

Sociology 4399w: Senior Seminar in Sociology
Section 1: Monday and Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30
CHSS 242B
3 Credits
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Douglas H. Constance
Office: 270W: CHSS
Phone: 936-294-1514
E-mail: soc_dhc@shsu.edu

Office Hours: M – W: 1-2;
or by appointment

Required Texts:

Quinn, Daniel. **Ishmael: A Journey of Mind and Spirit**
Bell, Daniel. **Communitarianism and its Critics**

Suggested Readings:

Durkhiem, Emile. **The Division of Labor in Society**
Weber, Max. **The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.**
Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels. **The Communist Manifesto**
Marx, Karl. **Capital: Volume 1, Chapters 26 through 33**
Rostow, W.W. **The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto.**
Brewer, Anthony. **Frank, Wallerstein, and Dependency Theorists**
McMichael, Philip. **Development and Social Change**
Harvey, David. **The Condition of Post Modernity**
Harvey, David. **A Brief History of Neoliberalism**
Amin, Ash (ed.) **Post-Fordism**
Beck, Ulrich **The Risk Society: Toward a New Modernity**

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- 1) have a broad knowledge of the sociological literature on balancing economic growth and social stability in industrial society.
- 2) have a general knowledge of the sociological literature regarding the globalization of economy and society.
- 3) have professional experience at writing book reviews, research papers, and conference-style presentations.

Class Format: This is capstone undergraduate class for Sociology majors. The main problematic in sociology is how to balance economic development with social stability as society transforms from feudalism to capitalism. Overall, the goal of the seminar is to develop a critical interpretation of the various theories and interpretations of this topic. The “Great Transformation” from feudalism to capitalism was generally heralded as a positive societal event but most early social scientists were concerned about the social effects of this revolutionary form of economic development. This seminar uses a historical approach to study the processes and effects of the “Great Transformation.” The course is divided into three historical periods. First the classics (Comte, Hegel, Durkheim, Weber, and Marx) are reviewed to identify the central

features of the transition from feudalism to capitalism. Then the characteristics of the modernization project are investigated via the works of Parsons and Rostow along with the Dependency Theorists' critique of modernization. Finally, the debate on the transition from Modernism to Post-Modernism (or Fordism to Post-Fordism), what is sometimes called the Second Industrial Divide, is investigated by focusing on the phenomenon and concepts of globalization.

Tests and Grading: The evaluations and grading is as follows: two exams worth 200 points each; two book reviews worth 100 points each; one term paper worth 200 points; one video quiz worth 100 points; and, one group-project worth 100 points, for a total of 1000 points. In the event that a student cannot take an exam or quiz at the regularly scheduled time, s/he must notify Dr. Constance prior to the scheduled evaluation to make arrangements for a make-up. Students must provide verifiable documentation to justify their absence from the exam. Class assignments turned in late (book reviews and term paper assignments) will be penalized 10% of the grade per day for the first two days; after two days the assignments will not be accepted. The movie quiz assignment will not be accepted if turned in late.

Grades will be assigned based on the total number of points earned during the semester: 900-1000 = A; 800-899 = B; 700-799 = C; 600-699 = D; below 600 points = F. There is no grade curve in this class.

Exams and quizzes are a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and short and medium essays. The book reviews are to be 4-5 pages, double-spaced, one-inch margins, and 12 point Times New Roman font. The format for the book reviews is posted in Blackboard under the Course Documents Tab. The paper is on one of two topics: the World Trade Organization or Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) food. The paper will be at least 8 pages in length (not counting references) with the same format of the book reviews. The requirements for the organization of the paper are posted in Blackboard under the Course Documents Tab. The class will be divided into 3-4 groups and each group will conduct a commodity chain analysis assigned by the professor and present the research in a professional poster format. One-half (50%) of the grade for the group project will be assigned by the professor and one-half (50%) by the group members. The instructions for the commodity chain presentation are posted in Blackboard under the Course Documents Tab.

Extra Credit: There are 4 extra credits worth 20 points each offered during the semester. The extra credits are response papers of readings either provided by the professor and/or independently research by the student. The response papers will be at least 4 pages long and no more than 5 pages long, double-spaced, one-inch margins, and 12 point Times New Roman font. The papers are due at the BEGINNING of class on the date listed in the syllabus. Late papers will not be accepted. The instructions are under the Extra Credit Tab in Blackboard.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes and participate fully in class activities. A record of attendance will be maintained by the instructor. Punctual attendance is also expected of each student. Please be respectful and arrive to class on time. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for both absences and tardiness and are also expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work. Failure to do so will affect grades.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner

that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/9edd8433-cad5-40d1-b4bf-6a91b08f90e4.pdf>
SSD Office Location: Lee Drain Annex (next to the Farrington Building); Ph. 936-294-3512; TDD: 936-294-3786; E-mail: disability@shsu.edu; Web Address: www.shsu.edu/disability

Religious Holidays: The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Religious Holy Day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes or exams due to Religious Holy Days. <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

University Code of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. If a cell phone is out during an exam, the student will receive an F for that exam. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply with these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class. <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

Evaluation: Students will have the opportunity to evaluate the professor during the semester.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. If a cell phone is out during an exam, the

student will receive an F for that exam. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply with these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class.

Visitors In The Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Schedule of Class Activities and Assignments.

WEEK OF:

- August 21: Overview of Lenski and Lenski
The Early Debate - Comte and Hegel and Kant
Begin reading Ishmael.
- August 28: The Early Debate - Comte and Hegel and Kant
Durkheim, **The Division of Labor**, and more
Extra Credit #1 C. Wright Mills' Sociological Imagination due (**Wednesday**)
- Sept. 4: Weber, **The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism**, and more.
Ishmael book review due (**Wednesday**)
- Sept. 11: Marx, **Capital: Volume 1, Chapters 26 through 33**, and more.
Extra Credit #2: Marx readings due (**Monday**)
- Sept. 18: Parsons, Rostow, and Modernization
Rostow, **The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto**
Frank, Wallerstein, and Dependency Theorists, and more
Extra Credit #3: Modernization versus Dependency due (**Monday**)
- Sept. 25: Finish Modernization
Discussion of Communitarianism
Communitarianism book review due (**Wednesday**)
- Oct. 2 **Mid-Term.** (Monday)
- Oct. 19: Movie and Quiz: The Milagro Beanfield War (**Monday**)
Quiz due (Wednesday)
- Oct. 16: Globalization of Economy and Society
Extra Credit #4 on Harvey's **The Condition of Postmodernity** due (**Monday**)
- Oct. 26: Globalization of Economy and Society
- Oct. 31: Globalization of Economy and Society: Agrifood Studies
Term Paper: Title Page, Introduction due (**20 points**) (**Monday**)

McMichael, Development and Social Change and more

- Nov. 6: Modernization, Post-Modernity, and Reflexive Modernization
Term Paper: Title Page, Introduction, Theory/Method, Data due (40 points) (Monday)
- Nov. 13: Modernization, Post-Modernity, and Reflexive Modernization
Term Paper: Draft due (80 points) (Monday)
- Nov. 20: Group Commodity Chain Project Presentations
(Thanksgiving)
- Nov. 27: Group Commodity Chain Project Presentations
Term Paper due (60 points) (Friday)
- Dec. 4: **Final Exam: Monday 5 to 7 p.m. (exact time TBD later)**