Internationalization of the Curriculum Workshop Handout Dr. Lisa Nunn lnunn@sandiego.edu

Social Institutions Soci 350

Social institutions are important features of any society. They are intended to provide structure and offer social goods to a society. Institutions such as government and economy pattern our social lives through their formal rules, restrictions, and opportunities. Meanwhile other social institutions such as marriage and media are cultural institutions at the same time, that is, they pattern our social lives through ideology, in addition to rules, prescriptions and proscriptions for behavior. This course will examine multiple social institutions in contemporary and historical US society and compare them to non-Western societies, continually asking the question: What social good does this institution provide?

Learning Goals:

- 1. To be able to identify the functions of a given social institution
- 2. To critique how well a given social institution serves the best interests of the wider society Learning Outcome: Civic Engagement
- To leverage comparisons between the same social institution in two societies/cultures in a discussion of the benefits and hazards to the wider societies
 Learning Outcome: Global Engagement
- 4. To recognize the interrelated workings of multiple social institutions in a single society, and identify the social consequences of their interconnectedness

Readings:

The assigned readings are provided in our course packet, free online, or on WebCT: <u>http://pope.sandiego.edu</u>

Several assigned films are available free online. All other assigned films should be purchased, rented, or viewed on reserve at Copley Library.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated based on two 6-page essays (worth 30% each) and one final exam (worth 25%) and 10 short homework assignments used for in-class discussions (15% altogether). Essays are due **in class** on the due dates and will not be accepted late without **prior** arrangement with the professor. The 10 short homework assignments are designed to reward attendance and facilitate class discussion and therefore will not be accepted for credit if the student is absent.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings are due on the Tuesday under which they are listed.

Thursday, September 2, 2010 **What is a Social Institution?**

Tues/Thurs, September 7 and 9, 2010 Social Institution: Economy How Does Capitalism Shape Social Life?

Readings:

1. Karl Marx: "Estranged Labour" from *Economic and Philosophic Mansucripts of* 1844

http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/manuscripts/preface.htm

- 2. Leslie Chang. *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China*. 2008. Pages 3-16 and 98-119.
- 3. Susan Shirk. *China: Fragile Superpower*. 2008. Pages 13-34 and 255-269.

Tues/Thurs, September 14 and 16, 2010

Social Institution: Economy

How Does Capitalism Shape Social Life in a Post-Industrial Society? Readings:

- 1. Charles Fishman. *The Wal-Mart Effect.* 2006. Pages 1-22.
- Brad Seligman. "Patriarchy at the Checkout Counter: The Dukes v Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Class Action Law Suit" chapter 10 in Wal-Mart: the Face of 21st Century Capitalism. 2006.
- 3. Ellen Rosen. "How to Squeeze More out of a Penny" chapter 11 in *Wal-Mart: the Face of 21st Century Capitalism.* 2006.
- 4. Film: Frontline "Is Wal-Mart good for America?" http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/walmart/

Tues/Thurs, September 21 and 22, 2010

Social Institution: Health Care

Who is Responsible for Protecting a Society's Members from Illness?

- 1. Susan S. Sered and Rushika Fernandopulle. *Uninsured in America.* 2005. Pages xv-xxiii and 1-20.
- 2. Film: "Frontline: Sick around America" PBS Home Video 2009 http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundamerica/view/
- 3. Film: "Frontline: "Sick around the World" PBS Home Video 2007 http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundtheworld/view/

Tues/Thurs, September 28 and 30, 2010 Social Institution: Mass Media What Function Do Mass Media Perform for the Good of Society? Readings:

- 1. Karen Sternheimer. *It's not the Media: The Truth about Pop Culture's Influence on Children.* 2003. Pages 61-83 and 169-192.
- 2. Josée Johnston and Judith Taylor. "Feminist Consumerism and Fat Activists: A Comparative Study of Grassroots Activism and the Dove Real Beauty Campaign" in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. 2008.

