

FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
College Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology
SOCI 375: Comparative Societies

I. LOCATOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Roger Klomegah, Ph.D.

Course Number & Name: SOCI 375 (D1): Comparative Societies (online)

Semester Credit Hours: 3:0

Day & Time Class Meets: Online. **Duration:** August 18 – December 2, 2011

E-mail: rklomegah@uncfsu.edu

Office Location: Taylor Social Science 108-B

Office Phone: 910-672-2139

Total Contact Hours for Class: 48

Office Hours: MWF 9:00am-12:00pm (or by appointment). Primary means of communication are email and Blackboard resources-*Announcements and Messages*.

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail.

Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at <http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a comparative study of human social life. It presents students with an overview of the major social, cultural, political, economic, and other organizational differences among human societies and the transformations that have occurred over the millennia. The major theoretical and empirical works in the field are examined. (*Prerequisites: Either SOCI 210, POLI 200, or permission of instructor*).

III. DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. TEXTBOOK

Schneider, Linda and Arnold Silverman. 2010. *Global Sociology: Introducing Five Contemporary Societies*, 5th edition. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.
ISBN 978-0-07-340418-9

Supplementary Book

Eitzen, Stanley D. (Ed). 2007. *Solutions to Social Problems: Lessons from Other Societies*. 4th ed. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.
ISBN 0-205-48243-0

FSU Blackboard Learning System Gateway: <http://blackboard.uncfsu.edu/?bbatt=Y>

V. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the sociological perspective, based on systematic study rather than common sense;
2. develop a sense of cultural relativism and an appreciation of other socio-cultural systems;
3. demonstrate an understanding of the application of basic sociological concepts in different societies;
4. identify and evaluate the limitations of over-simplified explanations of human behavior and societies;
5. compare and contrast the characteristics of societies at different stages of development;
6. discuss the relevance of global perspectives and cross-cultural analyses in the study of human societies.

VI. COURSE STRUCTURE (ARRANGEMENTS)

Teaching techniques are in the form of

- a) Questions and answers, discussions, and short essays.
- b) Student discussions, short essays, and reports will focus on sociological concepts relating to the social structures of five societies: Japan, Mexico, The San Peoples of Namibia, Egypt, and Germany.

NOTE:

- 1) The course involves reading, discussions, and writing assignments.
- 2) Attendance will be based on student participation in assignments, projects, and "Discussion Board."
- 3) I will maintain office hours on MWF (9:00 – 12:00) and students can reach me synchronously through **Chat** tool in **COLLABORATION**. Alternatively, students can reach me via email rklomegah@uncfsu.edu or phone (910-672-2139).
- 4) **Tests:** There are five units to be covered in the course and there will be five (5) tests. The five tests cover each of the five societies discussed in the textbook. Dates and times of testing are specified in the course syllabus.
- 5) Tests will be taken on Fridays (as scheduled).
- 6) Tests will be made available from **5AM to 11PM (Eastern Time)** on scheduled dates. The format of the tests is multiple-choice.
- 7) All tests will be timed and each student must take them within the specified time. **Blackboard records time spent in taking a test and if you exceed the specified time, points will be deducted equivalent to the exceeded time.**

- 8) Make ups will be available following a test and will be allowed only on Mondays and Tuesdays following the test. Please familiarize yourself with **make-up policy** described below.
- 9) **Discussion Forums:** Discussion forums (DFs) will be available to you weekly, from Monday through Friday (between 5:00am and 11:00pm on scheduled days).
- 10) Discussions **MUST** be elaborate. Writing only a couple of statements will not earn you a good score. Each student is supposed to respond to, at least, three posts delivered by classmates. Inappropriate language use is strictly not allowed. You can find rubrics and a protocol for discussion forums in Course Documents.
- 11) Evaluation checklist (rubrics) for activities is posted in Course Documents.
- 12) **Assignments:** There will be five (5) writing assignments. There is no specific schedule for assignments, but will be announced and should be completed by the deadline for each unit.
- 13) **Blogs:** Students will engage in blogging as a form of informal topical discussions on social, economic, political, and cultural issues in relevance to different societies.
Please note: Blogs should reflect the highest ethical standards in terms of language and expression. Inappropriate language use on blogs is strictly prohibited! Moreover, blogs should not be used as a forum for vindictiveness. I expect your adherence to this policy at all times.
 Blogs will not be graded, but will indicate class participation and attendance.
- 14) I am available during my office hours to answer any questions (via email, telephone, in person, or on Blackboard) that you may have. On Blackboard, you can reach me via Collaboration tab.
- 15) Please make reference the course number in all your communications to me.
- 16) All emails will be responded to within 48 hours.

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The following are the minimum requirements of SOCI 375:

1. Login to Blackboard and regularly and actively participate in the Discussion board.
2. Read all assigned materials in the textbook.
3. Read all assigned supplemental materials.
4. View all assigned video clips and documentaries and do all relevant assignments.
5. Take all five tests.

VIII. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Course Grade

The course grade will be based on five (5) tests, five (5) writing assignments, and ten (10) discussion forums.

Tests:

Tests will cover materials from the textbook. The format of the tests may be multiple-choice, true or false, and short-answer.

