

University of Jordan  
Faculty of International Studies  
Department of American Studies

2403706 American Social Systems  
Spring Semester 2010  
Social Science Building, Room 18  
Thursday, 5:00 – 8:00 P.M.

**Lecturer : Dr. Debbie Abuelghanam**

Office:

Office Hours: 2:00 – 5:00, Monday

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### **Required Readings**

### **Course Description**

This interdisciplinary course examines the evolution of American society over four centuries, focusing on the broad patterns of change and continuity of American social structures and social norms. Important areas of inquiry include: demography, family life, women's history and gender relationships, age relationships and gerontology, social and economic class, social mobility, migration, regional variations, community studies and the social implications of urbanization and industrialization.

### **Course Objectives**

This course is to offer graduate students and introduction to the competing theoretical and empirical traditions, which are relevant to gaining a critical perspective of the American Social System. The course attempts to give an overarching perspective on American society and all that this entails.

### **Course Requirements**

**Exams**            There will be two exams for your enjoyment. There will be a midterm exam on **April 1, 2010** and a final exam on **May 27, 2010**. The exams will consist of essay questions. The Midterm Exam is worth **30 points** and the Final Exam is worth **40 points**.

**Term Paper** A term paper is a requirement of this course. The topic of the paper should be relevant to one of the topics in the Assignment Schedule. The paper should be 10 – 15 pages in length. The topic and preliminary outline are due on **March 18, 2010**. The first draft of the paper is due on **April 22, 2010** and the final draft is due at the paper presentations scheduled on **May 20, 2010** (see Assignment Schedule). If you use a published source it must be **documented**. You will present your paper at the end of the semester.

**Attendance** Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken each session. Legitimate reasons for any absence will be accepted and must be accompanied with documentation.

**Class Participation** Each student is expected to have read the assigned reading prior to attending class. **THIS IS A SEMINAR STYLE COURSE**. Each student must be prepared to participate in class discussion concerning the readings.

**Grading** The total number of points that can be earned for the semester is **100 points**. The points are distributed as follows:

Midterm Exam		30 points
Final Exam		40 points
Term Paper		20 points
Class Participation		<u>10 points</u>
		100 points
Term Paper	Outline	5 points
	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft	5 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft	5 points
	Presentation	<u>5 points</u>
		20 points

## Assignment Schedule

		<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Week 1	Feb. 11	Orientation	
Week 2	Feb. 18	Marx and Social Class	Anderson, Ch. 1 & 3
Week 3	Feb. 25	Weber and Social Class	Anderson, Ch. 5 & 9
Week 4	Mar. 4	Race & Social Class	Shapiro, Ch. 4 & 5
Week 5	Mar. 11	Social Structure	Cook & Whitmeyer Bridges, etal.
Week 6	Mar. 18	Immigration	Mauk & Oakland Buck, Etal.
<b><u>Outline Due</u></b>			
Week 7	Mar. 25	Migration	Frey, etal. Frey
Week 8	Apr. 1	Urban & Suburbia	Katz Katz Katz Puentes & Warren Lucy & Phillips
Week 9	Apr. 8	<b><u>MIDTERM EXAM</u></b>	
Week 10	Apr. 15	Nonprofit Sector	Blackwood, etal. De Vita Boris De Vita & Wilson The Urban Institute
Week 11	Apr. 22	Family Life	Lerman, etal. Visher, etal. Wertheimer, etal. Clemans-Cope, etal. Sousa & Sorensen Snyder & Adelman
Week 12	Apr. 29	Gender Discrimination	Bell, etal.

Oakley  
Grosser & Moon  
Kane

**1<sup>st</sup> Draft of Paper Due**

Week 13	May 6	Gender Discrimination
Week 14	May 13	Wrap Up
Week 15	May 20	<b><u>Paper Presentations</u></b>
Week 16	May 27	<b><u>FINAL EXAM</u></b>

**Readings**

Anderson, Charles H. The Political Economy of Social Class. N.J.: Prentice-Hall. 1974.

Ch. 1 – Marxist Theory: Sociohistorical and Economic Foundations. Pp. 1-24.

Ch. 3 - Marxist Theory: Class and Revolution. Pp. 46-75

Ch. 5 – Social Class as Property Class. Pp. 116-141

Ch. 9 – Elites and the Ruling Class. Pp. 216-233.

Bell, Myrtle P. and Mary E. McLaughlin, and Jennifer M. Seuqueira. “Discrimination, Harrassment and the Glass Ceiling: Women Executives as Change Agents.” *Journal of Business Ethics*. Vol. 37, No. 1. Advancing Women’s Careers: Current Status and New Directions. April 2002. Pp. 65-76.

Blackwood, Amy, Kennard T. Wing and Thomas H. Pollack. “The Nonprofit Sector in Brief: Facts and Figures from the Nonprofit Almanac 2008: Public Charities, Giving, and Volunteering.” The Urban Institute. 2008.

Boris, Elizabeth T. “Myths About the Nonprofit Sector.” Charting Civil Society. A series by The Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy. The Urban Institute. July, 1998.

