COURSE OBJECTIVES—Most people believe that they are the architects of their own destiny, and most of us like to think that we have the ability to make our own choices. While human beings do have some individual control over their lives, there are also powerful social forces that impact our life-chances and constrain our behavior. These social forces are the product of the society and culture in which we live as well as the behaviors and interactions of the people who surround us. In this class will delineate some of these social forces, and examine the way they affect our lives.

Sociology is, in essence, the study of societies - how they are formed, who controls them, what makes them dysfunctional, and how they fall apart. Sociology also explores group behavior - how people make sense of their world within a society, how people influence each other, and how people tend to behave in patterned ways. This course will begin to acquaint you with these methods of understanding and help you to make sense of human behavior from a sociological perspective.

OFFICE HOURS I will be available to meet with students on Wednesdays from 5:45 – 6:45pm and on Mondays from 10-11am or by appointment.

OFFICE – SIERRA TOWER 203

MESSAGES (818) 677-6326. If you would like to get a hold of me, it is best to e-mail me at kristyan.m.kouri@csun.edu

WEB ADDRESS: www.csun.edu/~kmk2296

BOOK – Introduction to Sociology by Giddens, Duneier, & Applebaum To be purchased at the Matador Book Store.

COURSE READER
To be purchased at Northridge Copy Center Located in the shopping mall on Nordhoff and Reseda. Northridge Copy Center is across from Carl’s Jr. and Next to Gold’s gym.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Midterm 1  50pts
Midterm 2  50pts
Final  55pts
MISSED MIDTERM – If you miss the midterm you will be required to take a comprehensive exam on the day of the final. It is your responsibility to let me know if you have missed a midterm.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY:

1. You will be given as much as five extra credit points for attendance. Here is how it works: Everyone in the class will have the five points at the beginning of the class. You will be given three free absences for things you need to take care of, doctor’s appointments or sick days. You will, however, be deducted 1pt for every absence thereafter. If you have eight or more absences, you will not receive any extra credit points.

   a. excused absences can be made up by attending CSUN lectures that will be announced throughout the course.

   **Extra Credit Point Break Down**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Extra Credit Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 or less</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 absences</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 absences</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>6 absences</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 absences</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 or more absences</td>
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</tbody>
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You will be given three free absences for things you need to take care of like doctor’s appointments or sick days.

**SERVICE LEARNING COMPONENT**

This course has an optional service-learning component. If you would like, you can donate 10 hours of your time to Glenwood Elementary School: that is one hour per week for ten weeks. You must keep a journal that integrates course theories and concepts introduced in this course into your journal entries. In return for this assignment, you will be permitted to forgo your second midterm. What this means is you don’t have to take it, and you will earn the points for this second midterm through your work at Glenwood Elementary School and your journal.
COURSE OUTLINE

This outline is tentative, and may be changed as we move through the course. Because class discussions are emphasized, and because I want to make sure everyone understands the course material, we may go somewhat slower than what is presented in this outline.

SECTION ONE   - Readings – to be completed by Monday September 27, 2004

TEXT:
Chapter 1 What is Sociology
Chapter 3 Culture & Society
Chapter 13 Government, Political Power, & Social Movements

COURSE READER:
  1. Culture and Meaning
  2. Freud

MIDTERM 1. - MWF CLASSES, September 29, 2004
   TTH CLASS, Thursday September 30, 2004

SECTION 2


TEXT:
Chapter 4 Socialization & the Life Cycle
Chapter 15 Families & Intimate Relationships
Chapter 17 Religion in Modern Society
Chapter 16 Education pp. 498-512

COURSE READER:

  1. Arranging a Marriage in India
  2. Who needs Love! In Japan Many Couples Don’t.

MIDTERM 2. - MWF CLASSES, WEDNESDAY November 10, 2004
   TTH CLASS, TUESDAY November 9, 2004
SECTION 3

