Course description: The goal of sociology is to offer insights into our social environment, which we often take for granted, to explain the social processes that shape our lives. Sociologists address such questions as why is there crime; what are our common values and why; how do we differ from other societies; why are there class, gender, and racial inequalities; what role does religion play in our society; how does socialization take place; how is technology changing our lives; etc. This course introduces students to these and other sociological topics as well as to the dominant theories and methods of the discipline used to make sense of such social phenomena. Students are encouraged to bring their own sociological insights to class as we challenge common assumptions of these major issues that refer to all of us.

Required Readings:

Henslin, J. Essentials of Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach, 4th edition

Ferguson, S. Mapping the Social Landscape: Readings in Sociology

MacLeod, J. Ain’t no Makin’ It.

Office hours: Tuesday, 3-4pm; Thursday, 3-4pm. Each student is encouraged to come by my office hours at least once during the semester. The point of office hours is to go over topics discussed in class, hear your thoughts/critiques of class, refer to assignments, and to give you an opportunity to discuss issues related to class generally. If you cannot make it to my office hours because of a class, work, or athletic requirement, we can set up another time. Email is also a convenient way to ask me questions.

Course Requirements:

Student responsibilities:
(Note: By enrolling and remaining in this class, you have agreed to these responsibilities.)

1) Regular attendance to all classes and outside events. Students anticipating lengthy absences should contact me in advance.

2) You should arrive on time for class and remain for the entire period unless you make arrangements with me prior to class.

3) Completion of each week’s readings by the beginning of class. You will not be able to successfully complete this class without reading the assignments on time. This class is a seminar,
which makes student input essential to a worthwhile experience. You should draw off the readings to assist the class.

4) Completion of all required assignments. All assignments must be completed by the beginning of class, not during or after class. If you anticipate that you may miss a due date because of illness or a personal emergency, I require a doctor’s note or some other documentation before the assignment is due. If you do not supply this documentation, your assignments will be penalized one third of a grade (for example, an A will slip to an A-, a B+ to a B, etc.) starting the day of the assignment and for every calendar date past the due date.

4) Required assignments will consist of two exams during the semester, a collaborative research project, one 5 page essay due towards the end of the semester, and one final exam. Class participation also counts toward your grade. Details of the assignments are as follows:

**Participation and Pop Quizzes on Readings:** There will also be occasional pop quizzes on the readings, to ensure both that you are keeping up with the assignments and your degree of comprehension of the texts. Regular attendance and participation during the class are also expected. **Participation and pop quizzes are worth 10% of your final grade.**

**Semester exams:** There are two exams during the semester. You can expect the exams to consist of short answer, multiple choice and/or essay questions. The exams will be on material covered to date in the class, both readings and lectures/discussions. **Each exam will be worth 20% of your final grade.**

**Collaborative Research Project:** Working in teams of five or six, you will pick a sociological topic and propose a study on it, doing research on the topic in the library. Sample topics include why there is racial segregation, why social revolutions start, how workers judge job satisfaction, etc. In researching the topic, you will ask such questions as: What are the major research findings on the topic? What are some remaining questions? Come up with a specific question that gets at a remaining question and write up a planned research proposal on it. You will present your topic and proposal to the class, with the presentations taking place a few weeks before the final proposals are due so that you get feedback on how to proceed. **The proposal and presentation are worth 15% of your grade, and each person in a group receives the same grade.**

**Short paper:** On the last day of classes, you will have the opportunity to write a 5 page paper on the book, *Ain’t No Makin’ It*. The goal of the paper is to analyze the book based on one of the substantive issues covered in class. More details of the final paper will be provided during the semester. **The short paper will be worth 15% of your final grade.**

**Final exam:** The final exam will be held during the scheduled final exam week. The format of the final will be much the same as the semester exams. **The final exam will be worth 20% of your final grade.**
Instructor responsibilities:

1) To present lecture and discussion material in clearly understandable language and presentation.

2) To assist students in thinking critically about concepts and ideas. This often entails challenging students.

3) To respect student opinion and value each student’s contributions equally.

4) To give feedback on student progress; to be accessible during office hours, and to return all course materials, graded, in a timely fashion.

Other notes:

1) You are assumed to follow the Honors Code. This pertains to how you write papers, read materials, talk with other students in and outside of the class, and other modes of behavior. Please consult your student handbook or see me for details. You will need to attest to your compliance to the honors code with each written assignment you turn in.

2) If you have a learning disability or other disability, you are entitled to assistance and accommodations through the university. Please register with the Jane Boomer, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, in Room G 27 Peters Hall, ext. 5-8467, for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs. Please do this at the beginning of the semester. Please notify me as well.

Tentative Course Outline

I. Introduction to the Field: What is Sociology?

Week of Feb 10: What is Sociology and How do we study it?
Readings: Chapter 1 of Essentials
Chapter 2 of Reader: “Teenage Wasteland”

Week of Feb 17: Culture
Readings: Chapter 2 of Essentials
Chapter 8 of Reader: “The Code of the Streets”
Chapter 10 of Reader: “Lovely Hula Hands”
“Symbolic segregation: Similarities and differences in the language and non-verbal communication of women and men”
**Week of Feb 24:** Social Structure and Social Interaction  
Readings: Chapter 4 of *Essentials*  
“Role conflict in student nurses”

**March 2** Social Groups and Formal Organizations  
Readings: Chapter 5 in *Essentials*  

*March 4: 1st Exam*

**II. Major Substantive Issues: Inequality, Group Identification, and Control**  
**Week of March 9:** Social Stratification and Social Class  
Readings: Chapter 7 of *Essentials*  
Chapter 23 of *Reader:* “Who Rules America?”  
Chapter 26 of *Reader:* “Making Ends Meet”

**March 16:** Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity  
Readings: Chapter 30 of *Reader:* “White Privilege and Male Privilege”  
Chapter 33 of *Reader:* “Blue Dreams”  
Chapter 34 of *Reader:* “Navigating Public Places”

**March 18:** Inequalities of Gender  
Chapter 28 of *Reader:* “The Glass Escalator”

**Week of March 23:** Presentations of Collaborative Research Project

**Week of March 30:** SPRING BREAK.

**April 6:** Deviance and Social Control  
Readings: Chapter 6 in *Essentials*  
Chapter 20 in *Reader:* “Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia: The Development of Deviant Identities.”  
Chapter 21 in *Reader:* “In Search of Respect”

*April 8: 2nd Exam*

**III. Major Substantive Issues: Social Institutions and Social Individuals**  
**Week of April 13:** Politics and Economy; Marriage and Family; Religion  
Readings: Chapter 11 of *Essentials*
Chapter 50 in Reader: “Gay and Lesbian Families are Here.”
Chapter 52 in Reader: “The Time Bind”
Chapter 41 in Reader: “The Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism”

Week of April 20: Socialization
Readings: “The Looking Glass Self.”
“Becoming a gendered body: Practices of pre-schools.”
Chapter 13 of Reader: “Making it by Faking It”

April 27: Social Change
Readings: Chapter 53 of Reader: “The McDonaldization of Society”
Chapter 56 of Reader: “What Can We Do?”

Collaborative Research Projects due.

April 29: Ain’t No Makin’ It
Readings: Chapters 1, 2, 3

Week of May 4: Ain’t No Makin’ It
Readings: Chapters 4-7, 9-11.

May 11: Finish Ain’t No Makin’ It


Paper due May 13.

Final exam during scheduled final exam period.