The goal of this course is to introduce you to the broad and interesting world of sociological study. After this course you should be able to critically evaluate the social norms that make up our world, but are often taken for granted. You will learn that human beings use social constructions, such as gender, race and class, to organize themselves and determine their relationship to others. This has profound consequences for people’s well-being and for broader social structure. As sociologists we want to understand how societies organize, why certain patterns and processes have developed, why social problems form and how they might be addressed. In order to begin to answer these questions we need to first know where social boundaries are drawn and the consequences these boundaries have for social interaction and social structure. However, the depth and breadth of Sociology is enormous and because this is an introductory course we will only be able to skim the surface of these issues, but it is my hope that this course will whet your appetite to explore the field further.

Classes will typically consist of a lecture to introduce the topic for the day. Afterward we will break up into discussion groups to work on an exercise and then reconvene to discuss and apply your insights to the material. Students are expected to fully participate in the lectures. This means that you are expected to attend every lecture, unless discussed with me beforehand, and contribute in group exercises and discussions. This syllabus is subject to change so that I may include time for possible speakers and films.

In this course we will use Marx’s perspective of critique. This means that in order to tell a new story we must un-tell the old story, breaking down established paradigms. This perspective is taken in order to foster critical thinking so that students understand social theories are not ideas to accept without question but rather proposals to be considered, debated and improved upon. All discussants will be required to show the utmost respect for other students during discussion sections. This means listening to each other and working first and foremost to understand one another’s perspective. In order for our discussions to be successful students need to feel comfortable to express their thoughts. I want each of you to be able to speak your mind without concern. I will work to make you feel this way and expect other students to do so as well.
Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Discussion Questions</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>200</td>
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**Participation**
Your participation will be determined by how seriously you take this class. This will be established by (1) your attendance (2) if you participate in the discussion and (3) if you participate in the group exercises.

**Note on Attendance**
Attendance will be taken during each class. The penalty for missing class, without discussing it with me first or a doctor’s note, is 10% of your final grade. Therefore if you know you will have to miss a class please talk to me about it at least a day beforehand. I take attendance seriously because you are an important part of this class. Your thoughts, perspective and questions are fully appreciated and required for all of your fellow student's ability to move forward.

**Exams:**
There will be two 25 point exams. They will be cumulative, with the second exam focusing more on the newer material learned than the older. The form will mainly be multiple choice, with a few short answers questions.

**Final Presentation/Final Paper**
You will be writing a short paper and presenting your work on a topic that interests you and is relevant to our lessons.

**Quizzes**
There will be 8-10 unannounced quizzes throughout the semester. The points for each will be decided by the final number of quizzes given, with a total of 40 points for all. These quizzes will be made up of 2-3 questions and will primarily test you over the material we will be discussing that day. Therefore it behooves you to read the required material before class. You can drop your lowest quiz score.

**Assignment Policies:**
All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date assigned. Late assignments will have 10 points taken off for each day it’s late. So if your paper is graded 40/50 points, and you are late one day, the grade will go down to 30/50.

**Examples of what the school and this class considers academic misconduct can be found at:**
https://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap4/conduct/

This course will strictly adhere to the policy that anyone in violation of these guidelines will be reported to the Dean, without exception. **Please pay particular attention to the section on plagiarism.**
I. Sociological Perspective

   Wednesday, May 6th
   - Introductions

   Friday, May 8th
   - Homework: test a social fact

II. Culture, Social Organization and the Individual

   Monday, May 11th
   - Movie: Flatland
   - Lecture: What is Normal? Social Structure and its Effects

   Wednesday, May 13th
   - NO CLASS

   Friday, May 15th
   - Work on Assignment 1

III. Gender, Sexuality

   Monday, May 18th
   - Movie: The Guardians of the Flutes

   Wednesday, May 20th
   - Lecture: Forming Identities

   Friday, May 22nd
   - Lecture: Defining Race
   - Discussion of Readings:

IV. Race, Poverty and Inequality

   Monday, May 25th
   Memorial Day - NO CLASS

   Wednesday, May 27th
   - Discussion of Readings:
     - “How Jews Became White Folks” IN How Jews Became White Folks

   Friday, May 29th
V. Deviance, Social Disorganization and Crime

Monday, June 1st
- Lecture: Urban Inequality
- Review Session

Wednesday, June 3rd
- Lecture: Neighborhood Effects
- Movie: Race The Power of an Illusion- The House We Live In

Friday, June 5th ******Survey questions due !!! ******

- Discussion of Readings

VI. Health, Environment, Neighborhoods

Monday, June 8th
- Lecture: Crime
- Movie: HBO Documentary Bastards of the Party: History of Crips & Bloods (Los Angeles)
- Assignment 3 assigned: American Radio Works Project

Wednesday, June 10th
- Lecture: Environmental Justice
- Discussion of Readings:

Friday, June 12th
- EXAM 2
- Lecture: administering surveys
- Administer Survey over weekend

VII. Social Change, Globalization

Monday, June 15th
- Analyze data

Wednesday, June 17th
- Final Presentations

*****The week of Final Exams your Final Paper is due. Details will be given during the semester****