

Fall 2018, American Society, 920 326
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Class meets on Monday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Office hours are on Monday and Wednesday at 11:45 - 12: 45. Appointments are recommended.

Summary: This course provides a survey of sociological theory and research on current prominent aspects of American society. A range of sociological perspectives and methods are used to analyze leading American social institutions and cultural values, social inequalities, and forms of social relationships and interactions.

The Importance of Attendance and Lectures: Students are expected to attend all lectures. Examinations will include material that is **not** available in the reading assignments. Students who do not attend the majority of lectures will have difficulty passing this course. I will take attendance and I will deduct six (6) points from your final grade if you are absent from class six (6) times. I will request documentation for all excused absences except established religious holidays.

Enrollment: The Dean's Office prohibits me from issuing grades at the end of the term to any student not listed on my roster as enrolled.

Withdrawal: Any student wishing to withdraw must do so before the deadline established by the Dean's Office. Consult the official Rutgers-Newark schedule for the withdrawal date for this term.

Examinations: Exams will be organized as long-form take-home questions that require expository essays. Students will have approximately one week to complete each exam. Students will be expected to know the course material from both the reading assignments and the class lectures. Exam questions will ask students to think for themselves. Some exam questions will be written so that there is no single correct answer. Five (5) points on each of the first two (2) exams will depend on a student's writing style as outlined at the end of this syllabus. Three exams will be assigned for this course. **Six (6) points will be deducted for unexcused late exams that are overdue five (5) days or less. Ten (10) points will be deducted for unexcused late exams that are overdue six (6) days or more.**

Grading: Three exams will be assigned. Each exam will be in the form of take-home essay questions. The total of all three exams equal 100 points.

first exam=30 points; second exam=35 points; third exam=35 points each; total=100 points
A=92-100; B+=90-91.9; B=82-89.9; C+=80-81.9; C=70-79.9; D=60-70; F=0-59.9

There will be no make-up exams and no extra credit assignments.

Plagiarism: Every student must write an exam in his/her own words. Failure to write in one's own words will be regarded as plagiarism. Plagiarism includes: parallels in sentence structure, wording, or any material quoted, paraphrased, or rearranged from another student's exam. Plagiarism also includes materials used without footnote from any internet or published or student-written sources. Exams or materials from paper and exam services will be treated as plagiarism. All forms of plagiarism will result in harsh penalties, including the ultimate penalty of failing the course. **I reserve the right to administer an oral examination to confirm that the written examinations are the product of a student's own work.**

Writing Across the Curriculum: This course is designated as a course in the Writing Across the Curriculum Program. Five (5) points on the first two (2) take-home written examinations will be reserved for a grade on the quality of your writing. This is ten percent (10%) of your final grade. **Details and rubric for the evaluation of writing skills are presented on the final page of this syllabus.**

Reading Assignments: All reading assignments are very important. Books to purchase appear below. Readings on Blackboard are marked **BB** on the syllabus. Books to purchase are available (many in used editions) at the Rutgers University Book Store as well as online. If you are purchasing from the Rutgers University Book Store, you must be sure to do so before the middle of the term when the Store returns all unsold assigned books. If purchasing online, then take care to order the correct editions (check ISBN numbers) from the publishers as listed in the syllabus.

Books to Purchase (available at the Rutgers Bookstore):

- Jennifer Silva, *Coming Up Short: Working Class Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty*.
- Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers In Their Own Land*. The New Press 2016.
Anger And Mourning On The American Right. The New Press, 2016.

FALL 2018: NO CLASS WILL BE HELD IN THIS COURSE FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO DATES

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 10
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 19**

LECTURE DATES BELOW SHOULD BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY

**Syllabus (all weeks are approximate; actual dates may vary)
BB = available on Blackboard**

- Week 1-3 **(BB)** Wright and Rogers, *Capitalism*. From Erik Olin Wright and Joel Rogers, *American Society: How It Really Works*. Norton 2011.
(BB) Wright and Rogers, *Class*. From Erik Olin Wright and Joel Rogers, *American Society: How It Really Works*. Norton 2011.
(BB) De Parles, "Harder for Americans on the Lower Rungs to Rise." *New York Times*, January 4, 2012.
(BB) Claire K. Miller, "Differences in Child Rearing Are on the Rise." *New York Times*, December 17, 2015.
(BB) Claire K. Miller, "Stressed, Tired, Rushed: A Portrait of the Modern Family." *New York Times*, November 4, 2015.
(BB) Freedland, "The Rich Self-Destruct." *New York Times*, October 13, 2012.
(BB) Brooks, "Great Migration." *New York Times January 24, 2013*.
(BB) Ross Douthat, "The Secrets of Princeton." *New York Times*, April 6, 2013.
(BB) Sean Reardon, "No Rich Child Left Behind," *New York Times*, April 27, 2013.
- Week 3-4 Jennifer Silva, *Coming Up Short*. Chs. 1-4.

