



Sociology 3331: Sociology of Education

The University of Texas at Dallas

Spring 2013

M/W 10:00 – 11:15 AM

SOM 2.103

Instructor

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Office Hours

T/TR 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

GR 3.610

* If necessary, additional appointments may be made in coordination with the instructor so as to meet the needs of your academic and employment schedules.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a general framework for approaching education as a social institution. In our highly competitive, post-modern, credentialed society, the importance of obtaining a quality education cannot be understated. To some extent, every individual has experience with the educational system. These systems heavily influence and shape the opportunity structure available to these entrenched within it. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to understand how education in the United States largely affects the social milieu. In particular, the interplay between educational, economic and employment structures will be examined with a critical lens. Additionally, a great deal of attention will be given to the ways in which race, class, gender, age, and culture impact educational accessibility, attrition, and completion. The full gamut of the schooling process, from the elementary level to the graduate level, will be surveyed. Much like all other avenues of social life, education is a fluid discipline which is altered on a constant basis. Remaining informed from a sociological perspective will provide students with enduring theories, concepts and themes of continued relevance.

Textbook

The Structure of Schooling: Readings in the Sociology of Education, 2nd Edition. Richard Arum, Irene R. Beattie, and Karly Ford. Pine Forge Press, 2011.

* A number of additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester. These readings will either be posted to eLearning or distributed as a hard copy in class. Students will be responsible for ALL readings, web links, and supplemental information that is posted or discussed.

Students With Disabilities

Students who require special accommodations should register with the Office of Student AccessAbility and bring me the required paperwork as early in the semester as possible. I will gladly work with you and the OSA office to make sure these accommodations are made. Please present the instructor with documentation pertaining to your needs as early in the semester as possible. You can contact OSA by phone at 972-883-2098 or by online at www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/resources/.

Course Requirements

There will be three in-class examinations based on the course readings, lectures, films and class discussions. The exams will comprise 60% of your grade and will consist of a combination of short answer and essay questions. Responses to short answer questions can be produced in complete sentences or by using bullet points. Responses to essay questions MUST be provided by using coherent sentence and paragraph structure. Please write legibly. If I cannot read it, I cannot grade it.

A total of 4 quizzes will be given throughout the semester. The purpose of the quizzes is to ensure that you are keeping up with and comprehending the readings. The quizzes will consist of 3-4 short answer questions and should take no longer than 10-15 minutes to complete. Quizzes will be random, unannounced and given at the beginning of class. Therefore, it is very important that you regularly and punctually attend each class. Quizzes will be worth 20% of your grade.

Writing assignments will comprise 20% of your course grade. There will be 3 total writing assignments. You may be asked to draw on your own experiences and then use concepts and terms discussed in class to make sense of them. It is vital that you use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling in your papers. This is simply a good habit to get into as you make the transition from an academic to employment setting. Although this will not make or break your grade, it will definitely influence it. Be sure to cite sources when using them in your papers. If you are unfamiliar with plagiarism or how to properly cite books, articles, or other publications, please contact one of the many friendly and helpful librarians at McDermott Library for assistance.

I understand that UTD is largely a commuter campus and getting to class on time can sometimes prove difficult. There may be some extenuating circumstances (illness, family issues, traffic) which inhibit you from arriving on time. However, it is important that you attend every class if possible. Regular attendance and active participation will be extremely helpful to you in terms of performing well in the course. If you have conflicting engagements prior to the start of the semester, please discuss them with me. This is particularly important if they occur on exam days. I would much rather you take the exam early rather than late.

A quick note about final grades is necessary. If you are concerned about your grade as the semester progresses, speak with me about it as soon as possible. Also, I post all of your graded work to eLearning. With hundreds of students and literally thousands of exams, quizzes, and writing assignments to keep track of, a few papers inevitably fall through the cracks. Therefore, it is your responsibility to ensure that all of your grades are in order BEFORE the end of the semester. If you notice that a grade was not entered and you only do so after final grades have been approved, I WILL NOT change your grade. Please be proactive and let me know if I have missed entering a grade prior to the end of the semester and I will gladly fix the problem.

Class Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading #</i>
Week of January 14	Syllabus and Introduction	N/A
Week of January 21	Theoretical and Historical Perspectives	Arum 1-4
Week of January 28	Human, Social and Cultural Capital	Arum 6-8
Week of February 4	More on Forms of Capital	Arum 9-11
Week of February 11	Schools and Stratification	Arum 12-16
Week of February 18	Tracking and Ability Grouping	Arum 18-20
<u>February 25</u>	<u>Exam 1</u>	N/A
Week of February 31	Social Class	Arum 21-24
Week of March 4	Race and Ethnicity	Arum 25-28
Week of March 11	Spring Break!	
Week of March 18	Gender and Sexuality	Arum 32-35
Week of March 25	Student Behavior and Subcultures	Arum 36-40
<u>Week of April 1</u>	<u>Exam 2</u>	N/A
Week of April 8	Culture and Institutional Environment	Arum 41-43
Week of April 15	More on Culture	Arum 44-46
Week of April 22	Educational Policy	Arum 47-50
Week of April 29	Student Selected Topics	N/A
<u>Week of May 6</u>	<u>Exam 3: Final</u>	N/A

* Some readings from the textbook sections will be omitted at the discretion of the instructor. All material and dates listed on this syllabus are preliminary and subject to change throughout the semester.