

Lake Superior State University
SOC 103: Cultural Diversity
Fall 2016

Instructor: Simon J. Purdy, Ph.D.
Email: spurdy@lssu.edu
Phone: (517) 974-9860
Office Hours: Online (Moodle or Email)
Class Meetings: Weekly (online), New lectures posted by Monday afternoon.

Required Textbook:

Newman, D. (2012). *Identities and Inequalities: Exploring the Intersections of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.
ISBN: 978-0-07-338010-0

** Additional readings and materials may be posted that are not found on the course schedule below; these materials will be mentioned in lecture and posted on the Moodle course site.

Course Description:

“We must learn to live together as brothers, or we are going to perish as fools.”
-Martin Luther King Jr.

The intention of this course is to gain a better understanding of the variations in race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and social class that exist in the United States. These variations, and related inequalities, will be explored through the use of sociological theory and examination. Over the course of this semester, you will learn about the historical and modern trends in inequality and diversity, as well as possible theoretical explanations for why these patterns have occurred. These skills are intended to help in your navigation and full participation in the increasingly multi-cultural world in which we live.

Our exploration of cultural diversity through the sociological lens may cause you to question some of your own beliefs. Whether or not you end up changing your mind about certain issues (such as why poverty rates differ amongst racial and ethnic groups) is not important. What **is** important, is that you are able to develop more than one way of looking at a given issue, and thus are able to logically evaluate your personal assumptions and the bases of those assumptions (i.e., whether you are only considering evidence in support of your view).

Course Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of diversity and inequality as they exist in the modern world, through the ability to identify their occurrences with concrete evidence.
- To develop a theoretical knowledge of diversity and inequality, and develop a positive attitude toward using theory to understand the causes and effects of, and potential solutions for, these phenomena.
- To be able to offer critical, theory based, and well informed contributions to issues of inequality and/or lack of diversity as they arise over the semester and beyond.

Class Structure:

The majority of information in this class will be presented in lectures (visual and audio) that will be posted to the course Moodle website every week (by Monday afternoon). There is no set meeting time for this course, so it will be your responsibility to listen to and view these lectures in a timely manner. Along with the lectures, there will also be weekly assignments that must be completed and submitted online no later than midnight on Sunday. These assignments will be posted in writing and mentioned in the lectures, and will correspond to the content of the weekly lectures.

Completing weekly assignments will involve the use of Moodle Forums (located in the weekly content area), where you will also be able to post any questions or comments you may have regarding the assignments or the materials we have covered in lecture. Think of the Forum as the place where you can raise your hand and ask a question to the entire class. Due to the online format of this course, it will be highly valuable to discuss any issues that you may have in this forum, so that we may all gain the widest variety of views and therefore the best possible understanding of any given topic/issue.

Exams will be taken and submitted online on the Moodle site. Exams will be posted the week after the final material of the section has been covered. You will have 5 days to complete each exam (Monday through Friday at Midnight), however, you will have just 1 hour to complete an exam once you have started, so make sure you have set off a block of time that is free from distractions before beginning an exam. If you think that you will require more time for an examination, please discuss it with the professor before beginning the exam.

The class will flow from one issue to the next throughout the semester, with more or less time being allotted to any given issue depending on the interest it generates. As such, the schedule presented in this syllabus may not perfectly match the course progression.

Course Grade and Grading Scale:

Your grade for this course will consist of points earned from 4 examinations (3 exams and the final exam), as well as weekly assignments and class participation. The examinations will account for 60% of your grade. The weekly assignments will be worth 30% of your grade, and the remaining 10% will consist of your participation in the course (calculated by course site use and discussion posts, etc.).

Grading Scale

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
98-100	A+	70-71	C-
92-97	A	68-69	D+
90-91	A-	62-67	D
88-89	B+	60-61	D-
82-87	B	0-59	F
80-81	B-		
78-79	C+		
72-77	C		

Ground Rules:

- 1) All assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments **will not** be accepted for any reason unless an arrangement has been made with the instructor to account for legitimate reasons (i.e. severe illness, death in the family, etc.).
- 2) Given the flexibility allotted for examinations, there will be no make-up exams granted, unless a legitimate reason is given to the professor and prior arrangements have been made (see above).
- 3) All assignments and examinations must be completed by you alone. Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be handled in accordance to university policies.
- 4) Sources used in any writing assignment must be cited in APA format.
- 5) While modern technology has done wonders for the development of modern humans, it has also been a contributor to many new problems. Recent studies have shown that while many of us feel that we are good at multitasking (texting, watching tv, studying, etc.), our thought processes and resulting work are much worse than when any single task is completed on its own. And so for this course, given the online format, it is highly recommended that you mono-task during lectures, assignments and exams.

University Policies and Statements:

Americans with Disabilities Act

In compliance with Lake Superior State University policies and equal access laws, disability-related accommodations or services are available to students with documented disabilities.

If you are a student with a disability and you think you may require accommodations you must register with Disability Services (DS), which is located in the KJS Library, Room 149, (906) 635-2355 or x2355 on campus. DS will provide you with a letter of confirmation of your verified disability and authorize recommended accommodations. This authorization must be presented to your instructor before any accommodations can be made. Students who desire such services should meet with instructors in a timely manner, preferably during the first week of class, to discuss individual disability related needs. Any student who feels that an accommodation is needed – based on the impact of a disability – should meet with instructors privately to discuss specific needs.

The university will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should notify the Director of Disability Services (located in LBR 149 just down the hall from the Learning Center) and their instructors of any accommodation needs as soon as possible.

IPASS

If at mid-term your grades reflect that you are at risk for failing some or all of your classes, you will be contacted by a representative of IPASS. The IPASS program is designed to help you gain control over your learning through pro-active communication and goal-setting, the development of intentional learning skills and study habits, and personal accountability. You may contact 635-2887 or email ipass@lssu.edu if you would like to sign up early in the semester or if you have any questions or concerns.

Online Course Attendance Policy

Students in online or blended classes are required to log in to the Course Management System (Moodle) and complete at least one “Academic Related Activity” within the Add/Drop period.

Academic Policy

Academic dishonesty and cheating will not be tolerated in any way, shape or form in this course. Please be sure to make yourself familiar with the University's academic policy statement ([found here](#)) as it will be valuable for the duration of your academic career and beyond.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week of:	Material Covered	Readings
9/19	Intro/Differences and Similarities	Chap 1
9/26	Differences and Similarities, Cont.	Chap 1
10/3	Social Construction	Chap 2
10/10	Social Construction, Review for Exam 1	Chap 2
Exam 1. Due by Midnight Oct 21		
10/17	Portraying Difference	Chap 3
10/24	Portraying Difference	Chap 3
10/31	Learning Differences	Chap 4
11/7	Learning Difference, Review for Exam 2	Chap 4
Exam 2. Due by Midnight Nov 18		
11/14	Expressing Inequalities	Chap 5
11/21	Expressing Inequalities	Chap 5
11/28	Inequalities in Economics and Work	Chap 6
12/5	Inequalities in Econ and Work, Review for Exam 3	Chap 6
Exam 3. Due by Midnight Dec 16		
12/12	Inequalities in Law and Justice	Chap 7
12/19	Inequalities in Law and Justice	Chap 7
Winter Break, no class material: Dec 23-Jan 1		
1/2	Inequalities in Health and Illness	Chap 8
1/9	The Futures of Inequality	Chap 9
1/16	Final Exam Week. Final Exam Due by Midnight Jan 20	