Community and Inequality: An Introduction to Sociology
(Sociology 126)

Fall 2004
Meets: T-Th 8:30-9:50 A.M.

Instructor: Prof. Clovis L. White
Office: 301-A King Building
Office hrs: T-Th 1:30-3pm
W 3:30-4:30
or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a survey course designed to introduce you to the sociological way of looking at our world. This entails an examination of the many concepts, theories and research findings related to the study of social life.

COURSE FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class Format: At least once a week, class sessions will be devoted lectures on topics for the given week. In general, we shall begin a new unit or topic area each week (e.g., socialization). You will benefit most from the lectures if you do the readings early in the week as they are assigned. Each lecture is centered on a single statement or item presented at the beginning of each class. The theme for the day might be the definition of a key concept or a theoretical explanation or simply a puzzling fact about the social world.

2. Class Participation/Group Discussions: At times during the semester we will be discussing issues or topics related to the unit under study. Students are expected to participate in the discussion to meet this requirement. On the given day of discussion, students will be divided up into several discussion groups. Although the professor will determine specific points of discussion, some discussions will be based.

3. Reading assignments: Readings are assigned for each week from the books listed below and readings placed on reserve in the main library (Mudd Library) or on Blackboard (BB). Readings for the specific section/week are listed in the lecture/topic section of the syllabus (see pp. 3-6). Each member of the class is expected to read the material and be prepared to discuss it in class.
List of required books to be purchased:

4. **Exams:** There will be **TWO exams**. Each exam will take home exams and consist of short answer questions and essay questions requiring the integration of materials covered in the readings, lectures, discussion and film presentations. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade. **Exams 2 is NOT cumulative.** The exam due dates are as follows:

   **FIRST EXAM:** Due Friday, October 14th  
   **SECOND EXAM:** Due December TBA

5. **Writing Assignment:**

   Each student is required to write three 3 to 5 page exercise which address a specific aspect of sociology. The specific outline of the exercises will be handed out a week in advance of their due date.

6. **Grading:** Final grades will be assessed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Exams (35% @)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class/Group Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Exercise/Papers</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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7. **Honor Code**

   On all exams and exercises, you are expected to follow the guidelines as established by the Oberlin College Honor System.

   (http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html)

   As such, you are required to follow the code and write then sign at the end of each academic exercise the following: "I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code in this
exam/assignment”. The default of this statement is that you are required to do your own work without the help from others not explicitly authorized by me (You may, however, use campus resources, such as the library, composition instructors, or writing tutors).

**TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS**

(BB = indicates it is on Blackboard)

**SOCIOLICAL PRINCIPLES**

**WEEK 1:**  Sept. 2/7/9  **INTRODUCTION to SOCIOLOGY**: Sociology and Sociological Imagination.

Readings:
1. C. Wright Mills, “The Sociological Imagination”
2. Giddens and Duneier, “What is sociology
3. James Henslin, “Sociology and the Social Sciences” (BB)

**WEEK 2:**  Sept. 16/18  No class

**WEEK 3:**  Sept. 21/23  **PERSPECTIVES AND BASIC CONSTRUCTS IN SOCIOLOGY**
A. Social Structure: Organization of social life: Statuses, roles, groups, Organizations, Social Institutions
B. Functionalism, Conflict, Interactionist perspectives

Readings:

**WEEK 4:**  Sept 28/30  **CULTURE**

Readings:
1. D. Newman, Sociology, chapter 4, “Culture and History” (BB)
2. A. Cohen (The Symbolic Constructions of Community” (HANDBOUT)

**WEEK 5:**  Oct. 5/7  **SOCIALIZATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE SELF**

Readings:
2. Kingsley Davis, “Extreme Isolation” (BB)
Exercise 1 Due October 7.

WEEK 6: Oct. 12/14 THE SELF & EXAM 1: TAKE-HOME – DUE FRIDAY OCTOBER 15. NO CLASS OCT. 14

Readings:

WEEK 7: Oct. 16-25 FALL RECESS

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SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

WEEK 8: Oct 26/28 SOCIAL INEQUALITY, STRATIFICATION AND SOCIAL CLASS

Readings:
2. Jay MacLeod, Ain’t No Makin It, all
4. Monica Beilski, “My Hidden Class Consciousness” (BB)

WEEK 9: Nov 2/4 IMMIGRATION AND INEQUALITIES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Readings:
2. L. Steinhorn and Barbara Diggs-Brown, Chapt. 1. “The Integration Illusion” (BB)
3. A. Portes and Rumbaut, Immigrant America, Chaps. 1-4
4. M. Abrahamson, The Urban Enclave, Chaps. 4-9

Exercise 2 Due November 4
WEEK 10: Nov. 9/11  GENDER INEQUALITY

Readings:
2. Sue Ferguson, Chaps 27, 29 (“The Glass Escalator”, “Failing at Fairness”) (BB)

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SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

WEEK 11: Nov. 16/18  SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS:
MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Readings:
2. A. Hochschild, The Second Shift, (all)

WEEK 12: Nov 23  EDUCATION and THANKSGIVING BREAK
Reading:
1. Jonathon Kozol’s, Savage Inequalities (all)

WEEK 13: Dec. 7/9  SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Readings:

Exercise 3 Due December 9

WEEK 14: Dec. 14  WRAP-UP
Dec. 15-17  Reading Period
DEC.  TAKE HOME EXAMINATION 2 DUE: TBA