The Ohio State University
Rural Sociology 1500
Introduction to Rural Sociology
Spring Semester 2019 – 3 credits

Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:35-10:55 a.m. Room 100 Mendenhall Lab

Instructor: Kristi Lekies, Ph.D.
Room 320C Kottman Hall
614-688-3537
lekies.1@osu.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant: Paige Kelly (kelly.1193@osu.edu)
Office Hours: Immediately after class or by appointment

Course Overview:
This is an introductory course which will focus on understanding key sociological concepts. Special emphasis will be given to rural populations, communities, issues, and trends. Topics include sociological theory and perspectives, culture, socialization, social structure, social control, stratification, institutions, families, gender, race, and ethnicity. We also will cover basic sociological research methods, as well as agriculture and the environment. The overall goal is to gain a better understanding of society, and the ways in which social processes influence individuals and groups at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

Overall Course Objectives: Through this course, students will:

• Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the major perspectives, concepts, and content areas in the discipline of sociology;
• Apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning relationships within various human groups;
• 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 agriculture, food, and environmental issues; and
• Critically examine social issues and topics affecting American society, and of other societies around the world.

This course fulfills General Education (GE) requirements for the following:

• Social Science – Organizations and Polities

Goals: Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources

Expected Learning Outcomes
1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and polities.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and polities and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

- Diversity – Social Diversity in the U.S.

Goals: Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.

Expected Learning Outcomes
1. Students describe and evaluate the roles of such categories as race, gender and sexuality, disability, class, ethnicity, and religion in the pluralistic institutions and cultures of the United States.
2. Students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.

Course material, readings, lectures, activities, assignments, and examinations will address these learning objectives and outcomes.

Recommended Textbook: Soc 2018 by Jon Witt. Published by McGraw Hill and available at the campus bookstores. Other required and recommended readings will be posted on Canvas.

Method of Instruction:
The course meets twice per week, with lectures, discussion, and special in-class activities. Current events and readings will be integrated into the course when relevant. Regular attendance is expected, in order to best learn the material and get the most from this course.

Exams:
There will be three exams. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Make-up or rescheduling of exams will be allowed only under extenuating circumstances, and with the prior permission of the instructor and appropriate documentation. The exams are worth 40 points each.

Assignments:
There will be three assignments for this class:
1. Short paper about your hometown (2-4 pages)
2. Short paper on rural life and culture (2-4 pages)
3. Podcast/recording on a rural issue, topic, or place (2-3 minutes)

More information about the assignments will be presented in class. Assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the designated dates or as noted. The assignments are worth 20 points each.

In-class activities and attendance checks:
On 12 occasions throughout the course, you will be asked to complete an in-class activity or attendance check for one point each. Attendance checks will be in the form of a short question about a topic covered in class or the textbook. These may or may not overlap with exam days. Ten (10) of these activities/attendance checks will count toward your final grade (20 points total).
Grading: Your grade will be based on the following:

1. First exam – 40 points
2. Second exam – 40 points
3. Final exam – 40 points
4. Assignment #1 – 20 points
5. Assignment #2 – 20 points
6. Assignment #3 – 20 points
7. Attendance – 20 points
Total 200 points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class Policies:
1. No cell phones, surfing the Internet, checking e-mail or Facebook, game playing, or text messaging allowed in class. Any computers used in class must be for class purposes only. Please be respectful of your instructor and your fellow students.
2. Taking photos or recording of lectures during class is not allowed unless special permission is granted. If you are having difficulty with notetaking, please talk to the instructor or TA for assistance.
3. Late assignments will result in a loss of 10% of points for each day the assignment is late.
4. In the course, we will cover issues that can be controversial. You will need to examine your own experiences and assumptions—and think critically. Be respectful of others in class, even if you do not agree with them.
5. If you have concerns about the course, please schedule a time to meet with the instructor to discuss them.
6. Any questions regarding grades must be received within one week of receiving the grade and must be presented to the instructor in writing.
7. Some of the concepts can be challenging to understand. Ask for assistance from the instructor or teaching assistant if you would like extra help.
Accommodation of students with disabilities:
Any student with a documented disability who may require special accommodations should let
the instructor know as early in the semester as possible to receive effective and timely
accommodations. The office for Disability Services (98 Baker Hall; 292-3307; VRS: 614-500-4445; slds@osu.edu) verifies the need for accommodations and assists in the development of
accommodation strategies.

Student Concerns:
As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained
relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating, and/or lack of
motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or
reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. If you or someone you know are suffering of any of
the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services
available on campus via the Office of Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting
ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th
floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour
emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Academic Misconduct:
For activities of this course, the Code of Student Conduct of The Ohio State University applies.
Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in
connection with examinations. 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 for which the work is being submitted. Faculty Rule 3335-5-487
will be followed in cases of academic misconduct – “Instructors shall report instances of alleged academic
misconduct to the committee (on academic misconduct).” For more information, please refer to:
http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.

Class schedule, readings, and important dates:

Week 1: January 9 & 11  Introduction to rural sociology; the sociological imagination
                      What is rural? Witt, Chapter 1
                      Kellogg Foundation (2001). *Perceptions of Rural America*

Week 2: January 16 & 18  What is rural? Three sociological perspectives Witt, Chapter 1

Week 3: January 23 & 25  Sociological research Witt, Chapter 2

Week 4: Jan. 30 & Feb. 1  Culture and social norms Witt, Chapters 3 & 4
                      Klose, R. Bring Back the Phone Booth, *Christian Science Monitor Weekly, 10/24/16*
Assignment #1 due, Wednesday, January 30

Week 5: February 6 & 8 Social norms and socialization, Witt, Chapter 4

Exam #1, Friday, February 8

Week 6: February 13 & 15 Social structure and interaction; models of society Witt, Chapter 5

Week 7: Feb. 20 & 22 Social control, crime, and deviance Witt, Chapter 6

Week 8: Feb. 27 & Mar. 1 Rural crime; Families in society Witt, Chapter 7

Week 9: March 6 & 8 Exam #2, Wednesday, March 6 Families in society Witt, Chapter 7

Week of March 11 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 10: March 20 & 22 Families in society Witt, Chapter 7

Week 11: March 27 & 29 Social class: Stratification, inequality, and poverty Witt, Chapter 10
   Rural Opportunity Zones, PBS Newshour

Assignment #2 due, Friday, March 29

Week 12: April 3 & 5 Gender, race, and ethnicity Witt, Chapters 12 & 13

Week 13: April 10 & 12 Agriculture and environment
   González, E. Migrant Farm Workers: Our Nation’s Invisible Workers. eXtension, October 5, 2015

Week 14: April 17 & 19 Agriculture and environment Witt, Chapter 14 (pp. 367-374)

Assignment #3 due, April 1-10

Final exam, Wednesday, April 24, 10:00-11:45 a.m.