Introduction:
This class is an introduction to sociology - the scientific study of human society. Sociologists seek to describe and explain general patterns in human social life. In the first part of the class we discuss how sociologists explain social life as a product of feedback processes between five factors: biology and human nature, culture and socialization, social groups and social networks, institutions and demography. In the second part of the class we discuss what sociologists have learned about a variety of topics including the family, inequality, gender inequality, race and ethnic relations, crime and violence, social processes affecting the environment, and social change.

Requirements: There will be three exams and 4 discussion papers. Exams are in-class examinations. Discussion papers on given topics are 1 page, typed, double-spaced and are graded Satisfactory/UnSatisfactory.

Grades: Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Discussion papers 10%
Exam 1 30%
Exam 2 30%
Exam 3 30%


My website: I do not use Moodle. Class information, homework assignments and reminders, lecture outlines and study guides are posted on my website. Please note I do not make my Powerpoint slides available to students.

General Course Policies:

My most general policy is this: if you have a problem with completing the course requirements, see me about it AHEAD of time. E-mail, phone, or text me before the due date and time. If you cannot do this, I require WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION explaining the situation. THIS POLICY IS STRICTLY ENFORCED.
Makeups of exams or discussion papers will be given only under the following circumstances: (a) you contact me prior to the exam date or paper due date with an unavoidable, legitimate reason for not taking the exam/doing the paper on time, (voice mail is OK, as long as you let me know BEFORE class); OR (b) you provide written evidence (medical excuse, funeral notice) for why you did not take the exam/do the paper at the scheduled time.

All makeups must be completed within one week of the originally scheduled exam date or paper due date -- it is your responsibility to contact me to arrange for the makeup. Leaving a message for me is not adequate, as it is not my responsibility to contact you. Missed makeup exams/papers will be recorded as a zero.

**Please note: Due to problems with computer viruses, I do not accept papers or assignments as e-mail attachments.**

**STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

(from Faculty Handbook, May 1992, p. 16)

"All UNCC students have the responsibility to be familiar with and to observe the requirements of The UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity (see the Catalog, or got to http://www.uncc.edu/policystate/ps-105.html). This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials (such as Library books on reserve), and complicity in academic dishonesty (helping others to violate the code). Any further specific requirements or permission regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor, and are also binding on the students in this course. Students who violate the code can be punished to the extent of being permanently expelled from UNCC and having this fact recorded on their official transcripts. The normal penalty is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to 'F'. If you do not have a copy of the code, you can obtain one from the web or from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty they become aware of to the course instructor who is responsible for dealing with them."

**Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:**

*You are responsible for reading the weekly readings before class. This schedule may flex -- pay attention in class to any changes!*

Read: Hopcroft Chapter 1

Week 2 (Aug 30-Sep3): Biology: one human nature
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 2
Movie: *The Human Quest: The nature of human nature*

Week 3 (Sep 7-10): *Culture*
Read: Hopcroft Chapters 3
**Discussion Paper #1 Due 9/9**
*No classes Sep 6, Labor Day*

Week 4 (Sep 13-17): *Social Networks and Social Groups*
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 4

Week 5 (Sep 20-24): *Institutions*
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 5

**Exam 1 about here**

Week 6 (Sep 27-Oct 1): *Demography*
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 6
**Discussion Paper #2 Due 9/30**
Movie: *Dodging Doomsday*

Week 7 (Oct 4-8): *Microsociology*
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 7
Movie: *Biosociology of Dominance and Deference*

Week 8 (Oct 13-15): *Family*
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 8
*No classes Oct 11-12, Fall Break*
**Discussion Paper #3 Due 10/14**

Week 9 (Oct 18-22): *Social Stratification*
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 9

Week 10 (Oct 25-29): *Global inequality*
Read: Hopcroft Chapters 10

**Exam 2 about here**

Week 11 (Mar Nov 1-5): *Gender Inequality*
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 11

Week 12 (Nov 8-12): *Race and ethnic relations*
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 12
Movie: *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow Part IV*
**Discussion Paper #4 Due 11/11**

Week 13 (Nov 15-19): *Crime and Violence*
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 14
Week 14 (Nov 22-23): Sociology of the environment
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 17
Movie: An Inconvenient Truth
No classes Nov 24-26, Thanksgiving.

Week 15 (Nov 29-Dec3): Social change
Read: Hopcroft Chapter 18
Movie: The Rise and Fall of Socialism Part III

Week 16 (Dec 6-8): Review

Final Exam is THUR, DEC 16 9:30 - 11:00 am
Please note that this is not exactly the same as the time listed in the Final Exam Schedule.