

Sociology class varies

Sociology 153 is one course that is taught differently every semester.

The introductory sociology class is being taught this semester to 1400 students in four sections.

John Seem, instructor in two sections, said he is using his lectures as a text. In addition, six paperback books are being used throughout the semester.

Seem lectures Monday and Wednesday to his 700 students. Thursday or Friday students meet in one of 14 discussion sections with teaching assistants, he said.

Essay exams are given to the sections Seem teaches. Potential essay questions covering both lecture and reading are handed out to students on a weekly basis.

Seem said tests are constructed from these potential questions. Tests are given to students in their discussion sections.

Class format varied

Regina Dauphin, a student in last year's class, said the class format varied from this year. Students were given multiple-choice, true-false or take-home tests she said.

A weekly paper on related sociology readings was also assigned last year, she added.

Alex Haas, teaching assistant to Seem, conducts two discussion sections. He said because of the potential essay questions, in effect, students know what's most important to learn and study for the tests.

Seem said he gives essay tests rather than multiple-choice tests because one of his course objectives is "students should improve their ability to convey his or her thoughts in writing."

Susan Jacobs, instructor in the other two sections, gives essay and multiple-choice tests.

She said, "Some students like objective tests while others like essay, so I combined the two."

Lectures as supplements

Jacobs said she uses her lectures as supplements to the reading her students do. Four paperback books are being used in her classes.

Potential short-answer essay questions are given to the students prior to all the tests, Jacobs said.

This semester all student grades will be determined according to their discussion section. They will not be graded as an entire class, Seem said.

Each teaching assistant determines a scale on which the grades of his or her students will be based.

Students in Seem's sections have the option of not taking a fourth test if they are satisfied with the grade they receive after the first three tests.

Jacobs's students are required to take all four of her tests, she said.



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