

**Central Washington University**  
**Sociology 370**  
**Social Change**  
**Spring 2017**

**Professor:** Julie Aldcroft, Ph.D.

**Class Time:** Web based

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**Telephone:** 206 409 1927 – this is my mobile phone number. Students tend to text me since this is the fastest way to get a response, but they also email and call all the time. Do not be shy about getting in touch.

**Required Materials:** Charles L. Harper, Kevin T. Leicht, Ph.D.: Exploring Social Change: America and the World, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

### **Course Description**

Questions concerning social change are fundamental matters in sociology. Just as permanence and order appeared to characterize pre-industrial societies, persistent change is a compelling characteristic of pre and post-industrial societies. Although sociologists do not always agree upon the mechanisms underlying social change, in this class you will re-appraise a series of classic and contemporary debates in order to develop the basic analytical tools to understand, analyse, and interpret social transformations.

You can expect to develop an understanding how individual and collective actions shape change while also understanding that our choices are often constrained or supported by conditions beyond our control.

Further, you should leave this course with a solid understanding of American social trends, demographics, politics, economics, globalization and environmental change. You will learn the general patterns of change, develop a sense of the alternative patterns, and how ways of making a living and forms of social organization limit the possibilities of change.

**ASSIGNMENTS: All of your assignments are due at noon (exams, discussion, research paper).**

- **Exam:** There will be two exams. See the Class Schedule (this document) for the open and due dates. Exam one will cover weeks 1-5 and is valued at 15 percent of your overall grade. Exam two is your final exam and it will cover the content of weeks 6-10. It also has a value of 15 percent of your overall grade. The format for both exams is multiple choice. You may have one try at each exam and 75 minutes for completion.
- **Discussions:** There are FIVE discussion assignments. Please participate actively in on-line discussions by reading the PowerPoints, assigned chapter readings, and viewing/listening to films and podcasts. Designed like mini-research papers, and using citations as evidence, you are expected to respond to 5 questions or matters raised that come up during the weeks indicated in Canvas in addition to engaging in discussion with at least 3.

Here's the tricky bit - YOU pick THREE of the questions and I have already selected TWO for you to write on. These may include responding to readings/films/radio assignments, questions in PowerPoints – Apart from the two questions I assign, you can choose which you prefer. All this means you will have a total of 4 posts : 1 is your own primary post, and the remaining 3 are exchanges with others. Please post your responses these to the Discussion Board by the dates shown. Missing exchanges with others will result in 10% loss for each one that is not posted. Overall this participation is valued at **50%** of your grade.

- **Understanding Food:** Please listen to links and respond to the questions asked in the assignments folder of Canvas. This has a total value of 20 percent of your grade.

**Special Notices:**

1. **All assignments are due by noon.** This includes discussions and quizzes. Late discussion assignments will not be graded as these are collaborative pieces of work and you have ample time to complete them. Exams always open Fridays at 7am and are open until the following Tuesday. Access shuts off at noon on the due date and exams that are still underway are automatically submitted.
2. **Extra credit assignments are unlikely to be available.** It causes grade inflation, lowers standards, and is unfair to students who get their work right the first time (most). Please work consistently throughout the quarter to earn your final grade. If there is something you don't understand, please ask me.
3. **Grading:** The grading rubric for written assignments is below and in Canvas. The more analytical and thoughtful your work, the better you will do. In discussions, answers that can simply be looked up will not do well. Look for topics to address that involve thought.
4. **It doesn't hurt to ask.** If you need special treatment due to extenuating circumstances, please ask me.

