Course Description and Goals

This course is an introduction to sociology as a way of understanding the world. Sociology is a field of study that explains social, political, and economic phenomena in terms of social structures, social forces, and group relations. You will be introduced to the field by focusing on several important sociological topics including culture, the social construction of knowledge, inequality, and demography. You will leave this course with:

* An understanding of the three main sociological perspectives;
* An understanding of several important sociological theories and concepts;
* The ability to apply these perspectives, theories and concepts in an analysis of contemporary social issues;
* Insight into the critical link between social structures, social forces, and individual circumstances;
* Insight into how the individual shapes society and how society shapes the individual.

Required Text (Available Online)

* Essentials of Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach, 12e by James Henslin

*Additional readings and/or videos will be assigned. These readings will be available on the course Blackboard page, or will be sent to you via email.

Course Grade

Midterm Exam (40%): Students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of all assigned readings, videos, class lectures, and class discussions through the first half of the course. The midterm exam may include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, true/false, and short answer questions. There will be no make-up exams in this class. If the examination is missed it will result in a grade of zero. The exam will be held in-class on June 13th.

Final Exam (60%): The Final Exam will be held in-class on June 28th. There will be no make-up exams in this class. If the final examination is missed it will result in a grade of zero. All students are required to come on time for the exam which will start promptly at 1:00pm. This exam is comprehensive, which means that ALL material from the course could be included in its content. You will receive a final exam review guide to help you study the most critical course
content. The structure of the exam may include multiple choice questions, fill-in-the-blank responses, a true/false section, and several short essays.

**Communication**

I will only send course-related email messages to Fordham email addresses. It is your responsibility to regularly check your Fordham account for course-related communications. When you have a question outside of class or office hours, email is generally the most effective way for me to be reached.

**Disability Services**

The Office of Disability Services at Fordham University helps to ensure equal educational access and opportunity for all members of our community. In the Jesuit tradition of *cura personalis*, members of the ODS staff work individually with each student to understand his or her strengths and limitations in order to develop their most effective and comprehensive accommodation plan.

Each semester, the Disability Services hours vary for each office. Please call Disability Services at 718-817-0655 to learn more about this semester’s availability. Accommodations must be requested at the beginning of each semester by filling out an Accommodation Form. Please be aware: The Office of Disability Services does not grant accommodations retroactively. If new accommodations are needed, you must meet with ODS to discuss adjusting your accommodation plan and may potentially need to provide updated documentation. Please be sure to let me know should you need any accommodations for this class.

**Academic Integrity**

All assignments submitted for credit must be *your own work*. As stated in the Arts and Sciences Policy on Academic Integrity, “Plagiarism occurs when individuals attempt to present as their own what has come from another source. Plagiarism takes place whether such theft is accidental or deliberate.”

(http://www.fordham.edu/academics/handbooks__publicati/undergraduate_academ/undergraduate_ai_pol/standards_of_ai_72295.asp)

**Class and Assignment Schedule:**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Review the Course Syllabus</td>
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| May 30     | The Sociological Perspective                 | Henslin, Chapter 1
Berger, “An Invitation to Sociology”
Mills, “The Sociological Imagination” |
| June 5     | Culture                                       | Henslin, Chapter 2
Miner, “Body Ritual of the Nacirema”                                      |
| June 6     | Culture                                       | Charon, “What Does It Mean To Be Human?”                                   |
| June 7     | Socialization                                 | Henslin, Chapter 3
Cooley, “The Looking-Glass Self”
Janis, “Group Think”
Schor, “Born to Buy: The Commercialized Child”                             |
| June 12    | Social Structure and Social Interaction; Midterm Exam Review | Henslin, Chapter 4
Goffman, excerpts                                                          |
| June 13    | MIDTERM EXAM                                  |                                                                           |
| June 14    | Deviance and Social Control                   | Henslin, Chapter 6
Berger, “The Meaning of Social Control”                                    |
| June 19 | Social Groups and Formal Organizations | Henslin, Chapter 5  
| Ritzer, “The McDonaldization of Society” |
| June 20 | Global Stratification and Social Class in the United States | Henslin, Chapter 7  
| Henslin, Chapter 8 |
| June 21 | Sex and Gender | Henslin, Chapter 10  
| Friedan, “The Problem That Has No Name”  
| Lorde, “The Master’s Tools…” |
| June 26 | Race and Ethnicity | Henslin, Chapter 9  
| Gates, “Race as the Trope of the World”  
| Gans, “Race as Class” |
| June 27 | Demography and Final Exam Review | Henslin, Chapter 14 |
| June 28 | FINAL EXAM |  |