RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500
INTRODUCTION TO RURAL SOCIOLOGY

Spring Semester, 2017 (29171)
Tuesday & Thursday from 2:20-3:40 PM/Baker Systems, Room 120

INSTRUCTOR: Joseph F. Donnermeyer, Professor Emeritus
School of Environment and Natural Resources
Room 408C, Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Road

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Lauren Bates (.375)

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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment only. I will, however, be available before and after class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, I will expect you to demonstrate: (1) basic knowledge and understanding of concepts and content areas in the discipline of Sociology; (2) an ability to apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning you and your relationships within various human groups anywhere in the world; (3) an ability to apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning rural and urban places in American society, and of other societies around the world, including the application of sociological principles to agricultural, food and environmental issues; (4) an ability to think critically about issues and topics affecting U.S. society, and of other societies around the world. Thinking critically means (a) understanding the strengths and weaknesses of different and/or opposing points of view (b) no matter how strongly you believe that you are right and everyone else is wrong.

This course meets a GE requirement in Social Science – Groups and Politics, and a GE in Social Diversity in the United States. According to the OSU guidelines: “Social science develops students’ understanding of the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; of the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and of the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies. Students understand the behavior of individuals, differences and similarities in the contexts of human existence (e.g., psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political), and the processes by which groups, organizations, and societies function. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving.”
TEXTBOOK REQUIRED: RURLSOC 1500 can be purchased through The Ohio State University Bookstore or through the book’s publisher, McGraw-Hill (http://www.mheducation.com). ISBN-13: 978-1-308-96894-0 or ISBN-10: 1-308-96804-9. The first chapter was written by me and follows substantially the lecture for the first 4 weeks of the semester. The remainder were written by another author – Jon Witt. The textbook is meant to back up the lectures. ONLY MATERIAL COVERED DURING THE CLASS LECTURE IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE MIDTERM AND FINAL.

NOTE: The chapters are published in loose-leaf fashion and are in the order of assignment (see page iii for the “Contents”), not in a page order. This is particularly the case for chapters assigned after the midterm.

COURSE POLICIES:

1. REGULAR CLASS ATTENDANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. A substantial proportion of the final grade for this course is based on attendance checks, all of which require that you be here. Summary and note-taking pages of course lectures will be posted on CARMEN at appropriate times. Print them out and use them, please! Some of you learned how to take notes in high school, but some of you are not very good at it or were never asked/required to do much of it. It is now time to learn, since note-taking is an essential skill for the workplace.

2. MID-TERM: This mid-term includes everything covered during the first 12 class sessions, and is scheduled for administration during the 14th class session on Thursday, February 23. The first mid-term is worth 30 percent of the final grade. It will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions. Make-up exams will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, and only for an excused absence (i.e., documented, on official letterhead, and judged by me to be legitimate – see attendance checks below). The make-up exam will be in essay format.

3. FINAL EXAM: The final exam is multiple-choice in format and will be given during the scheduled exam period designated for this class during finals week – Monday, May 1 from 10:00 – 11:45 AM (in this classroom!). The final exam represents 40 PERCENT of the final grade. It will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions. It is comprehensive, covering materials from the very beginning of class through the final minute of the final class session. Questions will be distributed (to be best of my ability) as follows: about 12-18 questions from course material covered up to the first midterm, and about 28-34 questions from course material covered after the first midterm (beginning the 14th class session). Make-up exams will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, and only for an excused absence (i.e., documented, on official letterhead, and judged by me to be legitimate – see attendance checks below). The make-up exam will be in essay format.
SPECIAL NOTE: We will try to set up a review session before both the midterm and the final for those students who are interested.

4. ATTENDANCE: On twelve (12) random occasions, attendance will be taken. Attendance checks mostly will be in the form of a short question on a current topic. Checks can occur more than once during a single class session. The content of attendance checks will be either about a sociological/social change issue or will be multiple-choice questions about course content (usually the previous class session) that will function as mini “practice” exams.

