SOCIOLOGY 4444
SOCIAL CHANGE AND MODERNIZATION
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY/SPRING 2016/ONLINE

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SYLLABUS

Social Change and Modernization is a sociological overview of the patterns, processes, and mechanisms of social change, focusing on the “modern period,” that is the recent historical period that is marked by developments that include urbanization, industrialization, capitalism, and the nation-state. Important vectors of change include technology, social movements, war and revolution, corporations, and states (governments). A final section is devoted to intensifying environmental degradation and climate change, both as a consequence of social change and as a cause of further social change.

This is mainly a lecture course, but you will also write a research paper on a social change topic of your choice. You will be provided with detailed instructions for the research paper.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available in the KSU Bookstore)
1) Ways of Social Change (Massey) Sage/2012
2) Social Movements & Global Social Change (Schaeffer)
   Rowman & Littlefield/2014

ADDITIONAL READINGS FROM E-RESERVES IN THE LIBRARY
1) 2052 (Randers) 2012
2) The Upside of Down (Homer-Dixon) 2006
3) The Recurring Dark Ages (Chew) 2008
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EVALUATION
Your grade will be based on:

1) Eight discussion board posts, each worth 10 points. (80 points)

2) Eight quizzes, each worth 10 points. (80 points)

2) Four 5-page essay exams, each worth 50 points. (200 points)

3) A 10-page research paper worth 200 points. (200 points)

CLASS TOTAL: 560 points

The grading scale is:
A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=0-59%
RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT
SOCI 4444/HUTCHINSON/KSU

TOPIC (10 POINTS)
Due February 3rd

I will give you guidelines in class for appropriate topics. Your topic should be in the form of a question, such as “How are societies responding to the problem of climate change?” This will help focus your search for articles as you look for research that answers the question.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (40 POINTS)
Due March 2nd

Each individual must find a minimum of five social science or historical research articles or books on your topic. There are a variety of databases available through the KSU Library. Sociofile is particularly good for sociology research.

The four journals generally accepted as the top sociology journals are: 1) American Sociological Review, 2) American Journal of Sociology, 3) Social Forces and 4) Social Problems. Books can be excellent sources if they are written by social scientists and not by journalists or ideologues. You should check the author’s identification and confirm that s/he is a sociologist, political scientist, psychologist, historian or some sort of academically qualified authority before deciding to select it as one of your sources. I will check on each one to make sure. Two other possibilities are to use only one chapter from a book, or a chapter from a book that is an edited volume of papers.

An annotated bibliography lists sources and gives a brief summary of each source. This bibliography will not be part of your final paper. It is a step designed to clarify your thinking about your sources, and I will need to approve your sources based on your summaries.

You should have a title page with your name, the class, and a title which refers to your topic. The format of the annotated bibliography is as follows, for each entry:

1) the name of the article or book, in ASA format as used by the ASR, and
2) your summary of the article.

Explain the article or book in your own words in a paragraph. I will provide you with a style guide from the ASR.

FIRST DRAFT (50 POINTS)
Due April 20th

You should consider this to be your complete and final paper. You will simply benefit from my comments and suggestions for improvements before turning it in again as the final draft. This is an analytical paper, so it should not be simply descriptive. The paper will combine the sources of all the group members. It should include an introduction and conclusion giving an overview, and the contents should summarize all the research. The References section at the end should include all the sources of all the group members in proper citation format, in alphabetical order by authors’ last names.

The entire paper should be at least ten pages long. I doubt that you will go over twenty, but I won’t set a limit to your enthusiasm.

FINAL DRAFT (100 POINTS)
Due May 4th

The final draft will incorporate my comments and suggestions on the First Draft.
POLICIES

1) INTEGRITY
It is your responsibility to maintain academic integrity as specified in the KSU Student Code of Conduct. Do not cheat or plagiarize, and do not aid and abet others in cheating or plagiarizing. My policy for a first offense is that if you are caught cheating or helping a fellow student cheat your grade for that assignment may be a ZERO. Any subsequent infractions may result in your expulsion from the course with an F, and a referral to the University Administration for further sanctions.

2) ACCOMMODATIONS
Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Disabled Student Support Services in the Student Development Center: 770-423-6443, or e-mail Nastassia Sanabria at nsanabria@kennesaw.edu. The office is located in the Student Center, Building 5, Room 267. I will work with the student and the Center to make a reasonable accommodation for testing once verification has been provided to me by the office.

3) ADVISING
The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is pleased to offer academic advising to students in the Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC). The UAC is located in Willingham Hall, Room 223. Their hours are Monday - Friday 9 am - 6 pm. Students are strongly encouraged to make appointment by using the website, or by calling the Center during office hours at 770-794-7728. For more information, visit the UAC website: http://www.kennesaw.edu/hssadvising/home.php."