## Spring 2017 Academic Calendar

Instruction begins: 28 March  
 Instruction ends: 2 June  
 Grades due: 13 June

### Class Schedule

Week	Week of	Topic	Readings	Addl. Info & Assignments
1	28 March	Exploring Change Crisis in Masculinity?	Harper & Leicht Chapter 1	Readings: Please see Modules for each week's additional readings
2	3 April	Change and Processes of Social Change Crime	Harper & Leicht Chapter 5, 6	Discussion 1 due by noon on 5 April. Responses to others due 7 April. Covers material from weeks 1 & 2.
3	10 April	American Reform Movements McDonaldization, Gender	Harper & Leicht Chapter 7, 8	
4	17 April	Social Change in the United States America's role in the world	Harper & Leicht Chapters 2, 3	Discussion 2 due by noon on 19 April. Responses to others due noon 21 April. Covers material from weeks 3-4.
5	24 April	Economics, Politics and the Future	Harper & Leicht Chapter 4	Exam 1 opens 28 April at 7am – covers material from weeks 1-5.

6	1 May	Revolutions and Innovations	Harper & Leicht Chapters 9 & 10	Exam 1 due 2 May by NOON; Discussion 3 due by noon on 3 May. Responses to others due 5 May. Covers material from weeks 5-6.
7	8 May	Creating Change; Development and Globalisation	Harper & Leicht Chapters 11 & 12	
8	15 May	Society, Environment and Change  Health: obesity	Harper & Leicht Chapter 13	Discussion 4 due by noon on 17 May. Responses to others due 19 May. Covers material from weeks 7-8.
9	22 May	Consumption and Consumer Debt	Harper & Leicht Chapter 14	<b>Understanding Food assignment due by noon on 22 May.</b>
10	29 May	Wave of the Future? Immigration <b>Exam 2 opens</b>		Discussion 5 due 31 May. Responses to others due by noon on 2 June. Covers material of weeks 9-10. Exam 2 opens 2 June at 7am – covers weeks 6-10
11	5 June	<b>Exam 2 due</b>		Exam 2 due 6 June by NOON.

### Required Syllabus Content

**Extension policy:** In cases of serious illness or family emergency, please contact me in advance of a due date to discuss your situation. In the interests of fairness, extensions may or may not be given.

**Academic dishonesty:** Intellectual dishonesty is theft and will not be tolerated. Within the context of this class, it includes any form of unapproved help on an exam, or assisting someone to cheat in any way. Students who engage in such activities may be dismissed from the college as outlined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

**Disability Support Services:** Central Washington University offers appropriate accommodations to qualified disabled students to ensure access to all programs and activities at the college.

## **Course Outcomes:**

Critical thinking, understanding of diversity, writing clearly and developing student responsibility will be met in this class and is incorporated into the grading process.

**1. Critical thinking** means being able to not take things at face value, to consider all aspects of a problem or idea. It is a skill that is necessary in all disciplines, as well as in almost all life situations. It is especially valuable in times of strong emotionality.

How is this assessed?

- \* by showing that you are curious, that you are evaluating your own thinking and supporting your opinions with fact (not just personal experiences)
- \* by having intellectual humility....that means we begin by realizing we actually don't know everything and we are open to what others can teach us

**2. Understanding diversity** is also a necessity in almost all life situations, especially in a country like the United States, where our diversity is more pronounced than almost anywhere else in the world.

How is this assessed?

- \* contributions to class discussions and in written work demonstrates a curiosity about others who are different from yourself
- \* expressing respect to others, even in disagreement
- \* demonstrating a growing understanding of the cultural factors that make us different from one another

**3. Being able to write clearly** is a valuable skill regardless of your career choice.

How is this assessed?

- \* Making sure that written work is free from errors
- \* Making sure that your answer fits the question!
- \* No text-speak! Please write properly.

#### 4. Responsibility.

How is this assessed?

- \* coming to class on time and turning work in on time
- \* turning off cell phones - no texting during class
- \* being a respectful, contributing part of this learning community

#### Class Grading Scale

94 – 100%	A
90 – 93	A-
87 – 89	B+
84 – 86	B
80 – 83	B-
77 – 79	C+
74 – 76	C
70 – 73	C-
67 – 69	D+
64 – 66	D
61 – 63	D-
< 60	F