SYLLABUS
SOCIOLOGY 101-701 Introduction to Sociology
Tuesday and Thursday* 7:30-10:00 p.m.
Instructor: Don Stewart
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Required Materials for Class
Text: “Sociology, the Essentials,” 3rd Edition; Andersen, Margaret & Howard F Taylor
Access to Four Films that will be analyzed during the class:
“Gattaca” “American Beauty” “To Kill a Mockingbird” “The Pianist”
These films may be available for viewing in the Library, or by rental from your local video store. Or you may use loaner copies I have available.
Six (6) Scantrons – available from me or from the UNLV office

Welcome to my class! You have enrolled in an introductory Sociology class, possibly with no idea of what you’re getting into. But, by the end of this course I believe you’ll have answers to the following three broad questions:

A) what is the discipline of Sociology and what is the knowledge it seeks to discover?
B) what do Sociologists accomplish and attempt to accomplish through their work? And,
C) how can a working knowledge and understanding of Sociology be of personal benefit to you during the rest of your life?

In the course of developing answers to the three questions listed above you should also develop understanding and knowledge of:

1) the Sociological Imagination in the tradition of C. Wright Mills;
2) cultural diversity;
3) the crucial importance of social locations and statuses in determining our life chances;
4) how behavior and self image are shaped by the factors of nature and nurture;
5) social science research methods, data interpretation, and the various ethical issues related to the research process;
6) the three major sociological perspectives: Functionalism, Conflict Theory and Symbolic-Interactionism;
7) the social institutions created within society to meet the social needs of individuals.

Intended to explore and expand on basic concepts of Sociology, this class will offer insights into the complex and challenging issues with which all members of society are faced in the new millennium, including issues of gender equity, economic globalization and the expanding influence of the mass media and culture industries on American and other societies. Building your knowledge through reading and learning the material included in the text as well as through attendance at and participation in the lectures, you will broaden your knowledge and understanding of how we humans function together in this increasingly complicated world and society in which we live.

*see page 3 for detail regarding meeting days
Assessment of your progress in benefiting from the material presented will be accomplished as follows:

A) Attendance and Participation - roll will NOT be taken for this class, but this is a small class and habitual absence will be noted. I assume you are here because you are genuinely interested in being a part of this class and the learning process and will attend. The following rules based on common courtesy do apply to classroom procedure, though, and I ask that you follow them:

a) arrive on time. If you arrive late, enter the room very quietly without disturbing others;
b) stay for the entire class. If you must leave early, see me prior to class to let me know why.
c) if I am talking please do not talk -- for your own benefit as well as that of others, please be attentive when any other person is speaking. However, it is important for you to participate. So, please do talk in the course of our class meetings -- just do so in a manner that is beneficial for all in the class.
d) if you must be absent, please see me advance.

B) Your final grade will be based on a potential total of 600 points. ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO RECEIVE A GRADE IN THIS COURSE. FAILURE TO COMPLETE ALL REQUIREMENTS WILL RESULT IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN “INCOMPLETE” FOR THE COURSE. The 600 points may be earned through the following activities:

Two Exams - 200 points each; take home format with scantrons available through UNLV office or me. Each exam will include 100 multiple choice questions. Each exam will cover only the material covered prior to the exam date. The second exam will cover only the second half of the course.

Four Film Analysis Sheets - 50 points each. Analysis Sheets may be downloaded from the web-site. Print them out and complete your scantron for each analysis to turn in on the due date shown in this syllabus.

The reading material to be covered, the subjects of accompanying lectures, films that are to be watched OUT OF CLASS and analyzed on your own, and the exam dates are outlined on the following page. The exam dates are specific, but the lecture material is listed for the entire week to allow for flexibility between individual class periods. We may run ahead of schedule, or, if we become especially involved in a particular topic, we may fall behind. But, ultimately we will cover all the material outlined.

Again, welcome to my class. I greatly enjoy teaching Sociology and hope at the end of the semester you will have not only broadened your knowledge, but will also have enjoyed the experience of being a part of this class.

IF YOU HAVE A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY THAT MAY REQUIRE ASSISTANCE, YOU WILL NEED TO CONTACT THE DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER FOR COORDINATION IN YOUR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS. THE UNLV DRC IS LOCATED IN THE REYNOLDS STUDENT SERVICES COMPLEX IN ROOM 137. THE DRC PHONE NUMBER IS 895-0866 (TDD 895-0652)
Assignment, Reading, Lecture and Discussion Summary

Enrollment for this class is very small. As a result I’ve decided to run the class in a manner similar to that of a graduate student seminar. The first week there will be standard lecture material as we meet on Thursday. In subsequent weeks we’ll change to the seminar format. In that setting the assigned reading is to be completed prior to each weekly class meeting (Tuesday or Thursday?), and then, meeting as a group with me acting as guide and moderator, we’ll discuss the material. I’ll expand on the material, and clarify its content, but the objective is to turn this into a group experience, which is certainly appropriate in a Sociology class.

Week Beginning Date:

06/07  Required Reading: Chapters 1 and 2
Lecture Material: Introduction to Sociology, including history and methods used for study
Tuesday: Lecture Material: Culture; global aspects, similarities and differences
Required Reading: Chapter 3, 4 & 5
Thursday: Lecture/Discussion Material: Socialization, Social Structures and Social Interaction, the structure and function of Groups;
Film Assignment: “Gattaca” - view film and complete analysis for class weekly meeting
06/28

06/14  NO CLASS THIS WEEK

06/21  NO CLASS THIS WEEK – CLASS RESUMES WEEK OF 06/28
TURN IN “Gattaca” analysis at next weekly meeting

06/28  Required Reading: Chapter 6, 7, 8 and 9
Discussion Material: Conformity, Deviance and Crime
Discussion Material: Stratification, A Global Perspective
Discussion Material: Stratification, The American Experience
Discussion Material: Gender, Ethnicity and Race
Film Assignment: “American Beauty” - view film and complete analysis for class week of
07/05
FIRST EXAM DUE WEEK BEGINNING 07/05

07/05  FIRST EXAM DUE
Required Reading: Chapter 10
Discussion Material: Social Inequality
Discussion Material: Mass Media and the Culture Industry
TURN IN “American Beauty” ANALYSIS
Film Assignment: “To Kill a Mockingbird” - view film and complete analysis for class next week

07/12  Required Reading: Chapters 11 & 12
Discussion Material: Organizations, Government, Political Power and War
Discussion Material: Work, Economics, Marriage & Family
TURN IN “To Kill a Mockingbird” ANALYSIS
Film Assignment: “The Pianist” - view film and complete analysis for class next week

07/19  Required Reading: Chapter 13 & 14
Discussion Material: Politics, Power and the Social Processes of Education and Religion
Discussion Material: Population and Demographic Transition
SECOND EXAM DUE NEXT WEEK

07/26  Required Reading: Chapter 15
Discussion Material: The Future: Where we’ve been and where we are; Urbanization, Social Change and Social Movements
TURN IN “The Pianist” ANALYSIS
SECOND EXAM DUE THIS WEEK