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 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 below. Four (4) 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: Four exams will be assigned. Each exam will be in the form of take-home essay questions. The total of all four (4) exams equal 100 points.

first exam=20 points; second exam=30 points; third and fourth exam=25 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.

**Criteria for the writing grade include, but are not limited to:**
1. structure and organization of response to the question
2. vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax
3. sentence structure, paragraph structure
4. in general, all mechanical writing skills expected of university graduates

**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):

- Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers In Their Own Land.*

**Syllabus (all weeks are approximate; actual dates may vary)**

**BB = available on Blackboard**

**Week 1**

**Week 2-3**

**Week 3**
- First Exam= 20 points. Includes 5 points for writing quality
Week 3-6  
Carol Stack, All Our Kin. (Read All)  

Week 6  
Second Exam=30 points. Includes 5 points for writing.

Week 7  
(BB) Stolberg, “You Want Compromise?”

Week 7-8  
(BB) Theda Skocpol, Diminished Democracy (selections include pages from different chapters).

Week 8-9  
Lecture (NO READINGS) “Culture Wars: America’s Polarized Values and Politics.”

Weeks 9-10  

Week 10-11  
Third exam=25 points.

Week 10-11  

Week 11-12  
Kathleen Gerson, The Unfinished Revolution, pp. 17-32, 98-99, chaps. 5, 6, 7, 8, read all.

Week 13-14  

Fourth Exam=25 points. Due date during exam week.