THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
National Catholic School of Social Service
Washington, DC  20064

SSS 225: Human Behavior & the Social Environment II
Spring 2016 (3 credits)

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Office: Shahan 115

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I. COURSE PURPOSE
This is the second course of a two–semester sequence on human behavior and the social environment. SSS 225 examines the development and operation of functional and dysfunctional systems at the mezzo and macro levels. Grand sociological theories will be addressed with an emphasis on the conflict and order perspectives. These will be explored in relation to concepts consistent with generalist social work practice including order/change, sociological/epidemiological problem definitions, the search for the ideal community, population homogeneity/diversity, rights and obligations of citizens/societies, and troubled relationships between individuals/families and societal organizations/institutions. Applications are made to contemporary social problems using classic and current readings to provide content that a) enables students to recognize the dynamics of oppression and discrimination, b) prepares generalist practitioners to use human behavior theories to enhance the well–being of communities, groups, and organizations, and c) challenges students to develop a deep commitment to the promotion of social and economic justice and the value base of the social work profession. Instructional methods include required readings, class assignments, student participation, group interaction, and other forms as deemed appropriate.

II. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES
• Define problems in the social environment from two perspectives: order and conflict.

• Analyze contemporary social problems that lie at the community, group, organizational, and societal levels using macro theoretical frameworks.

• Articulate the dynamics of function and dysfunction as they apply to communities, groups, organizations, and societies.

• Appreciate the resources, assets, and strengths that lie within communities, groups, organizations, and societies that benefit citizens and citizen groups.

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II. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES (continued)

- Recognize how environments behave in order to solve or alleviate contemporary problems and prevent their recurrence or the occurrence of new problems.

- Demonstrate knowledge of social work ethics and values and their consistency with social justice theories.

- Build a foundational knowledge base for generalist social work practice with diverse populations that is informed, objective, and respectful.

- Appreciate the importance of research in providing an empirical basis for theoretical knowledge.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required Texts

B. Recommended Texts and Media

   Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) APA Formatting and Style Guide
   [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)


C. Coursework and Due Dates

   **EXAM**  2/3/15 (Tu)
   **FINAL**  5/5/15 (Tu)
   **PRESENTATION***  As scheduled
   **REACTION PAPERS***
      PAPER 1  3/24/15 (Tu)
      PAPER 2  4/14/15 (Tu)
      PAPER 3  4/23/15 (Th)

* All reaction papers (.doc/.docx) and an electronic copy of your presentation (.ppt/.pptx) are to be emailed as an attachment to your instructor prior to the start of the class session in which they are due (i.e., no later than 2:10 p.m.).
* Reaction papers are to also be submitted via hard copy to the instructor at the start of that day’s class period (no later than 2:10 p.m.).

**Please name your attachments as follows:**
   Reaction Papers: 225 Last Name R# (e.g., 225 Smith R1)
   Presentations: 225 Last Name PPT (e.g., 225 Smith PPT) bnb

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D. Class Attendance and Participation

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND CLASS AND PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS.
Participation is defined as reading and reflecting upon the required readings prior to class in order to understand the context of the discussion and to speak informatively on the day’s topic. It is understood that some students will have an easier time that others with spontaneous class participation while others will have an easier time with pre–planned questions and comments. Both types of contributions are valued.

BEING LATE FOR CLASS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION IS A DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR.
Thus, each time a student is late (i.e., he/she arrives at 2:11 p.m. or later according to the room clock), the instructor reserves the right to deduct 1% from this individual’s overall grade for attendance and participation.

REQUESTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO CLASS COMMENCEMENT.
That is, prior to or on the date a student is requesting to be excused from class, his/her email regarding such must be received by the instructor by 2:10 p.m. or earlier according to Cardinal Mail’s date–time stamp. Requests received once class commences will not be accepted and are considered to be unexcused. As such, zero points will be recorded for that particular day’s attendance and participation grade.

If there are assignments due, exams, or quizzes given on days that you have requested excused absences, you are responsible for submitting those assignments in early. Quizzes and exams cannot be made up AFTER they are administered in-class, only before, with a valid reason.

ABSENCES DUE TO ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION REQUIRE ADVANCED NOTIFICATION.
Students participating in CUA athletic sport activities must notify the instructor in a timely manner of any potential absences from class, provide written documentation of their athletic participation, and plan ahead for any potential class absences. Absences without prior notification are considered unexcused absences. Students are responsible for making up any missed work as normally expected in the course class schedule.

