Welcome to Principles of Sociology, SOC 101 83, on line!

Hopefully, you have signed up for this distance learning course because you have the self –discipline and motivation to succeed in an on-line environment and are familiar with the workings of Blackboard. Perhaps your personal schedule makes on-line learning the right choice for you. Principles of Sociology may be a requirement for you, an interest, or both; together, we will work along with the Syllabus, Assignments, Journal and Discussion Board to survey important sociological concepts and timely issues that touch your life. We will cover a wide range of topics like money, love, beauty, competition, immigration, welfare, violence, and the American Dream, all of which fall under Sociological categories that you will come to understand: **Culture; Stratification; Social Structure; Socialization and Identity; Deviance, Crime and Social Control; and Social Institutions.**

You will need one text for this course: ***Second Thoughts: Seeing Conventional Wisdom through the Sociological Eye***, by Janet Ruane and Karen Cerulo. As the title implies, you will be giving "second thoughts" to ideas considered "conventional wisdom"; in other words, you'll learn to question the ideas that have always seemed to make sense before, by developing your "sociological imagination."

Grading will be based on a portfolio of work, including Journal entries and Discussion Board activities. There are no tests or projects per se, but each assignment will be a "mini test" or "mini project" unto itself, and you will have 16 grades over the course of the semester – plenty to evaluate your absorption of the coursework. The semester is divided into 8 two-week Sessions, with each involving a reading, writing and discussion task. ***Because reading assignments are brief, and class sessions are two weeks long, you will be held to a high standard in terms of including all the required information in your work, and really understanding what you've read. No late assignments are accepted without medical documentation.***

How to Access Blackboard:
To log on to Bb point your web browser to http://bb.wpunj.edu and click the Login button in the upper left. Then enter your username and password in the spaces provided and click login again -- you'll find your course Bb sites listed on the right.

Some things to be aware of as you work with Blackboard:

- You probably won't find all your courses listed; the only ones that will appear are those that have been activated by the professor teaching the course. Professors who don't use Blackboard will not activate their courses.

- Your username is comprised of your lastname and firstinitial, usually appended with a numeral. If you don't know your WPUNJ system username password you can use the Username lookup link at http://bb.wpunj.edu , or go to it directly at: http://www.wpunj.edu/username/

- If you are already logged in to the WPUNJ system through WPConnect you won't have to re-enter your username and password -- just click the first login button.

- Find Blackboard Help at Bb Home, http://bb.wpunj.edu, before you access Bb, or on the Blackboard Support tab once you've logged in.

- You can always obtain Bb help by using the Problem Report form at http://bb.wpunj.edu, or by going to it directly at: https://liberty.wpunj.edu/bb/support-center/ .

- Blackboard courses will use student email; third-party email addresses will not work on Bb

I'm looking forward to getting to know each one of you, and revealing the world of sociological thinking to you!

Professor Sarah Murray