SOC 100

Introduction to Sociology (3 units) MTWRF 10:30-11:45am Summer I 2011

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Nicholas Gibson

Office: Saunders Hall 222

Office Hours: Monday through Wednesday 12:30-2:30pm

Or email/appointment

Phone: (205) 265-1869 (If you leave a message, leave your name and callback number

clearly and slowly)

E-mail: gibsonn@hawaii.edu

Prerequisite: N/A

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Basic social relationships, social structures, and processes.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course we will examine the formal and informal institutions found within western society. We will regularly visit classical sociological figures and theories, and apply these theories to the systemization of education in United States values. We will also delve deeply into the fundamental aspects of social point-of-views which color our sociological lenses and which we can critically evaluate in order to understand reflexivity. The final exam is a write-at-home answer to prompts, which will be influenced by classroom discussion, videos and readings. The daily course will consist of in-depth small group discussions, short lectures and in-class presentations. All students in this class will be expected to participate in small group work, larger classroom discussions and the presentation of all small group work to the larger class.

3. LEARNING GOALS IN GENERAL EDUCATION

This course meets the University of Hawaii Diversification Requirements in the Social Sciences (DS) for the Core Competency standards for each of the following areas: Critical Thought, Communication, Civic Engagement, Ethical and Moral Development, Cultural Respect and Tolerance, and Global Awareness

4. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

- Describe, connect and evaluate racial, religious and political issues relevant to contemporary socialization
- Illustrate and discuss through written examinations certain socially sanctioned and unsanctioned behaviors and expectations
- Describe media coverage of social issues at the local and national levels, identify patterns and outliers

- Identify and demonstrate working understanding of sociological theories and their application to discussions of contemporary social institutions
- Demonstrate ability to critically analyze, critique and evaluate intergroup and intragroup identities and how they relate to social cohesion

5. REQUIRED TEXT

Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings – James M. Henslin

2007. 14th Edition ISBN: 1416536205

(This textbook is slightly less traditional than most other introductory textbooks. Because of the complex nature of Sociology, this textbook allows this course to cover a broad spectrum of social interactions and sociological concepts within the time allotted for the course. It is also very accessible to both students and instructors.)

6. GRADING POLICY

Grading Criteria:

Group Presentation: 50 points Quizzes x 5 at 50ea: 250 points Attendance/Participation: 50 points

Total available points: 350 points

Grading percentiles:

95 - 100%Α 90-94% A-88 - 89%B+83-87% B 80-82% B-78 - 79%C+ 73-77% C 70-72% C-68 - 69%63-67% D D+60-62% D-59% or lower F

The ability to retain knowledge will be measured in the classroom, and the skills of critical thinking and deeper theoretical synthesis will be assessed in the written exams. The mid-term and final exams will be due in the Laulima class inbox by 10pm on the due dates listed in the schedule. Any late exams will be marked down by 10% for every hour they are time stamped late. The participation grade includes group work during class time, which will be collected by the instructor at the end of each meeting involving submitted group work.

Attendance

Attendance is crucial to fully understanding the context of the sociological lens regarding education. Medical, legal or personal reasons for absences with documentation will not count against the attendance portion of the grade. Participation in class will be documented in part by analysis of group participation by group members, quiz records and in-class participation.

Missed Exams

Any exam that is not turned in on time will not be counted toward the student's final grade. The exams will be posted on the student portal ten (10) business days before their due date along with in-class dissemination. Notification of an extenuating conflict is required, and a reasonable accommodation can be made.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may present themselves over the duration of the session, and will be clarified when the opportunities are presented to the class. Any extra credit opportunity will be accompanied by secondary options, and not turning in extra credit will not negatively impact a course grade.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating is the equivalent of trying to steal grades either through specific actions of plagiarism, or general dishonest academic work. Plagiarism is using specific ideas from someone else without citing the original source. Academic dishonesty will be handled at the class level through a failing grade for the assignment and the class as per the Student Conduct Handbook, as well as referral to academic services for investigation and sanctions.

Grading Disputes

Be sure to print out copies of the receipt of all exams turned in electronically, copies of extra credit work with grades, and any other communication between instructor and student in case of grade recording errors, which will be corrected if they can be proven by the student. If there are any further disputes, academic affairs personnel are always available to support students.

7. SPECIAL NEEDS/DISABILITIES

Any student with special needs will be accommodated. Documentation from the office of Students with Disabilities is required.

8. CLASS MEETING ETIQUETTE

- > Cell phones will be turned off during class meeting times, except with prior approval from the instructor.
- > Computers will be used for academic purposes only during meeting times
- Discussion topics will sometimes be controversial. Therefore, we will respectfully address our colleagues, acknowledge the diversity of the students within the class, and engage in substantive discussions of social inequality and political issues.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week/Meeting Dates	Readings	Topics/Assignments
Week 1	2, 6, 7, 8 Classical Social Theory	Class structure/framing sociology & culture
Week 2	13, 14, 15, 16 Contemporary Social Theory	Gender, sexuality & socialization
Week 3	24, 26, 27, 28	Power, control, punishment & deviance
Week 4	29, 34, 35, 36	Appearance, beauty, socialization within schools
Week 5	30, 31, 32 & supplemental readings	Racism, inequality and anti- racism/group presentations Group projects due
Week 6	38, 39, 45, 46	How do we create and support change? Final due by 10 pm on 7/1