RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500
INTRODUCTION TO RURAL SOCIOLOGY

Autumn Semester, 2019 (30482)
Tuesday & Thursday from 9:35 – 10:55 AM/University Hall, Room 014

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

Teaching Assistants: Vicki Garrett, Anna Jenderedjian, Marisol Becerra, and Alana Chriest

CELL: 614 582 4710
OFFICE PHONE: 292-9167
E-MAIL: donnermeyer.1@osu.edu; preferred – donnermeyer.1@gmail.com
RS 1500 assistants: Vicki Garrett; Anna Jenderedjian, Molly Bukky, Marisol Becerra, and Alana Chriest

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 General Education (GE) requirement 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

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.

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: 9781260879094. The link for students to order the eBook direct will be: https://create.mheducation.com/shop/#/catalog/details/?isbn=9781307487268. Here is the direct link for students to purchase the print book. Price is around $39.00 net http://shop.mheducation.com/mhshop/productDetails?isbn=1260879097

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.

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. MIDTERM: The midterm includes everything covered during the first 13 class sessions, and is scheduled for administration during the 14th class session on Thursday, October 3 during
regular class time. The midterm is worth 32 percent of the final grade. It will consist of 32 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 – Friday, December 6 from 8:00 – 9:45 AM (in this classroom!). The final exam represents 44 PERCENT of the final grade. It will consist of 44 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 16-18 questions from course material covered up to the midterm, and about 28-26 questions from course material covered after the midterm (beginning the 15th class session). Hence, the final is biased toward the final half of the semester. 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.

4. ATTENDANCE: On ten (10) 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 24 percent of the final grade (3 points each), that is, up to eight (8) 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 documentation which must be on official letterhead, a legible signature, and a phone number to the clinic / coach / student organization advisor etc. for verification.

5. TURN OFF YOUR ♦♦possible ♦♦♦♦♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣♣CELL PHONES WHILE YOU ARE IN MY CLASS! Remind me to turn off mine.

6. 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. In this class, the most frequent occasion upon which academic misconduct charges are brought up is when two or more students attempt to communicate during or
immediately after handing in an exam. My strict rule is no talking or conversing once the
exam has begun all the way through when the student hands in the exam and leaves the
room. Since students in this class speak a number of different languages, I only have to see
students talking to file charges, even though I do not understand the words exchanged between
those students. I do not have time to learn the native language of everyone in this class, hence, it
is the only way for me to apply a fair and consistent policy for all students. The Code of Student
Conduct can be found under “Resources” on the webpage for the Committee on Academic
Misconduct/Office of Academic Affairs.

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 098
Baker Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.
Or visit the internet address of this office at https://slds.osu.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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93+</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>UNDER 60</td>
</tr>
</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 14 (August 20 through October 3)

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, October 3 (14th class session) during regular class time (in this classroom!).

SESSIONS 15 THROUGH 29 (October 8 through December 4)

(Autumn Break – October 10 and 11 – no class on the 10th)
(Thanksgiving Break – November 28 through November 29 – no class on the 28th)

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: Friday, December 6, 8:00 - 9:45 AM (in this classroom!)