Requirements	Points
Test 1 Sept. 2	40
Test 2 Sept. 23	40

Test 3 Oct. 14	40
Test 4 Nov. 4	40
Test 5 Dec. 2	40
Discussion board (10)	100
Writing Assignments (5)	100

Total Possible Points	400

Accumulation of your total earned points, divided by total possible points, and multiplied by 100 will determine your course grade.

(Your total earned points ÷ Total possible points) x 100 = Earned semester score

FSU Grading Scale

A = 92-100 B = 83-91 C = 73-82 D = 64-72 F = 63 and below

IX. COURSE OUTLINE

NOTE: This schedule and test dates are flexible and are subject to change.

	Topic	Reading Assignment
Unit 1	<p>Introduction and overview of course policies and requirements Overview of Basic Sociological Concepts: <i>culture, social structure, values, norms, socialization, deviance, social control, social groups, gender roles, strain theory, class, status, power, gender inequality, social institutions.</i></p> <p>Japan: The Importance of Belonging Japan’s History Japanese Culture Social Structure and Group Life Socialization Deviance in a Demanding Society Gender Roles: A Focus for Rebellion Social Inequality in Japan: Class, Status, and Power Social Change and the Future Thinking Sociologically</p> <p>Test 1 – September 2</p>	Chapter 1
Unit 2	<p>Mexico: Nation of Networks Introduction Mexican History Mexican Culture Social Structure and Group Life Social Institutions Social Inequality Social Change and Mexico’s Poor Thinking Sociologically</p> <p>Test 2 – September 23</p>	Chapter 2

Unit 3	The San Peoples of Namibia: Ancient Culture in a New Nation Introduction History of the Bushmen Bushman Culture: A Design for Living Social Structure and Group Life Social Inequality Deviance and Social Control Socialization Social Change and the Future Thinking Sociologically Test 3 – October 14	Chapter 3
Unit 4	Egypt: Faith, Gender, and Class Introduction Egypt’s History Egypt’s Culture Deviance and Social Control Social Inequality in Egypt Social Change and the Future Thinking Sociologically Test 4 – November 4	Chapter 4
Unit 5	Germany: Diversity in a Modern Society Introduction German History German Culture Social Institutions of the Two Germanys Deviance and Social Control Social Change and the Future Reunification and Cultural Change Thinking Sociologically Test 5 – December 2	Chapter 5

X. ACADEMIC POLICIES

University-Wide Class Attendance Policy (Note: The expectations for online students are continuous login and engagement, including reading announcements and active participation in discussion boards)

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, laboratories, and other instructional sessions for all courses in which they are enrolled. Students are also expected to arrive to class on time and remain in class for the entire scheduled period. When students must miss class(es) for unavoidable reasons, i.e., illness, family emergencies, or participation in official university sponsored activities – they are responsible for informing faculty of the reasons for the absences, in advance if possible, and completing all missed assignments. Faculty members will indicate in their syllabi the conditions for making up missed assignments. During the first half of the semester/term, faculty will assign an interim grade of –EA,|| Excessive Absences, for students whose class absences exceed 10% of the total contact hours for the class. Students who receive EA interim grades must either withdraw from the class or resume attendance. Students who

resume attendance must consult with the instructor about completion of missed assignments. The EA is not a final grade, so students who are assigned an interim grade of EA, but do not withdraw from the class, will receive a final grade based on the evaluation criteria for the class. **Please note that the WN grade is no longer in effect. Students must not expect faculty to withdraw them from classes.**

Academic Dishonesty

Fayetteville State University's policy on academic dishonesty will be enforced. Please refer to the Student Handbook (<http://www.unctsu.edu/handbook>).

Make-Up/Deadline Policy

- Tests will be available to you all day long (5AM – 11PM Eastern Time) on the scheduled days (usually on Fridays).
- Make ups will be available following the test, on Mondays and Tuesdays only. Please note! Make ups will be available on **Mondays and Tuesdays** following a test.
- Discussion forums will be available weekly, from Monday through Friday (5:00am – 11:00pm).
- There is no make up for discussion forums and writing assignments.

I expect you to adhere strictly to deadlines for class exercises, discussion boards, tests, and assignments.

Teaching and Reading Strategies

Classes will involve video documentaries, open discussions, and researching information on the Internet. I will supplement the textbook with a number of journal articles. You will also view a number of videos online and write a review. It is very important that you read the textbook and all other materials on time. If you do, you will be able to make significant contributions on the Discussion Board.

Selected Bibliography/Resources

Boli, John, and George M. Thomas. 1997. "World Culture in the World Polity: A Century of International Non-Governmental Organization." *American Sociological Review* 62(2):171-90.

Childe, Gordon, V. 1951. *Man makes Himself*. New York: New American Library.

Davis, Kingsley. 1949. *Human Society*. New York. Macmillan, chapter 2.

Eitzen, Stanley D. (Ed). 2007. *Solutions to Social Problems: Lessons from Other Societies*. 4th ed. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

Gibbs, James (ed) 1965. *Peoples of Africa*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.

Lenski, Gerhard. 1988. "Rethinking Macrosociological Theory." *American Sociological Review* 53: 163-171.

Macionis, John and Nijole Benokraitis. 2001. *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, 5th edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.