

Society, Culture and Personality: Social Sciences 1 Fall 2011

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(Please consult your section's instructor for policies concerning office hours and further contact information.)

Social Sciences 1 examines the interrelationship and interaction between individuals and their cultural and social world. It aims to give a better understanding of how individuals live, develop, and are affected by their culture. We examine what it means to be human, asking such questions as the following: Is there such a thing as human nature independent of society? Is human nature innate or socially constructed? Some of the topics addressed include class, gender, race, normality, deviation, custom, and tradition.

The following are the learning and writing objectives determined by the Shimer College Faculty for this course.

* Demonstrate understanding of the basic categories and terms used in seminal texts in the social sciences. * Demonstrate facility with the concepts and vocabulary of theories of human development. * Show comprehension of the methods of data collection and other approaches within the social sciences and the strengths and weaknesses of such approaches. * Examine issues in the social sciences from multiple perspectives. * Demonstrate empathic understanding of cultures and perspectives other than one's own. * Show awareness of one's relationship to other people and to one's social and cultural environment.

Write competent College-level prose. * Construct persuasive arguments. * Express ideas with confidence and clarity. * Demonstrate command of sentence and paragraph structure. * Select, introduce, and analyze quotations. * Learn and demonstrate use of inclusive language. * Learn how to revise, rethink, and edit essays.

Course Requirements

WRITING (60% of the final grade): Social Sciences 1 is a designated writing course. This means that special emphasis will be placed on improving your writing through a series of papers. There are four required essays, and at least one of the first two papers must be rewritten with the aim of substantially improving both the content and formal aspects of the writing. **You must receive passing grades on all four papers and one required rewrite in order to pass the course.**

All your papers should be turned in on time in order to get the most out of the course, and to take advantage of in-class workshops on the days papers are due. All four papers and required rewrite are due no later than 4 PM Friday, December 2, 2011. You may rewrite any of the papers you turn in on time for a revised grade as long as you are up to date on required assignments. Such optional rewrites are due by the same date and time. You may receive a lower grade on papers

not turned in by the original due date. You may receive warnings of your ability to pass the course if you fall significantly behind on your written work.

All papers must be double-spaced, paginated, typed, 4 to 6 pages in length, and have titles. They must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Each paper must focus on the text, and you must use references from the text to support your claims. We will review standard formats for citing ideas and quotations from texts. Please be aware that plagiarism of any kind (of words or ideas) will not be tolerated and will have serious consequences. Students are expected to make an effort to use gender neutral language in their writing and in class discussion (a handout on this subject will be distributed in class). For all rewrites, you must submit the original paper along with the instructor's comments.

You will be given suggestions for paper topics. You are welcome to use one of them, to revise them in a direction that you prefer, or to select a topic of your own devising. If you choose a topic other than one of those on the topic sheet, please discuss it with your instructor beforehand to make sure it is a manageable topic for a short paper. Your instructor is available to work with you on your writing, so be sure to take advantage of this opportunity.

DISCUSSION (40% of the final grade): You are expected to come to class prepared to participate actively in the discussion of each day's reading. This means reading the materials carefully, making a serious effort to understand the assignment prior to class, and bringing to class questions about the text to engage yourself and others in discussion. A good discussion depends upon careful preparation and respect for the text, willingness to speak and to listen and learn from others, open-mindedness to other points of view, and mutual respect on the part of all members of the class. It is not about winning an argument, or simply having one's own ideas prevail. Our common goal is to gain a deeper understanding of the text.

Absence policy: Each student is expected to attend every class on time. The maximum number of allowable absences is four (4). Further absences will be considered excessive and may result in your being unable to pass the class. Excessive lateness and/or early departures from class will be considered partial absences. If you must miss a class, please let your instructor know in advance if at all possible. You will be given a written warning if your absences or latenesses are becoming excessive and you are at risk of being unable to pass the course. Further, frequent departures from class (including for bathroom breaks) can be deleterious to focused discussion; please keep such breaks to a minimum. You may be warned and your participation grade may suffer if your tendency to leave the room during class frequently or for prolonged periods becomes problematic.