E. Late Coursework Policy

All reaction papers (.doc/.docx) and an electronic copy of your presentation (.ppt/.pptx) are to be emailed as attachments to your instructor no later than 2:10 p.m. on their respective due dates. Submissions received after 2:11 p.m. are considered late and incur an automatic five–point penalty. After 24 hours, an additional five points will be deducted. For every day thereafter, another 5 points will be deducted, until 5 days post–due date, at which time the last assignment will not be accepted, and the grade for such will be entered as a zero. These penalties apply unless you have made prior arrangements with the instructor. Extensions are not granted the day an assignment is due. If you should need an extension (e.g., health reasons, family emergency, etc.), you must discuss this with your instructor at least 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) in advance of the due date.

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F. Weighting of Coursework

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION  10%

EXAM I  10%
EXAM II  10%
EXAM III - FINAL  15%

PRESENTATION  25%

REACTION PAPERS (3)  30%

G. Grading Policy

Grades for the course are based on the University grading system (see below). Grades for the reaction papers will be evaluated not only for depth and content, but also for clarity of thought, grammar, organization, sentence structure, spelling, etc. In addition, papers are to adhere to APA format. As such, students should be familiar with the sixth edition of the *Publication Manual of the APA* and use the manual as a guide for all written work to be completed during this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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H. Electronic Devices

**RECORDING OF CLASSROOM LECTURES IS PROHIBITED** unless advance written permission is obtained from the instructor. Students who require recording or other adaptations of lectures as a reasonable accommodation for a disability should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) in advance in order to obtain permission for the recording and must provide the instructor with written documentation. The University has instituted a policy on recording of classroom lectures, which may be accessed at: [http://policies.cua.edu/academicgrad/recordingclassroomlecturesgraduate.cfm](http://policies.cua.edu/academicgrad/recordingclassroomlecturesgraduate.cfm).

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USING CELL/SMART PHONES OR OTHER MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES IS NOT ALLOWED. The use of cell.smart phones or other mobile communication devices is distracting and disrespectful; thus, their use during class is prohibited except in an emergency. In such instances, students are to leave the classroom and return in a prompt, courteous manner. In consideration of others, individuals should either silence or turn their cell phone ringers to vibrate while in class. Please note the instructor may confiscate the disruptive device after one warning for the duration of class. Any subsequent disruption will result in a cumulative 5% deduction from one’s overall grade for attendance and participation.

UTILIZING LAPTOPS, TABLETS, OR OTHER COMPUTER DEVICES IS PERMITTED FOR NOTE– TAKING PURPOSES ONLY. Students who ignore this policy and utilize computer devices for purposes other than taking notes will be dismissed from class. Each dismissal will result in a cumulative 5% deduction from one’s overall grade for attendance and participation.

I. Course and Instructor Evaluation
NCSSS requires electronic evaluation of this course and the instructor. At the end of the semester, the evaluation form may be accessed at http://evaluations.cua.edu/evaluations using your CUA username and password. Additional, informal written or verbal feedback to the instructor during the semester is encouraged.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS
A. Scholastic Expectations
Please refer to NCSSS Announcements or the appropriate Program Handbook for Academic Requirements, including scholastic and behavioral requirements. All written work should reflect the original thinking of the writer, cite references where material is quoted or adapted from existing sources, adhere to APA format, and should be carefully proofread by the student before submission to the instructor for grading.

B. Academic Honesty
Joining the community of scholars at CUA entails accepting the standards, living by those standards, and upholding them. Please refer to University Policy and appropriate Program Handbooks.

C. Accommodations
Students with physical, learning, psychological or other disabilities wishing to request accommodations must identify with the Disability Support Services (DSS) and submit documentation of a disability. If you have documented such a disability to DSS that requires accommodations or an academic adjustment, please arrange a meeting with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss these accommodations.

Revised December 22, 2015
**CLASS SCHEDULE: TOPICS AND READINGS***

*The Instructor reserves the right to modify this schedule if needed. Students will be alerted of any changes in class and by email notification via Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SEEING AND THINKING SOCIOLOGICALLY</td>
<td>1/12/16 (Tu) Eitzen, Zinn, &amp; Smith: Chapters 1 &amp; 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>POOR CHILDREN</td>
<td>1/14/16 (Th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>KARL MARX</td>
<td>1/19/16 (Tu) Ritzer: Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ÉMILE DURKHEIM</td>
<td>1/21/16 (Th) Ritzer: Chapter 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE WITHOUT RECORD</td>
<td>1/22/16 (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MAX WEBER</td>
<td>1/26/16 (Tu) Ritzer: Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>TALCOTT PARSONS</td>
<td>1/28/16 (Th) Ritzer: Chapter 7, pages 236–252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>EXAM I</td>
<td>2/2/16 (Tu)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>THEORIES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE</td>
<td>2/9/16 (Tu) On BlackBoard, Readings: Solas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CULTURE AND SOCIALIZATION</td>
<td>2/11/16 (Th) Eitzen et al.: Chapters 4 &amp; 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>SOCIAL CONTROL AND DEVIANCE</td>
<td>2/16/16 (Tu) Eitzen et al.: Chapters 6 &amp; 7</td>
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CLASS SCHEDULE: TOPICS AND READINGS (CONTINUED)*
*The Instructor reserves the right to modify this schedule if needed.
Students will be alerted of any changes in class and by email notification via Blackboard.

