Amish Society (RS5520)

Fall 2013
Tues. & Thurs., 1:30-2:50pm
Kottman Hall, Room #120

Co-Instructor: Cory Anderson
Office: Kottman Hall, Room 406a
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Email: anderson.1934@osu.edu
Hours: By appointment

Instructor of Record: Joe Donnermeyer
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Hours:

Course Goals & Course Objectives

Students will... …and therefore will be able to...

...understand from a sociological perspective why subcultures like the Amish exist and persist...
...apply a sociological theory to Amish society.
...synthesize how multiple features of Amish society work to keep the society viable.
...detail some of the conditions under which Amish society may fall apart.
...distinguish between elements of social structure and social change germane to the Amish.
...apply insights from the case of the Amish to understanding other sub-societies.

...comprehend how Amish society and mainstream society differ...
...identify seemingly superficial differences between the two societies and explain why each is the way it is.
...contrast the ways a given social change may impact the two societies differently.
...describe features in one’s personal life that are a result of macro and micro social forces.

...develop an intimate understanding of a particular dimension of Amish society...
...elucidate in greater depth about a chosen topic.
...discuss the merits of an in-depth study on a chosen topic.
...apply the insights of the Amish case to a field of interest in your broader program of study.
## COURSE SCHEDULE TO MEET GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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<td>Optional and extra credit book reviews due Dec. 2\text{nd}, 11:59pm, by email.</td>
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REQUIRED BOOK(S)


ASSESSMENT OF MEETING COURSE GOALS

32% = Daily Reading Quizzes (nine quizzes, lowest one dropped, 4% per quiz)

12% = Book review (to be shared with the class)

12% = Choice: Field trip attendance—OR—Book review #2

12% = Essay #1

12% = Essay #2

20% = Classroom management and courtesy

Extra credit: Upon consultation with the instructor, students may write a second book review for up to an extra five points. (Like the others, this review will be available to the class.)

ASSIGNMENTS & SUBMISSION FORMATTING

Do not include a cover page. In the upper right hand corner of each submission, include (1) your name, (2) the date the assignment is due, (3) the course name, and (4) the instructor’s name. Drop two lines and write the assignment title, centered. Drop two lines and start typing. Set line spacing at 1.5 and margins at one inch all around. Use Arial font; do not condense or expand letter spacing. Late submissions are penalized one point per 24 hour period to a maximum of 40% the total assignment value.

READING QUIZZES

Completing assigned readings will help you achieve the course goals. Lectures, discussion, and the essays use these readings as a springboard. Having once been an undergraduate student myself, I know how easy it is to place readings as a low priority. To provide incentive to complete readings, you may be given a short quiz at the beginning of most classes. Each quiz includes four questions that will be apparent if readings were completed. Of 14 potential quiz days, nine will have a quiz. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

BOOK REVIEW and ESSAYS

See handouts.
CONDUCT

Academic misconduct

Any student found to have engaged, or attempted to engage, in academic misconduct (violation of course rules, cheating, unauthorized assistance, plagiarism, and other behaviors) while within the university's jurisdiction, as set forth in section 3335-23-02, will be subject to disciplinary action by the university. Please refer to http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc for more information.

Classroom management and courtesy

To maintain a professional environment, reduce distractions, enhance learning, and promote mutual respect for one another, please...

• Arrive on time.
• If you are sick and contagious, you may excuse yourself from the class.
  o One unannounced, unexcused absence is permitted per semester. Other absences should be cleared in advance.
• Remain alert and attentive; get a good night's rest.
• Unless discussed with the instructor ahead of time, please turn off cell phones.
• If you plan to use a computer for class work, please meet with the instructor to discuss your usage. Computers for class-related work only. Disable any internet.
• Dress respectfully and academically.
• Use language to communicate respect. Omit profanity. Be wary of both over- and under-contribution in class discussion. As a rule of thumb, limit contributions to two minutes in normal conversation. To speak, just jump in.
• Compose your emails professionally when corresponding with the instructor.
• Digest readings by class time; mentally prepare for questions and comments.

Repeated violations will be communicated by email. Further violations will result in a grade deduction of one to two points per day (to a maximum of 20% of grade).
Week 1 (8-21): An Introduction to the Amish


Week 2 (8-28): History & Beliefs


Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*.

Week 3 (9-4): The Individual, Family, and Community

Anderson, Cory, and Joseph Donnermeyer. 2013. "Where Are the Plain Anabaptists?" *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies* 1(1):1-25. **Read especially pgs 3-12.**


Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*. Chapters 8, 13, 15, and 17.
**Week 4 (9-11): Economy and Work**


Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*. Chapters 3, 6, and 7.

**Week 5 (9-18): Roles, Clothes, and Language**


Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*. Chapters 21, and 25.

**Week 6 (9-25): Rituals and the Religious Community**


Scott, Stephen. 1988. *The Amish Wedding and Other Special Occasions of the Old Order Communities*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books. Choose one of the two options: “A Lancaster Amish Wedding” OR these two chapters: “Choosing a Minister: Holmes County” and “An
Amish Sunday in LaGrange County, Indiana” (you do not need to read the portions concerning other plain non-Amish groups).


Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*. Chapters 1, 23, 28, and 29.

**Week 7 (10-2): Social Processes of Cohesion**


Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*. Chapters 2, 11, 16, and 18.

**Week 8 (10-9): American Perceptions of the Amish**


Cordell, Sigrid. 2013. "Loving in Plain Sight: Amish Romance Novels as Evangelical Gothic." *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies* 1(2).

Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*. Chapters 10 and 14, and “Jackie and Jim Dandy” (handout from Daniel Miller's other book, *As Good As It Gets*).

**Week 9 (10-16): Agriculture and Land Challenges**


Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*. Chapters 5 and 24.

**Week 10 (10-23): Modernization**


Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*. Chapters 4, 9, and 12.

**Week 11 (10-30): Internal Changes—Material and Ideological**


Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*. Chapters 22 and 26.

**Week 12 (11-13): Amish Responses to Social Change**


Select readings from *At Home in Hickory Hollow*. Chapters 19, 20, and 27.

**Week 13 (11-20): Amish-Mennonites, Mennonites, and Hutterites**


**Exam Week**

No class or readings.