Soc 127
Introduction to Sociology

Dr. Rick Baldoz
Office Hours: Wed 8:00-9:00 & 12:00-1:00
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This course is designed to introduce students to the sociological perspective. The course will review and discuss sociological concepts, theories, and research. First, the course will look at the role of sociology as a tool for examining the social world. Secondly, the course will introduce major theorists, perspectives, and research problems in sociology. Finally, the course will review major theoretical approaches e.g., macro and micro methodologies to critically analyze social problems.

Required Readings:

Conley, Dalton You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist
Venkatesh, Sudhir: Gang Leader for a Day: A Rogue Sociologist Takes to the Streets
New York Times: Class Matters
Goodwin, J. and Jasper, J.: The Contexts Reader

Course Requirements:

1. Come prepared to discuss the assigned readings and offer constructive/critical comments on the course materials.
2. There will be two required papers (5-7 pages). The topic will be assigned by the instructor. These two papers will make up 70 percent of your final grade.
3. Students will write a weekly response essay from a designated readings in the Contexts Reader (The assigned readings are denoted with an *). Your response should assess the strengths and/or weaknesses of the author’s argument. These will be due at the beginning of class each Friday and we will discuss your reactions during class time. The response essays should be between 250-400 words. These assignments will make up 30 percent of your final grade.

Week 1) Introduction
Feb 8: Conley chapter 1

Week 2) Culture and Media
Feb 15: Conley chapter 3
*Contexts, chapter 18

Week 3) Socialization and the Construction of Reality
Feb 22: Conley chapter 4
*Contexts, chapter 4

Week 4) Stratification
March 1: Conley chapter 14 (skim chapter 15)
*Contexts, chapter 27
Week 5) Social Mobility
March 8: Class Matters, chapters 2-6
*Contexts, chapter 15

Week 6) Embedded Inequalities
March 15: Class Matters chapters 7,8, 9, 12 & 14
*Contexts, chapter 29

Week 7) Global Networks
March 22: Contexts, chapters 60-61
Paper Due: Mar 24

Week 8)
Spring Break

Week 9) Gender and Family
April 5: Conley chapters 7 & 12
*Contexts, chapter 31

Week 10) Race
April 12: Conley chapter 13
*Contexts, chapter 40

Week 11) Social Control and Deviance
April 19: Conley chapter 6
*Contexts, chapter 53

Week 12) “Two Societies”
April 26: Venkatesh chapters 1-4
*Contexts, chapter 51

Week 13) Sociology in the Trenches
May 3: Venkatesh chapters 5-8
*Contexts, chapter 62

Week 14) Collective Action and Social Change
May 10: Conley chapter 18
Contexts, chapter 57

Finals: Paper # 2: Due Date TBA
May 17

Honor Code: This course will follow the policies described in the Oberlin College Honor Code and Honor System. Please contact me if you have any questions about citation, or the relationship of the Honor Code to your work in this course. For more information on the Honor Code, see http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html.