Bridges, George S., Robert D. Crutchfield and Edith E. Simpson. “Crime, Social Structure and Criminal Punishment: White and Nonwhite Rates of Punishment.” *Social Problems*. 1987. Volume 24, No. 4, pp. 345-361.

Buck, Beverly, Melanie Hobbs, Anne Kaiser, Susan Lang, Darrel Montero, Kathy Romines, Tonia Scott. “Immigration and Immigrants: Trends in American Public Opinion 1964-1999.” *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*. 2004. 12:3, 73-90.

Clemans-Cope, Lisa and Cynthia D. Perry, Genevieve M. Kenney, Jennifer E. Pelletier. “Access

- To and Use of Paid Sick Leave Among Low-Income Families with Children. *Pediatrics: Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*. 122:e480-486. 2008.
- Cook, K.S. and J.M. Whitmeyer. "Two Approaches to Social Structure: Exchange Theory and Network Analysis". *Annual Review of Sociology*. 1992. Volume 18: pp. 109-127
- De Vita, Carol J. "Viewing Nonprofits Across the States." *Chartering Civil Society. A Series By the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy*. The Urban Institute. August, 1997.
- De Vita, Carol J. and Sarah Wilson. "Faith-Based Initiatives: Sacred Deed and Secular Dollars." *Emerging Issues in Philanthropy*. The Urban Institute and The Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations. 2001.
- Frey, William H., Alan Berube, Audrey Singer and Jill H. Wilson. "Getting Current: Recent Demographic Trends in Metropolitan America." *The Metropolitan Policy Program at The Brookings Institution*. 2009. Pp. 1-24.
- Frey, William H. "The New Great Migration: Black Americans' Return to the South 1965-2000." *The Living Cities Census Series, The Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, The Brookings Institution*. May, 2004. Pp. 1-16.
- Grosser, Kate and Jeremy Moon. "Gender Mainstreaming and Corporate Social Responsibility: Reporting Work-Place Issues." *Journal of Business Ethics*. Vol. 62, No. 4, December, 2005. pp. 327-340.
- Kane, Emily W. "Education and Beliefs About Gender Equality." *Social Problems*. Vol.42, No. 1, February 1995. Pp. 74-90.
- Katz, Bruce. "A Much More Urban America." *The Washington Post*. July 23, 2007. Obtained From the Brookings Institution website. Pp. 1-3.
- Katz, Bruce. "Reviving Cities: Think Metropolitan." *Brooking Policy Brief Series #34*. The Brookings Institution. June, 1998. Pp. 1-7.
- Katz, Bruce. "A Nation in Transition: What the Urban Age Means for the United States." *The Urban Age Conference*. May 2007. Obtained from the Brookings Institution Website. Pp. 1-12.
- Lerman, Robert, Gregory Acs and Anupa Bir. "An Economic Proposal and Selected Proposals For Demonstrations for Strengthening Marriages, Employment, and Family Functioning Outcomes." *The Center on Labor, Human Services and Population*. The Urban Institute. December, 2007. Pp. 4-7.
- Lucy, William H. and David L. Phillips. "Suburbs and the Census: Patterns of Growth and Decline." *Center and Urban Metropolitan Policy – The Brookings Institution*. Dec. 2001. pp. 1-12.

Mauk, David and John Oakland. American Civilization: An Introduction. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. N.Y.: Routledge. 2005.

Ch. 3 – “The People: Settlement and Immigration.” Pp. 49-69.

Oakley, Judith G. “Gender-Based Barriers to Senior Management Positions: Understanding the Scarcity of Female CEOs.” *Journal of Business Ethics*. Vol. 27, No. 4, October 2000. pp. 321-334.

Puentes, Robert and David Warren. “One Fifth America: A Comprehensive Guide to America’s First Suburbs.” The Metropolitan Policy Program – The Brookings Institution. Feb. 2006. pp. 1-24.

Shapiro, Thomas M. The Hidden Cost of Being African American. N.Y.: Oxford University Press. 2004

Ch. 4 – Middle Class In Black and White: How Level is the Playing Field. Pp. 87-104.

Ch. 5 – The Homeownership Crossroad. Pp. 105-125.

Snyder, Kathleen and Sarah Adelman. “The Use of Relative Care While Parents Work: Findings From the 1999 National Survey of American Families.” Discussion Papers. Assessing The New Federalism: An Urban Institute Program to Assess Changing Social Policies. The Urban Institute. November 2004. Pp. 1-13.

Sousa, Liliana and Elaine Sorensen. “The Economic Reality of Nonresident Mothers and Their Children.” New Federalism: National Survey of America’s Families. The Urban Institute. Series B., No. B-69, May 2006.

Urban Institute. “Volunteer Management: Capacity in America’s Charities and Congregations. A Briefing Report. February, 2004.

Visher, Christy A., Carly R. Knight, Aaron Chalfin, and John K. Roman. “The Impact of Marital And Relationship Status on Social Outcomes for Returning Prisoners.” The Justice Policy Center. The Urban Institute. February 2009.

Wertheimer, Richard and Angela Romano Papillo, Child Trends. “An Update n State Policy Initiatives to Reduce Teen and Adult Nonmarital Childbearing.” New Federalism: Issues And Options for States. The Urban Institute. Series A, No. A-66, August, 2004.