Course Materials

FULL TEXTS:

Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*
DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
Durkheim, *Suicide*
Freud, *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis*
Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*
James, *Psychology: The Briefer Course*
Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader*

Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

REPRINTS (included in a course packet):

- Boddy, "Spirits and Selves in Northern Sudan"
Chodorow, "Family Structure and Feminine Personality"
Freud, *New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*, Lecture XXXI
_____, "The Case of Miss Elizabeth Von R."
Kohlberg, "Moral Stages and Moralization"
Mills, "The Establishment and Defeat of Hierarchy"
Ortner, "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" and "So, Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?"
Piaget, "Moral Feelings and Judgments"
Schieffelin, "Performance and the Cultural Construction of Reality"
Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*
Weiner, "Cultural Difference and the Density of Objects"

Course Calendar

- T Aug 25 Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*, Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1-3
- M Aug 29 Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*, Chapters 4-6
W Aug 31 Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*, Chapters 7-8
T Sep 1 Schieffelin, "Performance and the Cultural Construction of Reality"
- M Sep 5 Labor Day (No Class)
W Sep 7 Weiner, "Cultural Difference and the Density of Objects" and Mills, "The Establishment and Defeat of Hierarchy"
T Sep 8 **Writing Workshop, Paper 1 Due in Class**
- M Sep 12 Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, "Forethought, Chapter 1-2
W Sep 14 Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Chapters 3-7
T Sep 15 Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Chapters 9-10, 14, The Afterthought"
- M Sep 19 Durkheim, *On Suicide*, Introduction, Book 1, Chapters 1-2 (pp. 15-91)
W Sep 21 Durkheim, *On Suicide*, Book 2, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 147-224, skim 200-217)
T Sep 22 Durkheim, *On Suicide*, Book 2, Chapters 4-6 (pp. 234-305, skim 306-325)
- M Sep 26 Durkheim, *On Suicide*, Book 3, Chapters 1, 3 (pp. 329-362, 403-437)
W Sep 28 James, *Psychology, The Briefer Course*, Chapters 1-2
T Sep 29 **Writing Workshop, Paper 2 Due in Class**
- M Oct 3 James, *Psychology, The Briefer Course*, Chapters 3, 9-10
W Oct 5 James, *Psychology, The Briefer Course*, Chapters 15, 17
T Oct 6 Dean's Break (No Class)
- M Oct 10 Freud, *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis*, Lectures 1-3
W Oct 12 Freud, *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis*, Lectures 4-5
T Oct 13 Freud, "The Case of Miss Elizabeth Von R"

M Oct 17	Freud, <i>New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis</i> , Lecture XXXI
W Oct 19	Piaget, "Moral Feelings and Judgments"
T Oct 20	Kohlberg, "Moral Stages and Moralization"
M Oct 24	Gilligan, <i>In a Different Voice</i> , Letter to Reader, Introduction, Chapter 1
W Oct 26	Gilligan, <i>In a Different Voice</i> , Chapters 2-3
T Oct 27	Writing Workshop, Rewrite of Paper 1 or 2 Due in Class
M Oct 31	Gilligan, <i>In a Different Voice</i> , Chapters 4-6
W Nov 2	Chodorow, "Family Structure and Feminine Personality," Ortner, "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" and "So, <i>Is</i> Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?"
T Nov 3	Boddy, "Spirits and Selves in Northern Sudan"
M Nov 7	Smith, <i>Theory of Moral Sentiments</i> , Selections from Parts 1 and 3
W Nov 9	Smith, <i>Theory of Moral Sentiments</i> , Selections from Parts 4 and 6
T Nov 10	Writing Workshop, Paper 3 Due in Class
M Nov 14	Marx, <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> , "Estranged Labor" and "Private Property and Communism"
W Nov 16	Marx, <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> , "The Meaning of Human Requirements"
T Nov 17	Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>
M Nov 21	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , Author's Introduction, Part 1, Chapters 1-2
W Nov 23	Holiday Break (No Class)
T Nov 24	Holiday Break (No Class)
M Nov 28	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , Part 1, Chapter 3; Part 2, Chapter 4, A-B
W Nov 30	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> Part 2, Chapter 5
T Dec 1	Writing Workshop, Paper 4 Due in Class
F Dec 2	All Rewrites Due 4 PM