**Sociology Syllabus –2015**

**Mrs. Romeo - A4**

**tromeo@livoniapublicschools.org**

**Class Objectives**:

 Students will gain insight into the factors that affect an individual’s behavior, develop insight into contemporary issues, develop conversational skills, and seek insight into an individual’s perspectives. Students will engage in lively and interesting classroom discussions. They will improve reflective writing, problem solving, and technological skills. My hope is that we have fun accomplishing the above-mentioned goals.

From this class students should gain a better understanding of the psychological themes listed below:

* Development of attitudes \*Collective behavior
* Intro to soc theory \*Culture
* Deviance \*Race, class, gender
* Socialization and social institutions (family, media, peers…)
* Segregation in Detroit

**Materials**: Please bring the following to class with you every day.

* A writing utensil
* A binder/folder with paper
* The text: A Down to Earth Approach (You can leave at home and use class set)

*\* If any additional materials are needed the students will be notified in advance\**

**Three things I ask of you:**

* **Will you *show up and be fully present in class*?**
* **Will you take responsibility for your own success?**
* **Will you do your personal best at all times?**

**What will we be doing?**

* Develop an understanding of society and why people do what they do.
* Gain insight into what factors affect an individual’s behavior on a group, and the effects of a group on an individual’s behavior.
* Develop insight into contemporary issues, conversational skills, and seek insight into our own perspectives and bias.
* Engaging in lively and interesting classroom discussions
* Improve reflective writing, problem solving, and technological skills.
* Have fun accomplishing the above-mentioned goals.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rules** | **Consequences** |
| Be on time | 22 seconds |
| Be prepared with your materials and HW | Double Time |
| Sit up in your desk | Stand up |
| No put downs or derogatory comments | Written or verbal apology |
| *All School Rules Apply* | Sit up in desks, throw away beverages… |

**Expectations:** My expectation is that you will act like a responsible, mature, young adult. The semester is long. Please bring **your personal best** to class every day. Life happens outside of the classroom; I can appreciate that, but in class please harness your positive energy and focus on the task/s at hand.

**Cell Phones: Cell Phones are NOT allowed. If you are caught checking your phone, texting or in any way using your phones, you will receive a 30 minute detention and a referral will be written on the second offense. You are expected to be present in class. Cell phones distract us and take us “out of the room.”**

**Due Dates:** Since this is an upper level elective so you are highly responsible for your own learning. You will receive assignments with due dates. The assignments will be due on the due date; late credit will apply in situations where the due date is not met!!! If for some reason you are **not in school on a planned due date you must email your work to me, drop it off before you leave the building, or send it in with a friend**!!!

**Grading Scale**: Percentages will be calculated using a total point system. Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

 100 - 92.5 = A 92.4 - 89.5 = A- 89.4 - 87.5 = B+

 87.4 - 82.5 = B 82.4 - 79.5 = B- 79.4 - 77.5 = C+

 77.4 - 72.5 = C 72.4 - 69.5 = C- 69.4 - 67.5 = D+

 67.4 - 62.5 = D 62.4 - 59.5 = D- <59.4 = Failure

**Late work will be received for 70% credit. You may do extra credit, but only if you have no missing assignments. You are allowed up to 10% extra credit (or 40 pts max) per card marking.**

Work is to be turned in to the **cubes in the front of the classroom**. If your work is late, please write **LATE** at the top of the paper. If you are absent please write **ABSENT** at the top of your paper. If you do not, your work will be given late credit.

**School business absences are organized in advance. This means that you are aware and need to make sure that your work is turned in the day it is due, or in advance. You may email me work or send it in with a friend.**

**Make-ups and Late work**:

* Per school policy, you have **1 day after you return** to make up the class assignments.
* Test make-ups are done **the day you return**, while the class does test corrections. **You will have a different test then the test given on the original date scheduled.**
* Quizzes are made up the day you return.
* It is your responsibility to find out what went on in class while you were out. A good motto to follow is “three before me”- refer to three of your classmates first before you ask me what was done during class.

**Extra Credit:** First you must **make up your missing assignments**. You may do extra credit if you have **NO missing assignments**. Extra credit includes watching movies, reading research articles, going to ethnic restaurants or cultural museums… There are forms to complete for each of these activities. All extra credit is due the Friday before the card marking ends. **NO EXCEPTIONS. Ask me if you are interested and eligible.**

**Attendance Policy:**

3 unexcused tardies result in a ½ hour detention. All other school attendance policies apply.

**Attendance: Attendance is essential in a participatory class like sociology**. Poor attendance will be reflected in your **citizenship grade** and makes it challenging to maintain a high academic grade. Students will participate in class activities. You may make up the assignment for an activity if you miss school, but you will not be able to earn the points for the activity itself (**usually 3-5 points of a 20 point assignment**). Excessive absences could end up significantly lowering a student’s grade. Students with excessive absences will have their citizenship grade affected.

