Sociology 101   CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Teaching Hours: 41
Credits: 3
Dr. Joseph Michael Gratale   zozef@act.edu
                    Office #9 New Building Office Hours: T-F 2:00-3:00

Role of the course within the degree scheme
This is a first year course part of the general education requirement in which students will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of key concepts and ideas related to the study of society and social relations occurring at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

Aims of the course
This course will set out to explore the disciplines of the social sciences with a strong focus on sociology. Part and parcel of this endeavor will require focus on the key concepts and issues related to the study of contemporary societies and cultures. In order to approach this objective we will utilize a number of different disciplines part of the social sciences including anthropology, sociology, political science, history, and economics. The importance of a theoretical grounding along with an applied framework will establish a much needed methodological balance so vital in social scientific research. Some of the thematic areas for inquiry include the following: culture, socialization, race and ethnicity, social/economic stratification and poverty, deviance and crime, gender inequality, and violence, war and terrorism.

Intended learning outcomes
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
-understand and discuss a range of concepts, issues, and perspectives relevant to contemporary society, and subsequently develop the ability to critically analyze and evaluate these social phenomena at different scales
-deploy an interdisciplinary approach to the study of contemporary society
-engage in methodological approaches grounded in the social sciences
-evaluate and critique the contributions of social and cultural theorists
-understand the 'uneven', complex, and interconnected nature of contemporary global society/societies

Course materials:

Moodle Platform
Seeing Sociology: An Introduction   Joan Ferrante

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

a) Learning and teaching

The timetabled components of this course comprise 41 one hour classes. These will take the form of lectures with discussion primarily centered on readings from the course textbook. Students will also engage in analysis of images and films relating to specific sociological concepts and will present specific topics in class through presentations.

b) Assessment

tests (2)   40%

essays (2)   40% (each essay will be around 800 words)

class participation   10%

class presentation   10 %

Please keep in mind the following:
- late submissions of writing assignments will lose from 10% - 20% of the original grade
- more than six absences results in a failure of the course
- lateness should be avoided
- plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated

Course Schedule

<u>week 1</u>
- introduction to course / thinking about the contemporary world
- what are the social sciences?/why study the social sciences?
- sociology: the social imagination and the sociological perspective
- 'risk society'?

<u>week 2</u>
- sociological perspectives I
- sociological perspectives II
- doing sociological research
- film: *the experiment*

week 3
- culture
- the sociology of culture / cultural globalization
- identity, socialization and social interaction
- groups, organizations, and networks
- sociology and music

week 4
- film: *born on the 4th of july*
- **ESSAY #1 DUE (October 17th)**
- race
- ethnicity
- gender inequality

week 5
- **TEST #1 (October 23rd)**
- sexual orientation
- deviance and crime
- **No Classes October 25th and 26th**

week 6
- film: *dead man walking*
- deviance and crime
- prostitution
- **Presentations (Nov. 1st)**

week 7
- pornography
- the sex trade
- documentary
- **Presentations (Nov. 9th)**

week 8
- social stratification
- poverty
- the concentration of power
- **Presentations (November 16th)**

week 9
- political institutions
- economic institutions
- **Presentations (November 23rd)**

week 10
- **TEST #2 (November 27th)**
- violence, and war
- terrorism
- **Presentations (November 30th)**

week 11
- **ESSAY #2 DUE (December 4th)**
- health and illness
- health and illness
- **Presentations (December 7th)**

Plagiarism Statement
Instances of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the act of stealing or using the ideas or writings of another person and passing them off as one's own. A student committing an act of academic dishonesty in a given course will receive an F (O percentage points) in the assignment where the academic infraction took place. If a student commits an act of academic dishonesty for a second time in the same course, this student will receive a failing grade in that course.

Maximum Allowed Number of Absences
The maximum allowed number of absences for all ACT courses stands at 6 (six) hours per course. This corresponds to 6 classes for courses that meet 3 times a week and 4 classes for courses that meet twice a week.

Excusing Absences
To excuse absences for good cause (such as medical reasons or personal crises), the student should contact the Registrar's office and, ahead of time or at the latest within a week from the time the absences took place, provide written proof of the cause of the absences. The documents submitted are then evaluated by the Assistant Dean, who decides whether there are valid grounds for excusing the absences.

Successful Attendance

A student is considered to have successfully attended a course if he/she has attended 75% of the course lectures. Thus, the maximum number of absences (excused or not) stands at 11 hours (11 classes) for courses that meet 3 times a week and 10.5 hours (7 classes) for courses that meet twice a week. In case of an unsuccessful attendance, the student is administratively withdrawn from the course. The student has the right to appeal the decision to be administratively withdrawn from a course due to excessive absences and seek reinstatement. In this case, the student, within three working days, must fill in a 'mitigating circumstances' form in the Registrar's office, where the reasons of the appeal should be explained. Following this, a formal hearing of the Academic Standards and Performance Committee (ASPC) takes place. The decision of the Committee is final.

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"The College has the responsibility of maintaining the highest possible standards of
academic integrity for the purpose of ensuring the quality of education it provides,
underscoring its dedication to fostering a love of learning for its own sake, and of
protecting those who rightly practice integrity in their academic affairs. It is the
responsibility of the student to be informed about the college's policy on Academic
Integrity, to refrain from infractions of that policy and from conduct, which may lead to
suspicion of infractions, and to refrain from aiding or encouraging others in such
infractions. It is the responsibility of the faculty to establish and maintain an environment
which is conducive to Academic Integrity."

NUin Grading Scale:

Grade Description	% points	US Letter Grade	US point grade
Excellent	95-100	A	4.0
Very Good (high)	90-94	A-	3.67
Very Good (low)	85-89	B+	3.33
Good (high)	80-84	B	3.0
Good (low)	75-79	B-	2.67
Satisfactory (high)	70-74	C+	2.33
Satisfactory (low)	65-69	C	2.0
Fail	0-64	F	0