RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500
INTRODUCTION TO RURAL SOCIOLOGY
Autumn Semester, 2013 (3119)
Tuesday & Thursday from 9:35-10:55 AM
Room 0021, Lazenby Hall

INSTRUCTOR: Joseph F. Donnermeyer, Professor of Rural Sociology
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RS 1500 TEACHING ASSOCIATES:
Cory Anderson (.1934); Nicholas Garcia (.119); Angela Thatcher (.52)

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment only. I will, however, be available before and after class. Discussion board questions must be specific.

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; (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 American 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 GEC requirement in Social Science. 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.” It also fulfills a GE Diversity requirement – “Social Diversity in the US.”

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: The textbook is a customized textbook to reduce costs. Only certain chapters were selected, so there are skips in the chapter numbers. The title of the book is “Selected chapters from Soc 2012: With Additional Material” by Jon Witt. The publisher is McGraw-Hill. Much of the lecture and a large share of both mid-term and final exam content (plus the attendance checks) for this class will be based on the textbook.

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 I know from past experience that some of you are not very good at it or were not 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-TERMS: two (2) will be given. The first mid-term will include everything covered during the first ten (10) class sessions, and will be given at the beginning of the 11th session on Thursday, September 26. The second mid-term will be based only on topics covered from the 12th class session through the 20th class session and will be given at the beginning of the 21st class session on Thursday, October 31. Each mid-term is 25 percent of the final grade, for a total of 50 percent. It will consist of 25-50 multiple choice questions. Make-up exams will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, and only for an excused absence. 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 -- **Friday, December 6 from 10:00 – 11:45 AM** (in this classroom!). The final exam represents **35 PERCENT** of the final grade. It will consist of 35 - 70 multiple choice questions. *It is a comprehensive exam, covering materials from the very beginning of class through the final minute of the final session of class.* Questions will be equally distributed (almost), with about $1/3^{rd}$ of the questions representing material up to the first midterm, about $1/3^{rd}$ from material covered between the 1st and 2nd midterms, and about $1/3^{rd}$ since the second midterm. Make-up exams will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, and only for an excused absence. The make-up exam will be in essay format.

4. ATTENDANCE: Finally, on **seven (7) occasions**, attendance will be taken. Attendance checks mostly will be in the form of a short survey question on a current topic. These may or may not overlap with midterm days, and can occur more than once during a single class session. In total, attendance is worth **15 percent** of the final grade (**3 points each**), that is, up to **5** attendance checks will count. This policy allows you to miss two attendance checks without asking for a special exemption. An exemption can only be requested after you miss two attendance checks. To be exempted, it must be a documented illness, a student organization/sports related activity with a letter from the faculty advisor, or for some other legitimate reason. **Three essential rules:** (1) I will not consider a request for an attendance check exemption made to me more than 1 class session after the absence; (2) documentation must be on official letterhead, a legible signature, and a phone number to the clinic /coach / student organization advisor etc. so that I can verify the request from her/him; and (3) 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.

6. **TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES WHILE YOU ARE IN MY CLASS!** Remind me to turn off mine.

7. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: For all assignments for this course, the Code of Student Conduct of The Ohio State University applies. Academic misconduct is defined as any activity that compromises the academic integrity of the university or subverts the educational goals of this course, including plagiarism. Specifically, plagiarism is the representation of another’s work or ideas as one’s own, including the unacknowledged word-for-word and/or paraphrasing of another person’s work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas. It also includes submitting substantially the same work to satisfy requirements for one course that has been submitted in satisfaction of requirements for another course, without permission of the instructor of the course for which the work is being submitted. For an extended version of these examples, please refer to: [http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).
8. 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.

9. 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 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 in this class. 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.

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

   A = 93+ PERCENT AVERAGE
   A- = 90 - 92 PERCENT AVERAGE
   B+ = 87-89 PERCENT AVERAGE
   B  = 83-86 PERCENT AVERAGE
   B- = 80-82 PERCENT AVERAGE
   C+ = 77-79 PERCENT AVERAGE
   C  = 73-76 PERCENT AVERAGE
   C- = 70-72 PERCENT AVERAGE
   D+ = 67-69 PERCENT AVERAGE
   D  = 60-66 PERCENT AVERAGE
   E  = UNDER 60 PERCENT AVERAGE

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 (save on-line shopping, facebook, texting, etc. for later) and read the textbook, you should do okay in this course. However, if you are having trouble with this course, please see me or the TA as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of the quarter. We will schedule a regular time and place on the main campus for you to meet with the TA to review notes.
COURSE OUTLINE: RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500

SESSIONS 1 THROUGH 10 (August 22 through September 24)

Introduction to RS 105//The Triangle and the Hour Glass//Major Changes in American Society//Definitions of Sociology and Rural Sociology// Defining Rural//3 Theories in Sociology//Ways to Study Societies and Peoples//Culture and Elements of Culture//Examples of 4 Different Cultures//Socialization and How Cultures are Reproduced//Rural as a Subculture//Diversity in Rural and Urban America

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

SESSIONS 11 THROUGH 20 (September 26 through October 29)

(note – Spring Break – no classes during the week of March 11-15)

First mid-term (September 26, regular class time and in this classroom!)//The Three Sociological Universals -- The 1. The Family//2. Social Class and Inequality in American Society// 3. Religion (with a rural emphasis). Special focus on the Amish.

Read: Chapter 7 (Families), Chapter 10 (Social Class), and the religion section of Chapter 8 (Education and Religion). There may be a guest lecture by a member of an Amish community located in Ohio.

SESSIONS 21 THROUGH 29 (October 31 through December 3) (no session on November 28 – Thanksgiving Holiday)

Second mid-term (October 31, regular class time and in this classroom!)//Agriculture, Food, the Environment and Society//Crime and Deviance (with a rural emphasis).

Read: The environment section of Chapter 14 (Health, Medicine and Environment), and Chapter 6 (Deviance).

FINAL: Friday, December 6, 10 AM – 11:45 AM (in this classroom!)