Chapter 8 Stratification, Class, and Inequality
Chapter 10 Gender Inequality
Chapter 11 Ethnicity & Race
Chapter 7 Conformity Deviance and Crime

Course Reader: My Turn: The Newspapers Tell Only Half the Story
   The Apple Falls close to the Tree
   Could Bill Gates Have Succeeded if he were Black...or Poor?
   A Racist on the Rise

Last Day of Formal Instruction: Friday December 3, 2004

FINAL EXAM – MWF 9am class - Monday December 6, 2004 9-10
   MWF 11am class - Monday December 6, 2004 10:15-11:15
   8am Tuesday/Thursday class – Tuesday December 7, 2004 9:00-10:00am

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I understand that in this class:

1. traditional ways of thinking about human behavior will be challenged, and I may find
   this process discomfoting.

   a. if I do not like a particular framework/theory discussed in class, I will refrain from
      taking out my anger on Dr. Kouri.

   b. I will also be required to listen and learn about these frameworks even though I may
      not agree with them.

2. I will be responsible for completing all of the readings.

   a. the readings will be integrated into the lectures rather than fully outlined in class.

   b. I can make an appointment to meet with Dr. Kouri if I have difficulty understanding
      the readings or if I would like to discuss any of the course materials.

   c. exam questions will be drawn from lectures, readings, films, and other presentations.

   d. if I have difficulties taking multiple-choice exams help is available through the
      Learning Resource Center, phone 677-2684.
3. I need to be attentive during class, and if I have something I must immediately say to the person next to me, I am free to leave the room and engage in conversation.

a. Students who persist in disrupting the class will have points deducted from their extra credit score and will be asked to leave the room for the remainder of the class period.

4. That I need to purchase the book and the course reader and read the book and the articles in the course reader if I am to pass this class with a C or better.

a. That I need to keep all of my scantron tests until I receive my final grade.

5. An emphasis will be placed on listening to the voices of all people, and I will need to politely listen to viewpoints different from my own.

a. Most social issues are sensitive subjects, and many well meaning people make inadvertent comments that some people might find offensive.

b. If an incident such as this occurs, I am free to politely explain to the person why they find this comment troubling.

5. Cheating and Plagiarism are serious offenses and if you are caught cheating you will receive an automatic F on the test. If you are caught turning in a paper that does not consist of your original work you will receive an automatic F on the paper. Furthermore, if you are caught engaging in any of these acts of academic dishonesty, your name will be submitted to William Watkins, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Dr. Watkins will in turn add your name to a list of people who have engaged in academic dishonesty. If you are caught engaging in academic dishonesty a second time, you may be expelled from the University.

a. When it comes to the sign-in sheet, signing a name for an absent friend is considered cheating. If you are caught forging a friend’s signature, neither one of you will receive credit for attending the class that day or all other days that the forgeries have occurred.

6. I am responsible for signing an attendance sheet that will be passed around each day, and if I miss it I will not be able to add my name at a later date.

a. I will be given three unexcused absences and will be docked one point for every absence thereafter. Hence if I have 8 absences, I will not receive any extra credit points.

b. If I have nine or more absences, I will be in danger of failing this course.
c. if I have a documented medical emergency which causes me to go over my nine absence limit, I must contact Dr. Kouri immediately and she will assist me in dropping the course.

7. it is common for students to come to Dr. Kouri at the end of the course or even after the course is over asking “Is there anything I can do improve my grade? Can I write a paper for extra credit?” There is nothing you can do. If you want a good grade come to class, keep up with the readings, and start studying early on.

**GRADING POLICIES**

Grading is based on a straight percentage scale. Students who receive the following percents of the total possible points (approximately 155) will receive the following grades:

- 100-94% A
- 93-90% A-
- 89-87% B+
- 86-84% B
- 83-80% B-
- 79-77% C+
- 76-74% C
- 73-70% C-
- 69-67% D

I have read the Syllabus, Statement of Understanding, and Grading policy and clearly understand what is expected of me.

Print Name______________________________________
Signature______________________________________Date_______________