson and in many ways, a magnificent one***". The goal is to critically engage the issues and it is recommended that students attempt to think about how each theory and/or issue relates, or does not relate, to their own lives and experiences. By the end of this course, you should be

able to develop your own sociological imagination - a trait that will aid you in any career or simply in understanding life itself.

Learning Objectives

This is a broad and introductory course with several general objectives:

1. Students will become familiar with the broad themes of the discipline of Sociology. This will be measured by assessments [quizzes] that test comprehension of major theories and concepts in each chapter.
2. Students will develop their communication and critical thinking skills by actively participating in discussions for each chapter. Throughout class discussions students will learn to support their arguments using concepts, theories and examples presented in the textbook or other readings. Communication skills will also be developed by careful consideration of key terms, comparisons and contrasts framed in the multiple choice questions on the quizzes.
3. Students will develop writing in the discipline skills through the reactionary paper and the book review.

Grading Formula

In class tests (3 x 20)	60 points
Reaction Paper	15 points
Book report	15 points
Participation	10 points

Course grade: 90-100=A 80-89=B 70-79=C 60-69=D Lower than 60=F

Tests / Paper Format

- a. **In class tests (3 x 20 points)** will consist of 30-40 multiple choice questions and/ or a short essay. The tests will cover the material studied over the previous weeks up to that moment. You will not be able to use the books or notes during the tests.
- b. **Reaction paper (15 Points)** is intended to assess your understanding of the main issues, concepts and sociological views presented in the documentary, People Like Us, on social stratification. The student is expected to identify the sociological concepts and theories captured in the movie and to connect them with examples from the movie. Guidelines for the paper will be posted on D2L.
- c. **Book Report (15 Points)** – At the end of the semester students will submit a book report on Amusing Ourselves to Death by Neil Postman. This assignment is intended to assess students' capacity of comprehension and summarization of main ideas of a book. The

report should be 2-3 pages long (550-700 words). Detailed instructions will be posted on D2L.

- d. **Class participation (10 points)** will be evaluated based on attendance **AND** active engagement in conversations during class.

Class Attendance

Regular class attendance is expected and class participation is encouraged. Students will be responsible for the material covered in class lectures, films, and readings. Students will also be responsible for any announcements made in class, including changes in exam dates and reading assignments.

Class Conduct

If you know that you are going to miss a class, inform the instructor in advance. Unless a medical emergency is involved, please try to schedule medical checkups at any other time. Please, use your cell phones only in the case of emergencies. **I strongly discourage students from using their computers during lectures.**

Disabled Student Services Statement

Kennesaw State University welcomes all students, recognizing that variations of abilities contribute to a richly diverse campus life. A number of services are available to help students with disabilities with their academic work. In order to make arrangements for special services, students should visit the disabled Student Support Services office and/or make an appointment to arrange an individual assistance plan. For more information, visit the office's website at: http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html.

Course Outline (subject to change based on progress)

WEEK/ DAY	LECTURE / KEY CONCEPTS
Week 1 / Aug. 19, 21	Chapter 1 – The Sociological Imagination <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What is sociology, what do sociologists do?- Having a “sociological imagination”.- Founding Fathers of Sociology - and what prompted them to found this discipline in the first place.- Durkheim: Division of Labor and Solidarity

Week 2 / Aug. 26, 28	<p>Chapter 2- Theoretical Perspectives and Methods of Social Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sociological theories: Different ways of looking at society. - Methods of research: How do sociologists know what they know?
Week 3 / Sept. 2, 4	<p>Chapter 3- Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How culture shapes us and our social lives - Elements of culture - Is there such a thing as an “American Culture”?
Week 4 / Sept. 9, 11	Chapter 4 – Socialization
Week 5 / Sept. 16, 18	<p>Chapter 5 – Social Interaction</p> <p>Quiz 1</p>
Week 6 / Sept. 23, 25	Chapter 6 – Formal Organizations
Week 7 / Sept. 23, 25	<p>Chapter 7 – Deviance , Conformity and Social Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Socialization as a means of social control: Why do most people conform? - When socialization fails: why do some people deviate from norms? - Labeling theory; Structural Strain theory
Week 8 / Sept. 30, Oct. 2	<p>Chapter 8 – Social Stratification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stratification systems - Theories of stratification/inequality - What is “class”? - Social Mobility and the American Dream <p>In class movie – “People Like Us”</p>
Week 9 / Oct. 7, 9	<p>Chapter 9 – Race and Ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Racism, Prejudice, Discrimination - Minority groups Immigration in a diverse society: Melting Pot, Salad Bowl or Pressure Cooker?
Week 10 / Oct. 14, 16	<p>Chapter 10 - Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is Biology Destiny?: Sociobiological interpretations of gender - Social Construction of Gender <p>OCT 18th, Reaction paper due – short critique of “People Like Us”</p>
Week 11 / Oct. 21, 23	<p>Quiz 2</p> <p>Chapter 11- Economics and Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technological revolutions and changes in economic systems - Family-Economy Link

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modern economic systems: capitalism and socialism as “ideal-types”. - World-systems theory and “The Story of Stuff”
Week 12 / Oct. 28, 30	<p>Chapter 12 - Family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family structure, family functions. - Historical Changes in family structure: the traditional extended family; the modern- nuclear breadwinner system; the contemporary dual-earner family and diversity in family forms.
Week 13 / Nov. 4, 6	<p>Chapter 13 – Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social function of education - different approaches of education around the world - access to education
Week 14 / Nov. 11, 13	<p>Chapter 14 – Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sacred and profane - functions of religion
Week 15 / Nov. 18, 20	<p>Chapter 15 – Birth, Death and Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - urbanization - migration - demographic transition <p>Quiz3</p>
Week 16 / Nov.25, 27	<p>FALL BREAK NO CLASSES ☺</p>
Week 17 / Dec. 2, 4	<p>Chapter 16 – Social Change Dec 6th – BOOK REPORT DUE</p>

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus throughout the semester