COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Sociology 4341, Social Change. The subject is broad, and we will generally follow the text, *Exploring Social Change: America and The World*, in our quest to develop some understanding of societal and individual change.

The text has four parts, but I organize the course into three sections: (1) Social Change in the United States, (2) Theories and Processes, (3) and Global Change. I may supplement text chapters with additional readings, usually posted on the Semester Book.

I invite and encourage students participate in classroom discussions.

REQUIRED TEXTS


Ngugi Wa Thiong'o. *The River Between.*

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be based on three exams:

1. First Exam 30%
2. Second Exam 30%
3. Final Exam 40% (30% new, 10% comprehensive)

Exam format may vary. Typically, I use essay format or a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
NOTES

Attendance, etc: Please attend all classes, come on time, turn off cell phones, and stay to the end of each class. Thank you.

Open Door Policy: I have scheduled office hours for Monday, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. However, all students are welcome to email, call my office, or stop by my office any time during the semester.

Semester Book: We will use Semester Book. I use it to post grades and reading materials, give details and reminders about exams, and send/receive e-mails.

Syllabus changes: I try to keep the original syllabus throughout the semester. However, I reserve the right to change the syllabus if it is necessary. If a change is necessary, I will make an announcement in class and post a revised syllabus on Semester Book.

Academic Dishonesty: The vast majority of students have the highest standards of academic integrity. Only very few engage in academically dishonest activities. To be fair to all students, I will uphold my responsibility to report to the Dean of Students any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams).

Missed Exams: I prefer NOT to give make-up exams. Please try to make all scheduled exams. If you miss an exam, you must (1) have a valid excuse, (2) inform me in advance or as soon as possible afterward, and (3) make up the exam at the first opportunity.
COURSE OUTLINE

------Part 1------

Week 1 Readings:  *Chapter 1: Introduction*, start *The River Between*
- Aug 23  Introduction
- Aug 25  Introduction

Week 2 Readings:  *The River Between, Chapter 2: Structural Trends*
- Aug 30  The River Between
- Sep  1  Structural Trends

Week 3 Readings:  *Chapter 2: American Social Trends*
- Sep  6  Labor Day
- Sep  8  Cultural Themes

Week 4 Readings:  *Chapter 3: Population, Family, and Work*
- Sep 13  Demographic Change: US and Louisiana
- Sep 15  Change in Family and Work

Week 5 Readings:  *Chapter 4: Economics, Politics, and the American Prospect*
- Sep 20  Changing Economy
- Sep 22  Change in Political System & American Prospect

Week 6 Readings:  None: Prepare for First Exam
- Sep 27  First Exam Review
- Sep 29  First Exam

------Part 2------

Week 7 Readings:  *Chapter 5: Causes and Patterns of Change*
- Oct  4  Economic Development
- Oct  6  Global Politics and Third World Poverty

Week 8 Readings:  *Chapter 6: Social Theory and Social Change*
- Oct 11  Functionalist Versus Conflict Theories
- Oct 13  Agency-Structure Debate

Week 9 Readings:  *Chapter 7: Social Movements*
- Oct 18  Discussion on Social Movements
- Oct 20  Video: Freedom on my Mind

Week 10 Readings:  *Chapter 8: Reform Movements*
- Oct 25  Discuss video
- Oct 27  American reform movements

Week 11 Readings:  None, Review for Second Exam
- Nov  1  Review for Second Exam
- Nov  3  Second Exam

------Part 3------
Week 12  Readings:  *Chapter 12: Emerging Global System*
Nov 8    Development
Nov 10   Globalization

Week 13  Readings:  *Chapter 10: Technology, Innovation, and Change*
Nov 15   Discussion
Nov 17   Guest Speaker: ICT diffusion worldwide

Week 14  Readings:  *Chapters 13 & 14: Ecology and Change & World Futures*
Nov 22   Ecology and Change
Nov 24   World Futures

Week 15  Readings:  *Chapter 11: Creating Change*
Nov 29   Creating Change Discussion
Dec  1    Review for Third Exam

Final Exam: Dec  9 (5:30 - 7:30pm)