HS1001: Person and Society

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Office Hours: F 2 – 3, and by appointment.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available for purchase in NIE Popular Book store):

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a general introduction to the discipline of sociology. A branch in social sciences, Sociology studies human behavior and the organization of society guided by the assumption that human behavior is shaped by the groups to which we belong and the social forces external to us. We will examine its history, essential concepts, major theories, research methods, and applications that exemplify the sociological way of thinking and analysis. I hope you will come to appreciate the usefulness of sociology in making sense of everyday life. A primary goal of the course is to facilitate your understanding of the extent to which the choices people make are shaped by society in which they participate. Another goal is to learn to read social science texts critically, making connections between them and learning to formulate critical questions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. have a good understanding of the three sociological perspectives;
2. identify and describe major important sociological theories;
3. gain a better understanding of how social conditions shape individual behavior;
4. apply sociological concepts, terms, and theories to the processes of everyday life
5. develop a greater understanding of and tolerance for individuals from other social and cultural backgrounds.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

6.1 Readings: This course consists mainly of lectures and tutorials. Lectures are designed to address various sociological concerns and issues and will draw on information from assigned readings and outside sources. Tutorial sessions entail class discussion, in-class assignments, and student presentations. In order to profit from lectures and to contribute constructively to class/group discussions, it is important that you read carefully and think about the assigned readings before coming to class. To do well in this course, you need to work conscientiously and consistently come to class prepared.

6.2 Exams and Assignments: There will be two exams based on the assigned readings, class lectures and discussions, and other materials such as films covered in class. All graded written work should be typed and double-spaced. Late assignments will be penalized one full letter grade each calendar day late.

6.3 Class Attendance and Participation: Students are required to attend both lectures and tutorial sessions. Some of the materials covered in class are not discussed in your readings. Thus, you must have a complete set of lecture notes to adequately prepare for each exam. You are also expected to engage in college-level class discussion on readings and academic topics.

6.4 Professionalism in classroom:
Private conversations during class are disruptive, distracting, and have a negative effect on classroom atmosphere. Cell phones should be put on silent mode. Laptop computers should be used only for class related note taking and reference. Laptop misuse (e.g., checking/sending email, web surfing, or playing games) will result in losing the privilege of using laptops in class.

7. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All members of the NTU community are responsible for upholding the values of academic integrity in all academic undertakings. At the beginning of the semester, students are required to submit a signed declaration guaranteeing the originality of all graded and non-graded work throughout the semester. Students are expected to have fully read current academic policies regarding academic honesty at [http://academicintegrity.ntu.edu.sg/policy/](http://academicintegrity.ntu.edu.sg/policy/). You will find a copy of academic integrity declaration page at the end of the syllabus. All students are required to read the page carefully, print it out, fill in the course information, sign it and turn it in to me by 30 January in tutorials. The declaration page is a required assignment of the course. Late work policy applies and no exam or other assignment will be graded if the declaration page is not turned in.

8. ASSESSMENT:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Test</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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9. COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1

Course Introduction: What is Sociology?
- L. McIntyre, Introduction and Ch 1
- No Tutorial class

Week 2

Theoretical Perspectives
- L. McIntyre, Ch 2, 4
- C. Wright Mills, “The Promise” in The Sociological Imagination,

Week 3

Culture
- L. McIntyre, Ch 7
M. Harris, “India’s Sacred Cow”, in G.L. Carter ed. *Empirical Approaches to Sociology*, p 96-103, 2010

Week 4

**Groups and Social Structure**
- McIntyre, Ch 8

Week 5

**Socialization**
- L. McIntyre, Ch 10

Week 6

**Social Research**
- L. McIntyre, Ch 5, 6

Week 7

- **Mid-term Test on 24 Sept** (no lecture)
- Video: TBA

Week 8

**Society and Social Institutions**
- L. McIntyre, Ch 9
- “Tuck in that Shirt!” *Race, Class, Gender and Discipline in an Urban School*
- Student presentation

Week 9

**Stratification and Inequality**
- L. McIntyre, Ch 12
- “Land of Opportunity” (James Lowen)
- “American Nightmares” [Katherin Newman(1988) in *Falling From Grace: The Experience of Downward Mobility in the American Middle Class;*
- Student presentation
Week 10

Social Class

- L. McIntyre, Ch 13
- “Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America” (Barbara Ehrenreich)
- “The Job Ghetto” (Katherine Newman and Chauncy Lennon)
- **Student presentation**

Week 11

Race, Ethnicity and Gender, Part 1 (focusing the discussion on race and ethnicity)

- L. McIntyre, Ch 14
- “Racism” (Joe Feagin)
- “The Model Minority Myth: Asian Americans Confront Growing Backlash” (Yin Ling Leung)
- **Student presentation**

Week 12

Race, Ethnicity and Gender, Part 2 (focusing the discussion on sex and gender)

- L. McIntyre, Ch 9
- **Student presentation**

Week 13

Deviance and Social Control

- L. McIntyre, Ch 9
- “The Normality of Crime” (Emile Durkheim)
- “Situational Ethics and College Student Cheating” (Emily LaBeff, Robert Clark, Valerie Haines, and George Diekhoff)

Week 14 – Week 16: **Revision and Examination**

Weekly topics and reading assignments are tentative. Changes (such as additions and deletions) may be made from time to time. Students are responsible for keeping up with the changes announced in class or on NTULearn.