Tues/Thurs, October 5 and 7, 2010

Social Institution: News Media

How does News Affect Social Life? and Does Fair News Reporting Exist? Readings:

- 1. Todd Gitlin. *The Whole World is Watching: Mass Media in the Making and Unmaking of the New Left.* 2003. Pages 1-13 and 32-60.
- 2. Film: "Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism" documentary by Robert Greenwald. 2004.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, ESSAY #1 DUE

Tues/Thurs, October 12 and 14, 2010

Social Institutions Overlap: Health, Government, and Media Who is Responsible for Society Members' Health? Readings:

- 1. Burkhard Bilger. "Hearth Surgery: The Quest for a Stove that Can Save the World" in *The New Yorker*. 2009.
 - 2. Marilyn Wann. "Fat Studies: an Invitation to Revolution". 2009.
 - 3. Deb Burgard. "What is Health at Every Size?" 2009.
 - 4. Linda Bacon. "We're Victims of Food Politics" 2008.

Tues/Thurs, October 19 and 21, 2010

Social Institution: Food Industry

Are Government, Education, and Capitalism all in Cahoots for Social Ill?

- 1. Film: Food, Inc. by Robert Kenner. 2008.
- 2. Janet Poppendieck. *Free for All: Fixing School Food in America.* 2010. Pages 84-100, 161-165 and 222-233.
- 3. Film: *Tapped* (on the bottled water industry). By Stephanie Soechtig. 2009.

Tues/Thurs, October 26 and 28, 2010 Social Institution: Government How Do New Regimes Take Power?

- 1. Khamboly Dy. *A History of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-1979)*. (Khmer Rouge in Cambodia).
- 2. Dee Brown. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: an Indian History of the American West.* Chapters 2 and 8)

Tues/Thurs, November 2 and 4, 2010 Social Institution: Government How to Handle Citizenship and Unwanted Populations? Readings:

- 1. U.S. Supreme Court Cases: Ozawa v. United States (1922) <u>http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=260&invol=178</u> and United States v. Thind (1923) <u>http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=261&invol=204</u>
- 2. Wayne Cornelius. "Ambivalent Reception: Mass Public Responses to the "New" Latino Immigration to the United States"
- *3.* Hagan and Rodriguez. Resurrecting Exclusion: The Effects of 1996 U.S. Immigration Reform on Communities and Families in Texas, El Salvador, and Mexico."

Tues/Thurs, November 9 and 11, 2010

Social Institutions Overlap: Education and Goverment Must Society Provide Education to Unwanted Populations? Readings:

- 1. Mary Crow Dog. *Lakota Woman*. 1990. Pages 1-15 and "Civilize Them with a Stick" 28-41.
- 2. Film: *Rabbit-Proof Fence.* Phillip Noyce, director (Australia)
- 3. U.S. Supreme Court Case: Plyler v. Doe <u>http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=457&invol=202</u>

Tues/Thurs/Tues, November 16, 18, and 23 2010

How to Regulate Trans-national Love, Sex, and Human Trafficking? Readings:

- 1. Film: *Excluded: Immigration Struggles of a Gay Bi-National Couple*. Lisa Nunn, director. 2010. <u>www.excludedthemovie.com</u>
- 2. Ericka Johnson. *Dreaming of a Mail-Order Husband: Russian-American Internet Romance*. 2007. Pages 7-21 and 88-106.
- 3. Denise Brennan. *What's Love Got to Do with It?: Transnational Desires and Sex Tourism in the Dominican Republic.* 2004. Pages 1-16 and 21-31.

Tuesday, November 23, 2010 ESSAY #2 DUE

Tues/Thurs, November 30 and December 2, 2010 Social Institution: Marriage (with Government and Economy) Who Defines the Rights and Obligations of Marriage?

- 1. Mary Blair-Loy. *Competing Devotions: Career and Family Among Women Executives.* 2003. Pages 1-15.
- 2. Stephanie Coontz. *Marriage, a History: From Obedience to Intimacy, or How Love Conquered Marriage.* 2005. Pages 1-12 and 34-49.
- 3. Nancy Cott. *Public Vows: A History of Marriage and the Nation.* 2000. Pages 24-55.

Tues/Thurs, December 7 and 9, 2010 Social Institution: Religion How Does Religion Affect Social Life?

- 1. Max Weber: *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. (excerpt)
- *2.* Emile Durkheim: *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Book I, Ch. 1, Section III and IV and Book II, Ch. 7, Section IV.
- 3. Leonard Crow Dog. *Crow Dog: Four Generations of Sioux Medicine Men.* 1995. Pages 91-113.

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 5-7pm.