

Sociology 3400

Social Change

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Office Hours: Weekdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon), or by appointment.

Course Description

This course addresses the factors which change society and how society changes, emphasizing technological innovations and its implications, social movements, and the role of individuals.

Course Objectives

In completing this course you will:

- become familiar with theories of social change;
- learn the different mechanisms of social change;
- become familiar with the roles of technology, social movements, corporations and governments in social change;
- examine examples of social change from the community to the global level;
- better understand how people try and do influence power structures;
- further develop your writing ability, as well as your capacity for critical thinking and analysis.

Readings

Massey, Garth. 2012. *Ways of Social Change: Making Sense of Modern Times*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications.

Additionally, handouts, internet sites, and reserve readings as given out or presented in class.

Course Requirements

Reaction Papers (50% of Grade)

There will be five reaction papers. A question(s) will be provided for each entry. These entries are an opportunity for you to explore your feelings and thoughts about various issues discussed in class and in the readings, without having to provide academic argument. However, thoughts are to be elucidated. Assessment of entries does not focus on use of English, but rather on the comprehensiveness of your entry, how in-depth you go into uncovering and exploring why you have the thoughts and feelings you do. Entries should include your attitudes, behaviors and feelings about the particular topic, not simply a cognitive analysis. There is no right or wrong answer to the question(s), and thus the entries will not be assessed according to this criteria. Each entry should be two to three double-space, 12 point font size, with one inch margins on all four sides. You may use first person and not academic style writing, and informal language. Don't censor yourself – be open and explore yourself and who you are, and try not to write the journal entry the night before it is due. A reaction paper requires reflection and this takes time.

Reaction papers that are submitted late will be deducted a minimum 10% penalty of this assessment. **Reaction papers need to be turned in online by the listed Sunday night.**

Book Review (40% of Grade)

For the book review you will need to evaluate it in five to eight double-space, typed pages, with 12 point font, one inch margins all around, covering the following points:

1. Most authors have a single theme, or a few key points, to develop in their writings. State what you understand to be that theme or those points in a sentence or two.
2. Summarize the book in detail.
3. Now criticize the reading as if you were writing a review for a professional journal. The main approach is to take the author's theme or main points, already identified, and examine the extent to which he or she develops a logical and coherent argument to support the theme or points. Included here should also be an assessment of the evidence used to support the argument: Is the evidence relevant? Is the evidence of good quality? Is the evidence/book well organized?

Participation and Attendance (10% of Grade)

Participation and attendance will count in the final grade. Participation is vital to a course of this nature, and is encouraged and expected. These issues are not cut-and-dry; they deserve discussion. The class will be quite dull if I have to lecture the entire time without comments, questions and observations from you. In order for you to participate intelligently, it is necessary for you to read the material before class.

Attendance will be taken at each class period and participation will be noted. Up to 3 absences will not count against your grade. The absences are provided because I understand that real life occasionally collides with your school responsibilities and these absences give you the flexibility to responsibly manage conflicting circumstances that may arise during the course of the term without severe consequences for your point total. Additionally, if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the information, not mine. Since my class notes are not detailed and prepared speeches, you will need to get the missed material from a classmate.

Academic Integrity

In addition to, but not instead of, assigned readings, you may wish to consult other sources (including discussing assignments with other students). This is acceptable, but is not required. However, in all instances you must do your own work and credit must be given where credit is due. There is no excuse for plagiarism or for submitting another's work, ideas or wording as your own. If you plagiarize or otherwise cheat you will receive a failing grade for the course and your name will be forwarded to the Dean of Students. Any student who does not understand how to avoid plagiarism must request assistance from the instructor.

Students with Disabilities

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

Important Student Services

As a student, you are eligible to receive free or reduced-cost medical care at the Student Health Center, Rm. 109, Student Services Building, phone: 626-6249. Their hours are M-F, 8am to 4pm. A student pharmacy is located in the same building. You are also eligible for free mental health counseling from the Weber State Counseling Center, phone: 626-6406. Another good resource for students (and non-students) is the local Planned Parenthood office, phone: 479-7721. Please be advised that emergency next-day contraception, also known as Plan B, is legally available without a prescription at Utah pharmacies to anyone over 18 with a photo ID.

However, individual pharmacists are permitted to refuse you this medication if they so desire.

Note: This syllabus and schedule represent my best guess about what we will be doing in this class this quarter. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, the due dates of all readings and assignments are subject to change. All changes will be announced in advance in class. Each student is responsible for keeping track of all changes.

A Second Note: No texting while in class. No use of laptops for taking notes without my express permission. Studies are showing that students who use laptops while in class perform worse on course work than students who do not use them.

Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings and Assignments
1	Introduction	Chapter 1
2	Recognizing Social Change	Chapter 2
3	Theories of Social Change	Chapter 3; 1 st Reaction paper due Sunday, 9/15/2013
4	Theories of Social Change	Chapter 3; Book proposal due Friday, 9/20/2013
5	Technology, Science, and Social Change	Chapter 4
6	Technology, Science, and Social Change	Chapter 4; 2 nd Reaction paper due Sunday, 10/6/2013
7	Social Movements and Social Change	Chapter 5
8	Social Movements and Social Change	Chapter 5
9	Wars, Revolutions, and Social Change	Chapter 6; 3 rd Reaction paper due Sunday, 10/27/2013
10	Wars, Revolutions, and Social Change	Chapter 6
11	Corporations and Social Change	Chapter 7

12	Corporations and Social Change	Chapter 7; 4 th Reaction paper due Sunday, 11/17/2013
13	States and Social Change	Chapter 8
14	States and Social Change	Chapter 8
15	Social Change in the future	Chapter 9; 5 th Reaction paper due Sunday, 12/8/2013
Finals		Book Review due, Tuesday, 12/11/2013 at noon.