SYP 4400 SOCIAL CHANGE FALL 2014

Instructor: Jasney Cogua-Lopez, PhD

Email: jcogualo@fau.edu

Tel: 954.236.1286

Office: DW 409

Class Hours: Wednesday 4:00 – 6:50 pm (LA 341)

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:00am – 12:00 pm and by appointment

Credits Hours: Three (3), this course can be used to meet the Social Inequality and Social Change requirement for the Sociology major.

# Course Description

This course is intended to introduce students to the basic concepts and theories of social change with emphasis on socio-historical perspectives, social movements and revolutions. It is designed to help students to develop skills to analyzed and understand social events from the perspective of change.

**Course Objectives**

* Students will be able to identify different sociological perspectives of social change
* Students will acquire a basic knowledge of the theories, dimensions, sources and impacts of social change
* Students will be able to recount, from a sociological perspective the social change that has taken place in US society during the past century
* Students will be able to use a historical and comparative approaches, focusing on national and international social changes to provide insights into the changes occurring currently
* Students will further develop their writing ability, their capacity for critical thinking, research and analysis

**Required Readings & Material**

* Charles L. Harper and Kevin T. Leicht

Exploring Social Change: America and the World (6th edition)

Prentice Hall Publishers

* An I-clicker2 remote is required for in-class participation and voting in this course. You may purchase the remote through the bookstore. Instructions for using i-clicker2 are on the back of the remote. When purchasing your remote, be sure to tell the bookstore you are in my class and you are using i-clicker2—**NOT the original i-clicker**. The correct ISBN is: 1429280476.
* There will also be additional readings that will be available on Blackboard.

# Course Assessment and Evaluation

Students are required to attend and participate in class discussions, to complete three critical thinking journal entries, write two essays, and to take a midterm exam.

Attendance/Participation 10%

Journal Entries (3 total – 10% each) 30%

Mid-Term Exam 20%

World Changers Essay and Presentation 20%

Final Essay 20%

Attendance and Participation:

Class attendance is important because lectures will include material not covered in the readings. Students should come to class having completed the assigned reading for that week and prepared to discuss the material. Students are expected to be on time for class and to turn off their personal computers and cell phones before they enter the classroom.

Please realize that we will be using I-clicker2 in almost every class and clicker points will make up the attendance and participation grade. I-clicker2 is a response system that allows you to respond to questions I pose during class, and you will be graded on that feedback and/or your in-class participation. In order to receive this credit, you will need to register your I-clicker2 remote in Blackboard within the third week of class. Your student ID should be your FAU Net ID. The remote ID is the series of numbers and sometimes letters found on the bottom of the back of your I-clicker2 remote. It can also be found on the LCD screen upon powering on your I-clicker2 remote. I-clicker2 will be used every day in class, and you are responsible for bringing your remote daily. Please remember that it is your responsibility to come prepared to participate with a functioning remote every day.

If you need technical support for I-clicker2, please contact (866) 209-5698 or via email [support@iclicker.com](mailto:support@iclicker.com) from 9AM-11PM EST, M-F. The I-clicker2 website ([www.iclicker.com](http://www.iclicker.com)) also has support documentation, video tutorials, and FAQs for students.

This class follows standard FAU policy regarding student absence for sickness, religious observations, etc. I will only excuse students who are absent due to a medical professional-substantiated condition (you bring in a doctor’s note) or who are absent for religious observations and other activities condoned by FAU policy. ***Note: missing three (3) (unexcused) classes will represent an automatic F for the course***, however to attain the maximum attendance grade students should attend all their classes, be on time and attend all scheduled course activities. Absence from class, for whatever reason, does not excuse a student from full responsibility for class work or assignments missed. Students must accept this responsibility.

You will get credit for class participation through attendance and by asking or answering questions or commenting on issues that are raised during class (as explained above through the use of the I-clicker2). An opportunity to earn extra-credit points is by bringing to class and presenting to the entire class an article from the newspaper or something you saw on TV or on the internet that relates to the topic of the course. The maximum amount of extra-credit presentations for each student is one. The specific topic of this extra-credit opportunity needs to be discussed with the professor before class.

Critical Thinking Journal Entries:

There will be 3 journal entries that need to be written in the specific topic as outlined below. These entries are opportunities for you to explore your feelings and thoughts about specific issues explained in the textbook and to be discussed in class, without having to provide academic argument. However, thoughts are to be elucidated. Assessment of entries will focus on the comprehensiveness of your entry, how in depth you go into uncovering and exploring why you have the thoughts and feelings you do. Entries should include your attitudes, behaviors and feelings about the particular topic, not simply a cognitive analysis. Don’t censor yourself – be open and explore yourself and who you are, and don’t write the journal entry the night before it is due. A journal entry requires reflection and this takes time. Each entry should be between 500 and 600 words, and must be word-processed. No handwritten papers will be accepted. Each entry needs to be single-spaced. The entries should be free of all grammatical errors and spelling errors! Be sure to check grammar, punctuation, and spelling before turning in each entry. If there are any grammatical errors and/or spelling errors, you will lose points on your paper! If English is not your first language, then proofreading by a native-speaker might be helpful. I will collect all entries via Blackboard/Journals. Journals are due at the end of the due date (11:59 pm). Please note that I will not accept late submissions.

