UNI 117 - Understanding Society and Culture

Ferhat Kentel
ferhatkentel@sehir.edu.tr

Office no: 1022

Class discussions and assistants:
To be announced.

Course requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>% 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignment</td>
<td>% 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance for class discussions</td>
<td>% 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>% 40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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:


Week 1: Introduction
Week 2: The sociological imagination
MP - Ch. 1: The Sociological Imagination

Week 3-4: Thinking sociologically, thinking globally
MP - Ch. 2: Thinking sociologically, thinking globally

Week 5: Societies
MP - Ch. 4: Societies

Week 6-7: Culture
MP - Ch. 5: Culture

Week 8: Mid-term examination

Week 9-10: The social construction of everyday life
MP - Ch. 7: Micro-sociology: the social construction of everyday life

Week 11: Social divisions and social stratification / Class, poverty and welfare
MP - Ch. 8: Social divisions and social stratification
MP - Ch. 10: Class, poverty and welfare

Week 12-13 Ethnicity and race / Disabilities
MP - Ch. 11: Racism, ethnicities and migration
MP – Ch. 14: Disabilities, care and the humanitarian society

Week 14: The Gender order and sexuality / Families
MP – Ch. 12: The gender order and sexuality
MP- Ch. 18: Families, households and personal cultures