“The fascination of sociology lies in the fact that its perspective makes us see in a new light the very world in which we have lived all our lives...The sociologist does not look at phenomena that nobody else is aware of. But he looks at the same phenomena in a different way.”

-Peter Berger

Professor of Record: Ms. N. Johnson, M.S., PhD Candidate

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Course Information
This course will take a comparative institutional approach to understanding British culture and society. That is, we will be comparing social institutions in Britain (i.e. government, marriage/families, media, religion, sport, etc.) with our knowledge and understanding of those institutions in the U.S. Other topics to be examined comparatively are sexuality, gender, immigration, deviance/criminality, drug use, and even the culture of food. Consistent with the quote from Berger above, we will use our heightened perception as strangers in a new land to understand those social phenomena which are normally difficult to uncover due to their "everyday" nature. Our modes of investigation will include first hand experience, class reading and discussion, expert lectures, and field trips.

Class will be a time for discussion, lecture, and activity. Your participation will be expected. Sociology is unique because of its ability to integrate information from many different sources. It will be crucial that you become one of those sources during this semester. In other words, you will be expected to synthesize information from your background and experiences with the readings. In this course you will gain both a sociological framework with which to think about the world and the ability to communicate those thoughts.

Class Attendance
You are both teacher and student in this class, thus, your attendance is imperative. Without being in class, you will not learn much, and you will not be able to teach us what you know. One letter grade will be deducted for each class session missed. For example, if your grade in the class is an 88, and you missed a morning class session, your final grade will be a 78. Class attendance involves more than physical presence. You are expected to contribute to our discussions and give your fellow classmates, myself, and any guests your fullest attention.
Methods of Evaluation

Journal: 20%
- Your journal will be turned in weekly (the end of the academic week). It should contain three entries for the previous week. In this journal, you will be reacting to how you felt and what you thought about the week’s experiences, as well as applying the material learned in class (lecture, discussion and/or guest speaker) and from the assigned reading. Essentially, you will be integrating what you have learned with what you have experienced.

Class Participation: 20%
- This class will not be successful without your participation in actual class. Participation also includes trying and experiencing new things such as food and then documenting them via video recording and sharing them with the class.

Final Exam: 30%
- Your exam will be on the last day of class (Saturday, August 7), and will be an essay exam. Everything covered in and out of the classroom may potentially be used in answering your questions.

Final Paper (Due to me via email September 13, 2010): 30%
- The broad focus of your final paper will be selected from the course outline (see below) by you prior to leaving for London so some preliminary research can begin. We will work together to narrow and hone your topic during our time in London. Your assignment must be in Microsoft Word in order to email it to me.

LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED

***Disclaimer on Dress Code: Many of the field trips we will be taking require formal clothing such as slacks, knee length skirts or longer, dress shirts, and dress shoes. Be sure you pack plenty of appropriate clothing for such occasions. In other words, jeans, capris, t-shirts, revealing clothing, flip flops, and tennis shoes will not be acceptable on field trips. You will not be allowed to join us should you arrive in such inappropriate attire. Remember, at all times you are representing your university AND your country.***
Sample of Tentative Field Topics and Trips (not in any particular order)

1. Marriage, Family, and Sexuality in England
   a. Possible guest speaker
   b. Tours throughout a few stores in London

2. Deviance and Criminality
   a. White Collar Crime (to be integrated with Criminal Justice and Business)
      i. Guest speaker
   b. Homicide and Family Violence in England
   c. Drug/Alcohol use
      i. Possible guest speaker

3. Religion & Urban Development
   a. Muslims in England: Issues of Immigration
   b. Possible guest speaker
   c. Trip: Walking tour of East End

4. Governmental and Political Structures
   a. Trip to Parliament
   b. Possible guest speaker
   c. Trip to Scotland Yard (in conjunction with Criminal Justice)

5. British Culture
   a. Food: possible trip to a designated restaurant (details later)
   b. Trip to National Gallery
   c. Consumerism/Social Class: Possible trip to Harrods

6. Sociology of Sport
   a. Trip to Wimbledon
   b. Guest speaker

7. Religion in Britain: Past and Present
   a. Trip to Canterbury Cathedral
   b. Guest speaker

8. Media as a Social Institution
   a. Possible guest speaker

9. The Legacy of Slavery
   a. Trip to Slavery Museum
   b. Guest speaker

10. Education
    a. Speaker from the Ministry of Education