SOAN 111. INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

This course introduces students to the discipline of sociology and what C. Wright Mills called the sociological imagination: a cognitive framework for locating within socio-historical contexts the events, relationships, and social phenomena that shape individual lives and collective experience. Sociology examines an extensive set of topics through various theoretical perspectives and research methods. In the next ten weeks, you’ll gain greater understanding of how the discipline of sociology helps us make sense of several current issues. In the process, you’ll gain familiarity with the conceptual and theoretical foundations of sociology, and some of the methods that inform sociological research.

Sociology implores us to embrace a specific type of critical thinking. Course material is meant to challenge and encourage critical self-examination of your beliefs and ways of engaging the social world. Through this process, you will gain a better understanding of how each of us is shaped by society. As you gain this insight, please remember that our classroom needs to remain a friendly forum for expressing and practicing tolerance for disparate viewpoints and social experiences.

OFFICE HOURS

I love seeing students during my office hours. A one-on-one visit can clarify course material; provide answers to questions students may have; and assist with understanding, on a deeper level, my expectations for the work students complete in this course.

Please visit this link to schedule an appointment on one of the following days and times:

- Mondays 9-10:00am
- Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm
- Thursdays 4:30-5:30pm
- Fridays 9:15-10:00am

Additional times are available by appointment so please do not hesitate to contact me. I will look forward to hearing from you.
COURSE MATERIAL

Three books are required reading for this class. Links to additional readings are provided on our course Moodle:

- *Bright-Sided: How Positive Thinking is Undermining America* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond
- *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family* by Annette Lareau

READING REQUIREMENTS

To perform well in this course and to create a rewarding class discussion, you must commit to several hours of active, focused reading prior to each class meeting. The readings represent a mix of classic and contemporary works in the field. Four types of readings are assigned: news articles, journal articles, and scholarly books. I have also assigned several short videos; please give this material your undivided attention.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on several small assignments, class participation, and quizzes that will be held throughout the course in lieu of a mid-term and final exam. When completing this work, you are required to abide by Carleton’s standards for academic integrity. Please click on this link to learn more about these standards, particularly as they relate to plagiarism. This course requires you to write short papers and thus, it is essential that you know what plagiarism is and the different forms it can take.

A document titled, “class assignment schedule,” is posted to our course Moodle page. This schedule briefly describes each assignment, its distribution and submission date, and the number of points awarded. I also provide an estimate of the time required to complete each assignment.

Finally, 10 points are devoted to class participation. Please review the “grading rubric for class participation” posted to our course Moodle.

MOODLE AND ZOOM

All course readings, recordings, documents, assignments, are centrally located on Moodle (either directly or via links contained there). Synchronous classes are held via Zoom, which should be accessed through Moodle. Turning your camera on during class is encouraged. When you must turn your camera off, please upload a photo or avatar as a profile picture. You are welcome to use a virtual background on Zoom if you want to maintain privacy in your virtual workspace while your camera is on. Your microphone should be muted by default, and questions should generally be asked in the chat. In the event that you have difficulties accessing Zoom, please contact ITS. Please be aware that it is necessary update Zoom on a frequent basis.
E-MAIL AND MOBILE DEVICE POLICIES

Please use your Carleton account to send e-mail to me at anierobisz@carleton.edu. You can call me Dr. Nierobisz, Professor Nierobisz, or Annette – which is what I prefer. I will make every effort to respond to e-mail in a timely manner: within 24-48 hours on weekdays. If you have not heard back from me within a couple of business days, please feel welcome to resend your message. To facilitate your attention and engagement during our synchronous class meetings, please keep any electronic device not necessary for class participation on silent mode and out of sight.

RECORDING AND DISSEMINATION OF COURSE MATERIAL

The materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and slides, handout, assignments, and emails are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of this course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, textual material of lecture content, and emails to third-party websites violates faculty intellectual property rights.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please note that I am striving to make sure that this course is accessible to all students in a variety of living situations and with various abilities. If you have any concerns about or difficulties with course materials or requirements, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can work with you to rectify the situation.

COURSE OUTLINE

3/29    What’s this course about?


• Icebreaker activity:
  Introduce yourself and answer the question: What’s the story behind your name?

3/31    What’s in a name?


What is Sociology?


American Sociological Association. No date. What is Sociology? (read the brief text and watch the short video)


The birth of sociology


Major Sociological Paradigms: Crash Course Sociology #2
4/12 Emile Durkheim on the “Collective Consciousness”


4/14 The Sociological Imagination


The Life of Carleton: 150 Years at a Glance.


4/16&19 The Happiness Society

4/16


4/19


4/21 Max Weber on Modern Ways of Thinking


Crash Course Sociology Video: *Max Weber and Modernity*
4/23 The Happiness Society (con’t)

Ehrenreich, Barbara. 2009. *Bright-Sided: How Positive Thinking is Undermining America*. Just read Chapters 6, 7 and 8


4/26 Patriarchal Society


Crash Course Sociology Video: *Theories of Gender*

4/28 Impacts of Patriarchy


Popular Sociology. *Cellblock Feminism*. February 21, 2019 (watch the video at the end of this short post).

4/30 Intersectionality

Kimberlé Crenshaw. TEDWomen 2016. *The Urgency of Intersectionality*


5/3 MID-TERM BREAK

5/5 Karl Marx on Capitalist Society


Popular Sociology. Fox News and False Consciousness, April 4, 2019 (watch the video at the end of this short video)

Desmond, Matthew. 2016. Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City. Just read Prologue (p. 1-5) and “About this project” (p. 315-336)

5/7-5/14 Eviction in American Society

5/7

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services. Order Under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264) and 42 Code of Federal Regulations 70.2. Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19


5/10

Desmond, Matthew. 2016. Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City. Just read pages 53-133

5/12


5/14


5/17 Social Construction of Race


Crash Course Sociology Video: Du Bois & Race Conflict https://youtu.be/-wny0OAz3g8

5/19 Residential Racial Segregation


Popular Sociology. Redlining, Segregation, and Inequality. May 7, 2019 (watch the video at the end of this short post).


Visit Native-Land.Ca and type in your home address and Carleton’s address on this map. Which Indigenous group once lived on the land where your home and college are now located?

5/21 Social Class and Child Rearing

Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life Chapters 1 and 2; Appendix A. Methodology (p. 345-360); and Appendix B. Understanding the Work of Pierre Bourdieu (p. 361-364)

The Impacts of Social Class: Crash Course Sociology #25

5/24 Social Class and the Organization of Daily Life

Unequal Childhoods Chapters 3, 4 and 5

5/26 Social Class and Language Use

Unequal Childhoods Chapters 6 and 7

5/28 Families and Institutions

Unequal Childhoods Chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11
5/31  The Power and Limits of Social Class

*Unequal Childhoods* Chapters 12 and 13

6/2  Wrapping Up Introduction to Sociology

Readings to be announced