

SOCIAL SCIENCES I
Society, Culture, and Personality
Fall 2008

Ann Dolinko
Office: 219
E-mail: a.dolinko@shimer.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is concerned with the relationship between individuals and the social and cultural world in which they live. We will examine what it means to be human, asking such questions as: Is there such a thing as human nature independent of society? Is human nature innate or socially constructed? What is the relationship between the individual and the society into which she or he is born? We will explore these and related questions from a range of perspectives using readings in anthropology, sociology, psychology, and economics. Many of these readings will direct us towards lines of thought that will emerge more fully in later moments in the Social Sciences core.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Writing: One of the central objectives of Social Sciences I is work on writing. This is a designated writing course, and the writing and rewriting that we do will be a major part of our emphasis. A student who fails to hand in even one writing assignment will not be able to pass the class. Students will write four short papers and will have to rewrite at least one of them. In order to gain the most out of the course, you must turn your papers in on time; this way you will get the necessary feedback on your writing, have time to rewrite, and will be able to develop your skills over the semester.

Discussion: Discussion will also make up a large portion of your grade. Good discussion happens when careful preparation has taken place, when participants come into the class with respect for the text and for one another. Bring in questions as well as opinions; be ready to modify your opinions if you are offered persuasive contrary evidence. A discussion is not about defending positions; it is about coming together to explore the various meanings of a text. Try to leave prejudice concerning authors or their positions aside as you read; a good discussion may either confirm or change your position, and it should certainly clarify it. Empathic listening, thoughtful speaking, thoughtful questions, and openness to the opinions of others will help discussion flow.

A good discussion also depends on a group that learns, through the semester, to trust one another so that real intellectual and emotional risks can be taken. For this reason, discussion must go beyond any individual achievement and develop into a cohesive group activity. Note that you cannot participate in a discussion which you do not attend; lateness and absence detracts from any one discussion and hurts both yourself and the class.

If you miss more than **FOUR** class sessions, you will most likely fail the course.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Four papers, 4-5 pages in length, each worth 15% of your final grade. Discussion will make up the remaining 40% of your grade.

You have the option to rewrite/revise all of the papers handed in on time and are required to rewrite at least 1 of them. Please submit your original paper along with rewrites.

POLICIES:

-Barring emergencies, due date extensions for written assignments must be requested in advance of the deadline.

-In the interest of fairness to other students, there has to be a special circumstance for an extension to be granted. Merely wanting to do better work, though commendable, cannot justify giving more time to one student than to others.

-Students are expected to make an effort to use gender neutral language in their writing and in class discussion.

--All papers should be typed, paginated, and double-spaced. Your essays must focus on the text; you must use references from the text to support your claims.

--Papers other than the final paper, *if they have been turned in by the due date*, may be revised and resubmitted for a new grade. *The original paper, with my comments, must be turned in with the revised version.*

--No papers will be accepted after 5PM Tuesday, November 25.

TEXTS:

Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*

Chodorow, "Family Structure and Feminine Personality"

DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

Durkheim, *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*

Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*

Freud *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis*

New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis

"The Case of Miss Elizabeth Von R." (photocopy)

Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*

Harvey, *Writing with Sources*

Kohlberg, "Moral Stages and Moralization"

Marx and Engels, *The Marx-Engels Reader*

Turnbull, *The Mountain People*

Piaget, "Moral Feelings and Judgments"

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

Reading Schedule: The following schedule is approximate and students are responsible for keeping track of the specific reading assignments, paper due dates, and writing workshops as I announce them in class. You are responsible for finding out if any additions or changes have been made to this schedule while you were absent.

- Fri. Aug. 22 Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*: Preface, Introduction, Chapter I, II & III
- Mon. Aug. 25 Benedict: Chapter IV
Wed. Aug. 27 Benedict: Chapter V
Fri. Aug. 29 Benedict: Chapter VI
- Mon. Sept. 1 Labor Day, no class.
Wed. Sept. 3 Benedict: Chapters VII & VIII
Fri. Sept. 5 Turnbull, *The Mountain People*, Chapters 1-3
Discuss paper topics
- Mon. Sept. 8 Turnbull: Chapters 4-8
Wed. Sept. 10 Turnbull: Chapters 9-end
Fri. Sept. 12 **FIRST PAPER DUE**
- Mon. Sept. 15 DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*: Forethought, Chapters 1-3
Wed. Sept. 17 DuBois: Chapters 4-6
Fri. Sept. 19 DuBois: Chapters 7-9& 13
- Mon. Sept. 22 Freud, *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis*: Lectures 1 and 2
Wed. Sept. 24 Freud, *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis*: Lectures 3-5
Fri. Sept. 26 Freud, *New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*: Lecture XXXI
- Mon. Sept. 29 Freud, *New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*: Lecture XXXIII
Wed. Oct. 1 Freud, "The Case of Miss Elizabeth Von R."
REWRITE OF FIRST PAPER DUE
Fri. Oct. 3 Chodorow, "Family Structure and Feminine Personality"
- Mon. Oct. 6 Piaget, "Moral Feelings and Judgments"
Wed. Oct. 8 Kohlberg, "Moral Feelings and Judgments"
Fri. Oct. 10 Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*: "Letter to Reader," Introduction and Chapter 1
- Mon. Oct. 13 Gilligan: Chapter 2
Wed. Oct. 15 Gilligan: Chapters 3 & 4
Fri. Oct. 17 Dean's Break, no class
- Mon. Oct. 20 Gilligan: Chapters 5 & 6
Wed. Oct. 22 **SECOND PAPER DUE**
Fri. Oct. 24 Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, pp. 94-125
- Mon. Oct. 27 Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, pp 125-146
Wed. Oct. 29 Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*: "Estranged Labour" pp. 70-81
Fri. Oct. 31 Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*: "Private Property and Communism" pp. 81-93

Mon. Nov. 3 Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*: "The Meaning of Human Requirements" pp. 93-101

Wed. Nov. 5 **THIRD PAPER DUE**

Fri. Nov. 7 Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*: Author's Introduction and Chapter 1 (Reading the notes at the end of the Weber reading is not required.)

Mon. Nov. 10 Weber: Chapters 2 & 3

Wed. Nov. 12 Weber: Chapter 4

Fri. Nov. 14 Weber: Chapter 5

Mon. Nov. 17 Durkheim, *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*: Preface, Introduction, Book One, Chapter 1 (pp. 35-81)

Wed. Nov. 19 Durkheim: Book Two Chapters 1 & 2, Chapter 3 parts I, II, VI (pp. 145-189, 208-216)

Fri. Nov. 21 Durkheim: Book Two Chapters 4 & 5 (pp. 217-276)

Mon. Nov. 24 Durkheim: Book Three Chapter 1 parts I & II; Chapter 3 (pp. 297-306, 361-392)

Tues. Nov. 25 **FOURTH PAPER DUE**

ALL REWRITES DUE