Course: Sociology 186, Professor Jansen

TA: Nazgol Ghandnoosh

Office hours: Tuesdays 11am-12pm, 3-4pm at 109 Haines (and by appointment)

How to contact me: Please note that I prefer *not* to communicate by e-mail; you can talk to me in person at my office hours or section, and before and after sections and lecture. When e-mail is best: nanoosh@ucla.edu

Absences: If you have a good excuse for missing section, please bring me documentation or speak to me about this *in person* before/after section. If you’ve missed a section and would like to make up the material, you can come to another one of my sections. You do *not* need to pre-arrange this with me.

Sections: Tuesday 9am, 2181 Bunche (Section D)
Tuesday 10am, 2181 Bunche (Section E)
Tuesday 2pm, 154 Royce (Section A)

Re-grades: Please submit all regrade requests to me in writing within a week of receiving your work.

Discussion Sections: Discussion sections are a forum for you to discuss each week’s readings and lectures, with the goal of clarifying the material and facilitating greater understanding of critical issues in the study of Latin American society. I will help facilitate discussions to make sure that you review important questions and topics, and will provide guidance on how to approach the readings and project. You are all expected to speak during discussions and your comments should reflect that you have carefully completed the readings and kept up with current on events in Latin America over the past week. To help towards this goal, you should bring copies of the readings and your memos to section.

Memos: 5% of your course grade will be based on a brief, weekly memo. After completing the week’s readings, you should choose one issue, argument, thought, debate, topic, etc. that you found interesting, compelling, or problematic and reflect on it. You can agree, disagree, relate it to other elements of the course or current events, identify things you didn’t understand and wrestle with them a bit—it’s really open-ended. The point is to give me an idea of what you found interesting or had problems with, to provide a pool of potential discussion topics, and to give you the opportunity/incentive to focus your thoughts about the reading before coming to section.

Memos should be up to one page double-spaced and are due on the “Memo” section of the TA website by 5pm on Monday—late postings will receive no credit. Memos are due beginning week 2, there will be no memos during midterm week, and you may miss one memo posting (so be strategic!).

Readings: What to read for: Some readings provide more of an overview and others advance an argument. When you are presented with historical facts about people, places, and periods, you should focus on...
getting the big picture. When you are presented with readings that are trying to persuade you about a particular argument, make sure you can answer: What is the author arguing? What claims is the author arguing against? What kind of evidence does the author use to support his/her claim? How is the essay organized and what purpose do its different parts serve?

Other questions to consider:
   a. Compare and contrast the readings for each week. How do they all tie together?
   b. What is the big picture? Understand not only why an author wrote what he did, but also why it was included in the syllabus where it was (especially as we go further into the quarter).
   c. Ask yourself things like, “What does the author assume?” and “How might I (or a different author) answer this question differently?”

_Grading:_
Your section grade will be computed as follows:
   Memos: 50%
   Participation: 25%
   Attendance: 25%

Note that attendance and memo-completion alone will not earn you full credit.

_Study groups:_
I recommend that you create study groups to review the material. You can use the TA website’s discussion board to organize these groups.