Syllabus Introduction to Sociology

Mo-Thurs: 1:10 pm – 2:25 pm, HW 404
Instructor: Michaela Soyer
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Overview
This introductory course in sociology has been designed to provide you with a basic understanding of the questions sociologists ask. Over the course of the semester we will be covering major fields of the discipline such as social theory, inequality, the family, deviance and social movements. Taking this class will prepare you for more advanced work in these various sociological subfields. The readings furthermore introduce you to the different methods sociologists use to answer their questions.

Grades
Assignments: 10 %
Participation: 10 %
Midterm: 40 %
Final exam: 40 %

Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:
A+ 97.5 - 100%
A 92.5 - 97.4%
A- 90.0 - 92.4%
B+ 87.5 - 89.9%
B 82.5 - 87.4%
B- 80.0 - 82.4%
C+ 77.5 - 79.9%
C 70.0 - 77.4%
D 60.0 - 69.9%
F 0.0 - 59.9%

Accessibility
In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E 1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772-4857 or (212) 650-3230

Academic Integrity
Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures
Requirements

Participation
Participation in this class is mandatory. I am going to take attendance at the beginning of every class. If you have a serious illness (e.g., requiring hospitalization) or have a death in the family (or an equally serious personal problem) and you cannot attend class or finish an assignment, you have to notify me in advance.

Assignments
You will be asked to write three brief response papers that will cover a topic we have discussed in class. You will be required to consult the readings to respond to the question. The questions will be announced Thursdays in class. The response needs to be handed in as a hard copy the following Monday at the beginning of class. The responses have to be a minimum of 500 words. The assignments will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

Partially completed assignments will not count towards your final grade. Only if you have completed all aspects of the assignment it will count as passed.

You will not be allowed to make up any missed assignments.

MIDTERM: will be held in class

FINAL: will be a take home exam held online

There is no extra credit option in this course.

Readings

Week 1 August 27th – August 31st

Session 1: Monday
Introduction: Sociology – So What?
Introductory Lecture: Definitions, Topics and Practical Relevance of Sociological Research

Session 2: Tuesday

Week 2 September 3rd – September 7

Session 3: Monday
Theoretical Foundations

Labor Day – NO CLASSES SCHEDULED

Instead Class will be held on Wednesday September 5th

Session 4: Thursday
Week 3 September 10th – September 14th

Session 5: NO CLASSES SCHEDULED

Session 6: Thursday
Inequality, Race and Class in the United States

Week 4 September 17th – September 21st

Session 7: Monday

Session 8: Thursday

Week 5 Sept 24th – September 28th

Session 10: Monday


1st ASSIGNMENT DUE

Session 11: Thursday

Week 6 Oct 1st – Oct 5th

Session 12: Monday
Methodology
Research Design: Survey, In-depth Interviews, Ethnography

Session 13: Thursday
Ethics of Research: IRB and beyond
Week 7 Oct 8th – Oct 12th

Session 14: Monday
Columbus Day - NO CLASSES SCHEDULED

Session 15: Thursday
Family, Marriage, and Gender Roles

REVIEW MIDTERM

Week 8 Oct 15th – Oct 19th

Session 16: Monday MIDTERM EXAM

Session 17: Thursday

Week 9 Oct 20th – Oct 26th

Session 18: Monday
Slaughter, Anne-Marie. *Why Women Still Can't Have it All.* The Atlantic July/August 2012
http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/07/why-women-still-cant-have-it-all/

Session 19: Thursday

Week 10 Oct 29th – Nov 2nd

Session 20: Monday
Urban Sociology

Session 21: Thursday

2nd ASSIGNMENT DUE

Week 11 Nov 5th – 9th

Session 23: Monday
Social Networks

**Session 24: Thursday**

**Week 11 Nov 12th - Nov 16th**

**Session 25**
CLASS CANCELLED

**Session 26**
CLASS CANCELLED

**Week 11 Nov 19th - Nov 23**

**Session 27**
Punishment and Inequality
Introduction and Chapter 1 Soyer, Michaela. Lost Childhoods. *Forthcoming* UC Press


**Session 28**
NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Week 12 Nov 26th – Nov 30th**

**Session 30:**

**Session 31**
Social Movements

**Week 13 Dec 3rd – Dec 7th**

**Session 32**

**Session 33**
Luft, Alicia. 2015. Genocide as Contentious Politics. Sociology Compass 9 (10), 897-909

**3rd ASSIGNMENT DUE**

**Week 14 Dec 10th – Dec 14th**
Session 34
Review of Class Odds and Ends

Session 35
NO CLASS Reading Day