

UNI 117 -1 - Understanding Society and Culture - 2016 Fall

Ferhat Kentel

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Office no: 1022

Lecture hours:

Section I: Tuesday 14.00-15.00; Thursday 13.00-15.00

Class discussions and assistants: (to be announced)

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Course requirements:

Midterm Exam	% 30
Quiz	% 15
Pop Quiz (3)	% 10
Attendance for class discussions (and participation)	% 10
Final Exam	% 35

Note: There is no obligation of attendance for the lectures but students have to know the sociological examples (cases, events etc.) given and elaborated during the lectures. These examples will be useful for the exams.

Course description

This course, through familiarising students with the basic concepts, themes and research agendas in the field of sociology, will introduce the participants to the understanding of the complexity of societies and cultures with the aim of developing a sociological imagination in the minds of the participants. It will try to make students involve in multiple ways of looking at the “familiar” world, societies, histories, and self but also to give them a sensibility towards the “unfamiliar” world of “others”. They will gain awareness of the major domains of individual and social life, and some major institutions including the self, everyday life, class and poverty, identities, racism, gender, city and modernity. The subjacent idea is that, in order to comprehend the changing world, one has to be able to use the tools of sociological analysis which are in constant transformation; and also one has to develop a critical and creative approach in the face of continuities and discontinuities of social and cultural lives.

Text book:

(MP) J. J. Macionis & Ken Plummer: Sociology: A Global Introduction, 5th ed., London/New York: Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2012.

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2:

MP - Ch. 1: The Sociological Imagination

Week 3-4:

MP - Ch. 2: Thinking sociologically, thinking globally

Week 5:

MP - Ch. 4: Societies

MP – Ch. 6: Groups, organisations and the rise of the network society.

MP – Ch. 16: Power, governance and social movements

Week 6-7:

MP - Ch. 5: Culture

Week 7: Midterm examination

Week 8-9:

MP - Ch. 7: Micro-sociology: the social construction of everyday life

Week 10-11

MP - Ch. 11: Racism, ethnicities and migration

MP – Ch. 14: Disabilities, care and the humanitarian society

Week 11: Quiz (during discussion class hour)

Week 12:

MP – Ch. 12: The gender order and sexuality

Week 13:

MP - Ch. 8: Inequality, social divisions and social stratification

MP – Ch. 9: Global poverty

MP - Ch. 10: Class, poverty and welfare

Week 14:

MP – Ch. 24: Populations, cities and the space of things to come

MP – Ch. 25: Social change and the environment