Class 12  PRESENTATIONS
2/18/16 (Th)  Prison Overcrowding/Mandatory Sentencing
               Suicide among Veterans/Active Duty Military Personnel

2/23/16 (Tu) NO CLASS (Administrative Monday)

Class 13  PRESENTATIONS
2/25/16 (Th)  Hate Crimes against LGBTQ
               Homelessness among Veterans

3/1/16 (Tu)  NO CLASS (Spring Break)

3/3/16 (Th)  NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Class 14  SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND SOCIAL CLASS
3/8/16 (Tu)  Eitzen et al.: Chapters 9 & 10

Class 15  EXAM II
3/10/16 (Th)

Class 16  RACIAL AND GENDER INEQUALITIES
3/15/16 (Tu)  Eitzen et al.: Chapters 11 & 12

Class 17  LOST IN DETENTION *
3/17/16 (Th)  * You will be writing your 1st reaction paper on this piece.

Class 18  FAMILIES AND RELIGION
3/22/16 (Tu)  Eitzen et al.: Chapters 15 & 17

3/24/16 (Th) NO CLASS (Holy Thursday)

Class 19  PRESENTATIONS
3/29/16 (Tu)  Child Abuse & Neglect
               Elder Abuse & Neglect

Class 20  PRESENTATIONS
3/31/16 (Th)  Ethnic/Religious Profiling among Muslims
               Sexual Violence on College Campuses

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<th>Class 21</th>
<th>THE ECONOMY, POWER, AND POLITICS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/5/16 (Tu)</td>
<td>Eitzen et al.: Chapters 13 &amp; 14</td>
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<th>Class 22</th>
<th>PARK AVENUE: MONEY, POWER, AND THE AMERICAN DREAM*</th>
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<td>4/7/16 (Th)</td>
<td>* You will be writing your 2nd reaction paper on this piece.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Class 23</th>
<th>PRESENTATIONS</th>
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| 4/12/16 (Tu) | Migrant Agricultural Workers in the U.S.  
| | Sweatshop Labor  
| | REACTION PAPER 2 DUE |

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<tr>
<th>Class 24</th>
<th>PRESENTATIONS</th>
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| 4/14/16 (Th) | Educational Inequality & Achievement  
| | School Violence |

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<tr>
<th>Class 25</th>
<th>DISABILITY/ABLEISM</th>
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| 4/19/16 (Tu) | On BlackBoard, Readings: Eitzen et al., Chapter 11*  
| | * This is not the same chapter as the one in the required Eitzen et al. textbook. |

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<tr>
<th>Class 26</th>
<th>GLOBALIZATION &amp; PRESENTATION</th>
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| 4/21/16 (Th) | On BlackBoard, Readings: Midgley  
| | Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting  
| | REACTION PAPER 3 DUE |

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<tr>
<th>Class 27</th>
<th>PRESENTATIONS</th>
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| 4/26/16 (Tu) | Children Affected by/Living in Armed Conflict  
| | HIV/AIDS Orphans & Vulnerable Children |

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<tr>
<th>Class 28</th>
<th>PRESENTATIONS</th>
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| 4/28/16 (Th) | Forced Marriages among Children  
| | Sex Trafficking |

5/4/16 (Th) **TAKE–HOME FINAL DUE**
REACTI0N PAPERS (THREE PAGES OF TEXT)*
*This does not include your cover page.

Students will write two reaction papers based on two videos that will be shown in class. Guidelines for the third reaction paper will be distributed at a later date. The primary purpose of these first two assignments is for you to begin to engage in the following:

a) to become aware of your reactions to social issues,

b) to utilize your sociological imagination as a means to assist you in determining and explaining what factors may have influenced/contributed to your reactions, and

c) to carefully consider how the content of the videos and your own reactions exemplify and/or challenge the theories and concepts about social problems discussed in class.

Reaction papers (.doc/.docx) are to be emailed to your instructor by 2:10 p.m. on their respective due dates. Please name your attachments as follows: 225 Last Name R# (e.g., 225 Smith R1). Hard copies and .pdf attachments will not be accepted.