- Week 4-5 First Exam= 30 points. Includes 5 points for writing quality**
- Week 5-6 (BB) Wright and Rogers, "Racial Inequality." From Erik Olin Wright and Joel Rogers, *American Society: How It Really Works*. Norton 2011.
- Week 6 (BB) Alford Young, *The Minds of Marginalized Black Men: Making Sense of Mobility, Opportunity and Life Chances*. Princeton University Press 2013. Ch. 7 and pp. 199-202.
- Week 7-8 (BB) Michelle Alexander, "The New Jim Crow." *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law*, Vol. 91 pp.7-26.
 (BB) Matthew Desmond and Andrew V. Papachristov, "Why Don't You Just Call the Cops?" *New York Times*, September 30, 2016.
 (BB) Mathew Desmond, "Forced Out. For Many Poor Americans, Eviction Never Ends." *New York Times*, February 8 & 16, 2016.
- Week 8 (BB) Portes & Rumbault, *Immigrant America: Fourth Edition*. University of California Press 2014. Chs. 1 and 7.
- Week 8 Second Exam=30 points. Includes 5 points for writing.**
- Week 9 (BB) Stolberg, "You Want Compromise?"
- Week 10-11 (BB) Theda Skocpol, *Diminished Democracy*. (Selections include pages from different chapters.).
- Week 1-12 Lecture (NO READINGS) "Culture Wars: America's Polarized Values and Politics."
- Weeks 12-14 Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land*. The New Press 2016
Anger And Mourning On The American Right. The New Press 2016. Preface and Chapters 1-16.
- Week 14 Third exam=35 points (Due during finals week.)**

WRITING INTENSIVE PROGRAM

Students in this Writing Intensive course are assigned two take-home Writing Intensive essay exams. (One other essay exam will also be assigned.) Each exam includes three or four essay questions that require critical analysis and comparison of major themes and concepts from a given set of social theorists. Exams typically are completed in approximately 1000-1200 words though some on each exam range upwards of 2000 words.

Each Writing Intensive assignment includes a numerical grade equal to 5 percent of the student's final grade. Hence 10% of each student's final grade is earned through her/his Writing Intensive score.

Writing skills to be evaluated are indicated in the chart that appears below.

Students will be provided with feedback on their writing errors. Examples of writing errors will be highlighted and, where appropriate, improvements will be suggested adjacent to these examples.

Opportunities for Revision: All students may revise exams to correct writing errors **with emphasis on the writing skills indicated in the rubric below. Students may earn back Up To 3** points sixty percent (60%) of their writing grade) for their resubmission of each exam. Students are not guaranteed points for resubmission. The number of points earned depends upon the quality of

corrections to the entire exam (i.e. **not just the examples but all errors of the type indicated in comments regardless of whether highlighted or not.**) Additional Instructions for resubmission will be given when graded exams are returned.

RESUBMISSIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR WRITING SKILLS. NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR REVISIONS OF CONTENT ON ANY EXAM.

Rubric for writing intensive courses

WRITING SKILL	Criteria	EXAM 1 PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE: (SEE NOTES BELOW TABLE)	EXAM 2 PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE. (SEE NOTES BELOW TABLE)
BASIC SKILLS	semantics, syntax, punctuation, spelling, possessives	2 %	2 %
COMPOSITION Skills	sentence structure, incomplete and run-on sentences, incorrect verb tense, agreement between subject, verb and object, disorganized or incomplete paragraph structure.	3%	3%
PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE		5/2 exams =10 points	5%/2 exams=10%

- *Two Writing Intensive Take-Home Essay Exams Will Be Assigned*
- *Each Writing Intensive grade counts 5% of final grade.*
- *Hence, Writing Intensive grade on two exams equals 10 percent of final grade.*