

MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE – KENDALL CAMPUS
Social Sciences Department

ISS 1120 Social Environment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Somewhat anchored to the discipline of sociology, this social environment presentation is an interdisciplinary course that emphasizes the cultural, economic, political, and global dimensions of society: peoples and their groupings. In effect this course material deals with humans as they gather. Students will explore how people behave when forming unions and what direction society takes as a result. The main objective of this course is to promote a climate of inquisitiveness and questioning that may lead students to more informed decision-making. This will be facilitated and supported by acquiring new information concerning historical and contemporary forces that shape our social environment. All in all, this course provides a more specific and in-depth view of main themes examined in sociology. (3 credit hour lecture)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the semester, the student will demonstrate a basic and broad understanding of social environment as seen through the eyes of science. As a measure of this, the student will prepared to...

- explain general features that make-up the **scientific method**
- discuss three factors having to do with the birth of social sciences
- orally present an example (each of two) of how philosophy and religion influence science
- convincingly go over (written or orally) the relevance and outcomes of **ethnocentrism** and **cultural relativity**
- briefly talk or write about four main concepts found in **economic systems** and their functioning
- converse about the factors that determine social class in the United States
- state three consequences to economic inequality and poverty
- discuss three main concepts that make-up political systems
- debate on three of the most enduring political ideologies
- present an outline of five features of the American political system
- describe three factors that influence **international relations**

TEXTBOOKS:

Perry, J.A., and Perry, E.K. (2006). *Contemporary society: An introduction to social science*. (11 ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon (Pearson).

*** Per temporal and substantive trading, textbook subject to change****ATTENDANCE: A measure of effort**

Attendance and punctuality will be factors in assessing student competency and in figuring grades. The instructor will begin deducting points (one point per occasion) after a third absence. Students with no absences will collect 10 points; these will be added to their total points for the class. Any points gained in this area (effort) will be absorbed into the grade allotment section headed “**showing up**”. Up to another 10 points are accrued by students that demonstrate progressing (or consistent), determined, and involved effort.

There will be consequences for tardiness. The instructor reserves the right to take points off (one point per occasion) for students habitually arriving late for class.

In the case of unforeseen events or circumstances, the student and instructor will discuss possible solutions, including the possibility of the student taking an incomplete grade.

ACADEMIC HONOR:

Refer to the Student’s Rights and Responsibilities Handbook available at the Student Life Department for code of ethics guidelines and disciplinary procedures. The Student Life Department is located in building 8 (room 8201); the phone number there is 305.237.2321. Students may also review the Student Code of Conduct outline online. The URL address is www.mdc.edu/pdf/procedures/4071.pdf. Take painstaking measures to assure that you are turning in and taking credit for only your own work.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: activities, exercises, and expectations

Two tests and a final exam will be administered. The student will exercise the option of selecting from the better of the first two exams, along with the final, to sum up the points for a final grade. The test chosen will count for 75 points towards the student’s final points and grade. The final will be worth another 75 points. So, the test and final will add to a possible 150 points. Test ONE will cover chapters 1 through 5; test TWO will cover chapters 6 through 10; the FINAL will cover chapters 11 through 14 and will not be cumulative.

Exam questions will come from class lectures, discussions, and from required readings. Questions on the exam will be composed in TRUE or FALSE and MULTIPLE CHOICE format; also, some questions will require an ESSAY response. Test ONE will happen on **Friday...**; test TWO will happen on **Friday....** The FINAL exam is scheduled for final exam week (details to be announced).

In addition to the exams, and in accordance with the Gordon Rule requirement (select courses require that students write a minimum of 2000 written words as part of coursework), the student will write eight, 250 word papers. This will satisfy the 2000 word writing requirement and offer the student an opportunity to practice and demonstrate writing proficiency, a useful and necessary skill in college. These typed papers (double-spaced) will be due at the beginning of the class period on the following dates:

Paper 1-**Wednesday**...

Paper 2-**Friday**...

Paper 3-**Monday**...

Paper 4-**Monday**...

Paper 5-**Wednesday**...

Paper 6-**Friday**...

Paper 7-**Wednesday**...

Paper 8-**Friday**...

The student will chose from a set of topics related to the course that the professor will present. Student papers will be judged on standards of format, how well the student states a case, how citations or references relate to the topic, and writing talent. Your grade will depend on the skill of your effort. Learn something from this assignment. Students can earn up at least 50 points from these papers (approximately 6.3 points a piece).

GRADING:

As hinted above, through their efforts students will accumulate points and these points will earn the student a grade. Points will be earned for **one (required) of two tests, the final exam (required unless otherwise exempt), and the 8 papers; more points will come through class participation and effort, in the case of perfect attendance, and for make-up or extra-credit work** agreed to by both student and instructor. Point to grade spreads will be as follows:

<u>Point Distribution</u>	<u>Grade Spread</u>
Test ONE.....75	206-230.....A
or	183-205.....B
Test TWO.....75	160-182.....C
FINAL.....75	137-159.....D
PAPERS.....50	136-F
<u>Participation.....30</u>	
Possible high score...230	
Extra credit.....up to...10	
Showing up/effort.....20	

STUDENT ASSISTANCE:

The SAIL (System for Applied Individualized Learning) lab offers students a host of resources and services that include, but are not limited to, tutoring, workshops, and technological help. The SAIL lab is located in the computer courtyard on the first floor of the library. The phone there is 305-237-0851. Students can access the SAIL website: <http://www.mdc.edu/kendall/kendallcourtyard/sail.asp>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students that require assistance due to a documented disability will contact Access Disability Services (ADS) for coordination of academic accommodations. ADS is found on the first floor of the main library in room 2121. The phone number for ADS is 305.237.2767 and students can access the ADS website: <http://www.mdc.edu/kendall/access/default.asp>

SYLLABUS:

At the university and college level, the course syllabus provides an outlined manual for quality academic performance; so, as you follow the syllabus, so will you perform. This syllabus includes datelines with important timetables and deadlines, your grading policy, and contact information for the department, and the professor. Syllabi are legal, binding documents or contracts between you and your professor. That said, with the exception of the grading scale and attendance policy, the professor reserves the right to change this syllabus.

GOOD LUCK!