**CONTENT: 30 POINTS**

**Introduction (half page of text): 5 Points**
- Provide a brief overview of the video (i.e., one paragraph that is no more than 12 lines)

**Reaction (two full pages of text): 20 Points**
- Refer to a), b), and c) above. Two full pages of text is approximately 44 to 46 lines.

**Conclusion (half page of text): 5 Points**
- Summarize what you have learned about yourself/your reactions (i.e., one paragraph that is no more than 12 lines)

**APA STYLE: 15 POINTS**

1–Inch Margins: 1 point
Two Spaces after each Sentence: 1 point
Double–Spaced: 2 point
Times New Roman (font face and 12–point within text): 2 points

Cover Page (format, font face, and 12–point): 3 points
Page Numbers (format, font face, and 12–point): 3 points
Running Head (format, font face, and 12–point): 3 points

**MECHANICS: 15 POINTS**

Clarity of Thought/Organization: 5 points
Grammar/Sentence Structure: 5 points
Punctuation and Spelling: 5 points

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PRESENTATION: OVERVIEW

You are to develop a **25-minute** presentation on an assigned topic. The instructor reserves the right to deduct a graduated percentage from an individual’s overall presentation grade when his/her presentation is significantly less than 25 minutes. As such, it is recommended that you practice delivering your presentation in order to meet this requirement.

Students may include **one video clip**, but it must be no longer than five minutes, appropriate (i.e., not exploitive, prejudiced, superficial, etc.), and relevant (i.e., not filler).

Upon conclusion of your presentation, an additional **10 minutes** will be allotted for questions and comments by your classmates and instructor.

Students are not to merely copy and paste information into their presentation slides. This is **plagiarism** and will not be tolerated. Any individual who plagiarizes, regardless of intent, will receive an **automatic zero**.

As with a scholarly paper, you are to cite your sources and provide a reference list at the end of your presentation. Please note, all references and citations will be checked.

You are to provide your classmates with a hardcopy of your presentation or one-page summary.

Presentations (.ppt/.pptx) are to be emailed to your instructor by 2:10 p.m. on your assigned date. **Please name your attachment as follows: 225 Last Name PPT** (e.g., 225 Smith PPT).

Revised December 22, 2015
PRESENTATION: RUBRICS

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION (10 POINTS)
- Briefly outline what will be covered in your presentation.
- Why did you select this topic?
- Why is your topic a social work issue, and how is it relevant to social work?

SECTION II: BACKGROUND (30 POINTS)
- Define your topic. What is the nature of the issue? What are its historical roots?
- Who is affected by the issue and how (re: think micro, mezzo, and macro)? Include prevalence data (aim for a minimum of five).
- What is its current state domestically or internationally (i.e., is it being addressed, how is it being addressed, what is being done, what should be done, etc.)?

SECTION III: HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT (10 POINTS)
- Why is this a human rights issue? Specifically, you are to examine your issue within the framework of at least one of the United Nations’ Universal Human Rights Instruments.

SECTION IV: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORETICAL APPLICATION (30 POINTS)
Select one of the sociological theories discussed in class (i.e., those associated with Durkheim, Marx, Parsons, or Weber). Examine your topic in consideration of the following:
- In general, how does this theory explain the nature of the issue?
- In particular, utilize four theoretical concepts (not constructs) to explore your topic in depth.
- In summary, how (in)/effective is the theory in terms of promoting social change and adhering to the status quo? Specify the outcome(s) of such.

SECTION V: SOCIAL JUSTICE THEORETICAL APPLICATION (10 POINTS)
Select one of the theories of social justice we discussed in class (i.e., communitarianism, egalitarianism, libertarianism, or utilitarianism). Address the following:
- Examine your topic in consideration of the two core concepts associated with this theory.
- How does this theory complement/contrast with the sociological theory you chose?

REFERENCES (10 POINTS; AIM FOR A MINIMUM OF 10)
You are to cite and reference materials from class lectures, books, articles from peer-reviewed social work, sociology, etc. journals as well as information from advocacy groups, research institutes, and other reputable public and private sources. Unacceptable sources of information include those from general websites (e.g., Wikipedia and About.com). Moreover, for the purposes of this assignment, the use of .com and .net websites should neither be cited nor referenced. Students who choose to use electronic media from .edu, .gov, and .org websites are expected to evaluate these sources in terms of, but not limited to, authorship, content, currency, scholarship, etc. You are required to have a minimum of three peer-reviewed journal articles.

Revised December 22, 2015