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| **Topic** | **Due Date** |
| American Social Trends | 9/10/2014 |
| Economics, Politics and the American Prospect | 09/24/2014 |
| American Reform Movements and Social Change | 10/15/2014 |

World Changers Essay and Presentation:

This assignment will help you develop sociological and analytical skills that you will use later in your personal life and professional career. For this essay, a list of names of people who have generated significant change with their actions is provided (this list is already posted on blackboard). You will choose one of those individuals and will write about his/her story and overall actions to generate change. You will also have to discuss the specific social issue that person is trying to address through his/her actions. The essay should be six (6) pages long and to the point. You will be evaluated on your reading comprehension and interpretive skills; on your ability to make strong and original arguments as well as on your writing abilities.

You will also have to present to the rest of the class on the specific individual you chose so everyone could learn from your own research. There will be more details regarding this assignment later in the semester.

Final Essay:

This assignment will be an opportunity for you to reflect on all the material covered during the semester and condense it into a very personal and interesting essay. For this final essay you need to pick a book, movie, documentary or song that you consider reflect social changes and need to interpret it from the theoretical perspectives explained in class. You will need to explain not only the media item you chose but also the specific connection(s) with social change and theories of change. This essay should be six (6) pages long and to the point. You will be evaluated on your creativity, general comprehension of course material and interpretive skills. You will also be evaluated on your ability to make strong and original arguments as well as on your writing abilities. There will be more details regarding this final essay later in the semester.

Mid-term Exam:

A mid-term exam will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, short-answer, and short-essay questions. The exam will be based on lectures and course readings. Not all material covered in the exam is in the book, so taking notes in class is important. Make up exams will only be available for documented, excused absences.

**NOTE:** If you have trouble understanding the readings or the lecture material, please feel free to talk to the professor at any time before class, after class, during office hours, or make a special appointment if none of these time suit your schedule.

Grading Scale

100-94 = A 82 – 80 = B- 69 – 67 = D+

93 – 90= A- 79 – 77 = C+ 66 – 63 = D

89 – 87 = B+ 76 – 73 = C 62 – 60 = D-

86 – 83 = B 72 – 70 = C- 59 and below = F

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations at <http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf>.

The FAU Code of Academic Integrity describes the expectations for students’ ethical academic conduct and the procedures for charging a student with a violation of the Code. It also outlines the procedures for students to appeal such charges.   
  
Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

CHEATING

* The unauthorized use of notes, books, electronic devices or other study aids while taking an examination or working on an assignment.
* Providing unauthorized assistance to or receiving assistance from another student during an examination or while working on an assignment.
* Having someone take an exam or complete an assignment in one’s place.
* Securing an exam, receiving an unauthorized copy of an exam or sharing a copy of an exam.

PLAGIARISM

* The presentation of words from any other source or another person as one’s own without proper quotation and citation.
* Putting someone else’s ideas or facts into your own words (paraphrasing) without proper citation.
* Turning in someone else’s work as one’s own, including the buying and selling of term papers or assignments.

OTHER FORMS OF DISHONESTY

* Falsifying or inventing information, data or citations.
* Failing to comply with examination regulations or failing to obey the instructions of an examination proctor.
* Submitting the same paper or assignment, or part thereof, in more than one class without the written consent of both instructors.
* Any other form of academic cheating, plagiarism or dishonesty.

*Special Needs:*

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute course work must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, MOD 1 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 128 (772-873-3305) – and follow all OSD procedures.

*Use of Electronic Equipment:*

Students **may not** use cell phones, personal computers, or any other type of electronic equipment in the classroom unless they are necessary by the OSD or in consultation with me.

*Blackboard*: The Blackboard site can be accessed at: <http://blackboard.fau.edu>. Here are instructions for signing in to the course page.

The student username is their FAUNet ID.  If the student does not know their FAUNet ID they should go to <http://accounts.fau.edu> (they will need to enter their social security # and PIN in order to obtain their FAUNet ID).   The student's initial password for Blackboard is their PIN (PINs are by default set to 2 zeros followed by the 2-digit DAY and 2-digit YEAR of birth).  The student email address in Blackboard will be set as their FAU email address (to forward email to another account students should go to MyFAU email and select "auto forward" under “options”). If you are unable to log on Blackboard, contact the help desk immediately.

# Course Outline and Readings\*

(See Blackboard “Course Documents” Module for all readings, assignments, etc. for each week)

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| Week 1 | 08/20/2014 | First day of class |
| Week 2 | 08/27/2014 | The Causes and Patterns of Change |
| Week 3 | 09/03/2014 | Social Theory and Social Change |
| Week 4 | 09/10/2014 | American Social Trends  1st Journal Entry due |
| Week 5 | 09/17/2014 | Change in the Settings of Everyday Life: Populations, Families, and Work |
| Week 6 | 09/24/2014 | Economics, Politics, and the American Prospect  2nd Journal Entry due |
| Week 7 | 10/01/2014 | Mid-tem Exam |
| Week 8 | 10/08/2014 | Social Movements |
| Week 9 | 10/15/2014 | American Reform Movements and Social Change  3rd Journal Entry due |
| Week 10 | 10/22/2014 | Revolutions |
| Week 11 | 10/29/2014 | Technology, Innovation, and Networks |
| Week 12 | 11/05/2014 | Creating Change  Essay One Due |
| Week 13 | 11/12/2014 | Creating Change  Student Presentations |
| Week 14 | 11/19/2014 | Society, Environment and Change |
| Week 15 | 11/26/2014 | Class Activity |
| Week 16 | 12/03/2014 | Reading Day – NO CLASS |
| Week 17 | 12/10/2014 | Extra Credit Presentations  Essay Two Due |

\*Syllabus Caveat: Please note that the instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus due to need and emergent circumstances. Students will be advised about any change made to the syllabus.