Attendance checks are worth 30 percent of the final grade (3 points each), that is, up to ten (10) attendance checks will count. This policy allows you to miss 2 attendance checks without asking for a special exemption. I reserve the right to deny an attendance check to anyone who walks in late, that is, once the class begins (the class begins when I start talking). An exemption can be requested ONLY after you miss 2 attendance checks. To be exempted, the absence must be a documented illness, a student organization/sports related activity, or for some other legitimate reason. Two essential rules for special exemptions: (1) exemptions should be requested BEFORE the class session for which the exemption will apply; and (2) the exemption requires current documentation on official letterhead, a legible signature, and a phone number to the clinic / coach / student organization advisor etc. for verification.

5. TURN OFF YOUR ☛■□◆¥□■◆■□□□□□□■□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□"
7. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: All students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in Room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Or visit the internet address of this office at http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu for more information.

8. INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS: By its nature, any course in sociology focuses on issues that can be controversial, emotional and/or political. For example, this class may touch on issues related to abortion, terrorism, gay rights, gun control, animal rights, human consumption of foods with GMO’s, the death penalty, ethnic/race prejudice, substance use, environmental regulations, factory farming, animal welfare/rights etc. In addition, there are students in this class from a variety of backgrounds. You may have strong, even uncompromising, feelings about particular issues. That is terrific!!!! However, in my class, there is no room for remarks that show intolerance for the points of view of others, or remarks that are explicitly prejudicial to other groups (especially along the lines of race, ethnicity, lifestyles etc.). Remember, one goal of this course is to learn how to think critically. That means understanding opposite points of view even as you hold firm to your own opinions/values/beliefs.

9. GRADING PHILOSOPHY: I use the standard OSU scheme.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent AVERAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93+ PERCENT AVERAGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92 PERCENT AVERAGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89 PERCENT AVERAGE</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-66 PERCENT AVERAGE</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>UNDER 60 PERCENT AVERAGE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10. There are no extra points earned from extra work. Don’t even bother to ask!

11. NOTE: If you attend class regularly, take good notes in handwritten form or on a computer/i-pad (and do NOT do on-line shopping, facebook, texting, go to the “meet other single students” on-line site etc.) and read the textbook, you should do okay in this course. However, if you are having trouble with this course, please see me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of the semester.
12. COURSE OUTLINE: RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500

SESSIONS 1 THROUGH 13 (January 10 through February 21)

Introduction to RS 1500 & Theme of the Course//Definitions of Sociology and Rural Sociology//Six Core Sociological Concepts//Defining Rural & Urban//The Triangle and the Hourglass//The 7 Big Changes (top of the hourglass)//Three Sociological Theories//Ways to Study Societies and Peoples//Culture and Elements of Culture//Examples of 4 Different Cultures//Socialization

*Read**: Chapter 1 (People, Place and Society: An Introduction to Sociology), Chapter 2 (Sociological Research), Chapter 3 (Culture), and Chapter 4 (Socialization)

The MIDTERM is on Thursday, February 23 (14th class session) during regular class time (in this classroom!).

SESSIONS 15 THROUGH 28 (February 28 through April 20)

(Spring Break – February 13 through February 17 – no class)

The Three Sociological Universals – (1) The Family; (2) Social Class and Inequality in American Society; and (3) Religion (with a rural emphasis). (special focus on the Amish).

The Sociology of Food and Agriculture (no chapter)

Crime with a rural emphasis

*Read**: Chapter 7 (Families), Chapter 10 (Social Class), and the religion section of Chapter 8 (Education and Religion), and Chapter 6 (Deviance).

FINAL: Monday, May 1 from 10:00 – 11:45 AM (in this classroom!)

**PLEASE NOTE**: The chapters are published in loose-leaf fashion and are in the order of assignment (see page iii for the “Contents”), not in a page order. This is particularly the case for chapters assigned after the midterm.