**Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology**

**Discussion Section – Spring 2014**

**San Diego State University**

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Office: Nasatir Hall 203

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00 p.m. - 4:45p.m., and by appointment.

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Course Meets: Fri 09:00-09:50 A.M.

The goal of this breakout section is to reinforce the overall course objectives while offering interpersonal interaction for fulfilling those objectives. Towards this end, the section will focus on the “sociological imagination” and how it is relevant and relates to your lives. This section’s additional purpose is to allow you to voice your opinions and to be heard. Paulo Freire’s (a Brazilian scholar) text *The Pedagogy of the Oppressed* argues that in order to bring about the best learning environment for students, they must interact jointly with the instructor in order to have an equal building ground for learning. This will be beneficial for you as students and me as an instructor.

**Evaluation Process**

**Grading:**

The discussion section grade composes one fourth of your total grade (100/400). Throughout the semester, students will take a series of five quizzes worth ten points each, write five reflection papers, and participate in two class discussion forums.There will be an opportunity for extra credit during the semester (10 points), which will be presented at a later time.

**Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be based on Professor Semm’s lectures and the reading assignment/s of the week. Each quiz will have 10 multiple-choice questions.. If you are not in class to take the quiz, you will not be able to earn points. No make-ups, no excused absences. Students will need scantron 882 for quizzes. I will administer quizzes at the end of the class period.

**Reflection Paper:**

Reflection papers are a two-page response to the assigned reading (based on Professor Semm’s lecture). You are to write your personal thoughts and ideas and include them with a contemporary example to solidify your understanding of the subject. Each reflection paper is worth ten points and you will have to write five of them this semester. I will collect papers at the beginning of the class period. You will be graded on a rubric that will be posted on blackboard.

**Class Discussions:**

Twice this semester we will have an open class discussion, weeks six and ten, (you will still have to do the assigned readings so you can participate in the class) where I will deliver a small lecture in the beginning of class to touch on some things from the reading and then we will organize ourselves in a way where we can have an open discussion/debate/civil argument. You can also ask questions if you still need help understanding the material. This is encouraged as it can open the door for a new thread of conversation and it could also be a question for another student in the class.Class discussions will be forty minutes per session.

**5 Quizzes = 10 points each**

**5 Reflection Papers= 10 points each**

**2 Class Discussion Forums = 0 Points but class participation is mandatory**

**Total Points: 100**

**Possible Extra Credit = 10 points**

**Class Schedule**

**Week: Date: Topic: Assignment:**

1 1/24 Introduction **N/A**

2 1/231 The Sociological Perspective Quiz #1

3 2/7 The Duality of Social Life RP #1

4 2/14 Social Stratification & Class Quiz #2

5 2/21 Education RP #2

6 2/28 Marxism: Conflict Between the Classes CD#1

7 3/7 Economy Quiz #3

8 3/14 Power and Politics RP #3

9 3/21 *No Class! Enjoy the day off* **N/A**

10 3/28 Protests, Strikes, and Revolution CD #2

11 4/4 *No Class! Enjoy your break*  **N/A**

12 4/11 Mass Media – Assigned Reading Quiz #4

13 4/18 Human Agency RP #4

14 4/25 Racial Inequality Quiz #5

15 5/02 Gender Inequality RP #5

*\*I reserve the right to make these changes to this schedule throughout the semester.*

**How do I read the class schedule?**

Each class meeting is listed by date with the reading assignment that is due. Chapter readings are found in the textbook and *additional readings/material assigned will be posted on Blackboard*. Notice these chapters/topics are aligned with what Professor Semm will be discussing during the Monday/Wednesday lecture. Students are expected to complete all reading assignments before each discussion section meets. On the right side of the class schedule, there is a column labeled “Assignment”. Assignments will occur during class when listed in this column. Quizzes are ten-question in class tests on the assigned reading material. RPs are reflection papers and those are a two page response to what you have read and learned, as well as you including a contemporary or classic example tying in to the paper as well as your personal experience with the subject discussed. CDs are class discussions. Twice this semester, instead of taking a quiz on the material or writing a reflection paper, we will have an informal class discussion (somewhat of an open forum) on the subject to be discussed on that day where all of you will participate including your thoughts on analysis. This is one of the few key chances where your voice can be heard and we can have a civil conversation amongst ourselves.

**Class Rules:**

**1. Be respectful to your classmates and myself.** This course touches on many “delicate” and controversial topics. Our classroom will become our discussion zone, safe-haven and realm of learning. By attending class you agree to approach all topics and individuals respectfully. If you fail to be respectful toward others you will be asked to leave. If you fail to be respectful to me you receive the same punishment. We are all part of the college learning experience and going through it together so please do not spoil one’s experience by being rude or disrespectful. Treat others how you will want to be treated. This includes not being late as it is very distracting to myself and the other students.

**2. Be engaged.** If you attend class you are required to be AWAKE and ATTENTIVE. Our discussion section will be quick-paced, highly interactive and rowdy at times. I expect you all to participate, learn from each other and *think critically* on all things we read and discuss.

**3. No distractions.** No sleeping, no emailing, no texting, no social media. No cell phones on desks, in laps, etc. If you need to have your phone out let me know before class. If you access your cell phone during class you will be asked to leave. This may be difficult for some of you but the small breakout sections are designed to be so that all the students have an opportunity to broaden their understanding of sociology and by being on your phone, watching videos, texting, sending emails, playing with apps on your phone etc. will harm you learning experience and others because it is distracting. We will only be in class for fifty minutes so it is not that difficult to adhere to this policy.

*I look forward to getting to know and working with each and every one of you. I am excited for our educational journey and am happy to experience this semester with you. MV.*