**\*\*\*Per the new school attendance policy, any student who has more than 13 absences will have their semester grades lowered a third of a grade.**

**\*\*\*Any student who maintains NO missing assignments, 3 or less tardies and 3 or less excused absences, and earns 80/80 pts on their class participation forms and has no outstanding behavior issues (referrals) will be exempt from the final exam.**

**There will be no exceptions made for long term illness, college visits... I understand that life happens sometimes and you may need to make a tough choice, but I will not excuse anyone from the exam that does not meet the criteria stated above. This is a privilege that is earned if you meet the requirements.**

**Final Grades:** Your final grade is made up of 3 components: 1st marking (40%), 2nd marking (40%), and your final/midterm (20%).

**If you plan to be absent for an extended time, or have a school business absence you may contact Ms. Romeo at tromeo@livoniapublicschools.org to receive any assignments. You must send assignments in on time for absences related to school business.**

**Citizenship grades**:

1. Contributes to class discussion daily, is prompt and present, does not cause distractions
2. Contributes to class discussion weekly, is prompt and present, does not cause distractions
3. Rarely or does not contribute to class discussion, talks at inappropriate times, has 5 or more tardies or absences
4. Is distracting to the class, does not contribute to the betterment of the class, excessive attendance issues
5. Demonstrates attention seeking behaviors, poor attendance, and contributes negatively to the classroom environment.

**Volunteer Forms**:

 Class discussion, questions, and participation make the class much more exciting. To encourage class participation you will receive a volunteer form. This form will provide you with 20 pts, every 5 weeks, if you participate in class (10 xs per marking period). We will go over this in more depth when the form is passed out.

**Test corrections**:

 In an attempt to give incentives to continuously improve your understanding of sociology, you have the opportunity to write up the questions you got wrong and receive half credit. Class time will be given for this activity the day after the test. TESTS DO NOT LEAVE THE CLASSROOM, so you will have to come before or after school if you cannot complete the activity in the given class time. This activity is highly recommended, but optional unless you fail the test, and then the corrections do become mandatory.

**Academic Misconduct**:

 Plagiarizing, cheating, copying student work, or gathering unauthorized access to material such as going into a teachers’ file or looking through a teachers’ desk is a violation of the Livonia School Districts code of conduct. Students who engage in any of the above acts will receive the appropriate punishment.

**Questions, Concerns, and Guidance**:

* The best time to meet with Mrs. Romeo is before or after school.
* 5 minutes between classes is usually not enough time to resolve issues.
* I will be happy to meet with any student on any subject; we just need to know a day or two in advance so I can make the proper accommodations.
* The easiest way to reach Mrs. Romeo is by e-mail. tromeo@livoniapublicschools.org
* Go to my website to get information about the Remind account and any other technology we are using this semester.
* All assignments and power point notes are posted on the website
	+ tromeo.weebly.com

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am making available the use of various Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) apps in my sociology class this semester. The first app is Remind, a way to communicate with parents and students via text message without sharing phone numbers. It is useful for the students to receive reminders about upcoming quizzes, or what is needed in class that day, etc. The second is Edmodo.com. Students can upload work and make it accessible to others. Also, I can post assignments that students can download and access. I understand that not everyone has a cell phone or an unlimited texting/data plan, so be assured that your child's grade will not be affected if they do not participate. Another way to participate is through email. tromeo@livoniapublicschools.org

In addition to the Remind app, we may from time to time use other response and review gaming apps like Kahoot that require data usage. Once again, it is purely optional to participate.

In order to participate, students need to have access and authorization to use a cell phone. Please keep in mind that we cannot be held responsible for any charges incurred if a student goes over their established text/data plan. At the bottom is a permission slip to verify that your son/daughter has permission to use his/her cell phone for exactly these purposes explained here.

**My Website: tromeo.weebly.com**

I encourage you to go to go to my website. There you will find the information to sign up for my remind account and other helpful information. You will also find a list of all assignments and power point lectures.

 Sociology Syllabus Scavenger Hunt

1. Of the topics listed that we will cover in class, which topic/s are you most interested in studying and why?

2. What three things you need to bring to class each day?

3. What are the consequences for being late? What is the tardy policy?

4. If for some reason you are not in school on a planned due date, what **must** you do?

5. Can you earn extra credit? If so, under what conditions may you earn it?

6. If you have any concerns, what is the best way for you or your parent to reach Mrs. Romeo?

7. What must I do if I miss school/assignments? What about a test?

 What if it is a big assignment that you have known about in advance?

8. Do I accept late work? If so, under what conditions is it accepted?

9. Can I use any sort of digital device (such as iPhone or iTunes) during class? What are the consequences for doing so?

10. If you do poorly on a test, what are your options?

11. What’s the deal with participation points?

12. Under what conditions can I opt out of the final exam?

13. What happens if I get caught with a cell phone?

14. What if I want to turn in a late assignment, and I can’t find the copy that Mrs. Romeo gave me?

After reading the information on the previous pages, please check your response and complete the information below.

CELL PHONE USE AUTHORIZATION- TEXT MESSAGES OF CLASSROOM INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_ Option 1: I give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student name) permission to receive general messages

 to his/her cell phone about class information such as reminders for quizzes and help with homework

 questions for the 2014-15 school year. In addition, this student may use their cell phone in class when

 deemed appropriate by the teacher for reviews and response system apps.

\_\_\_\_ Option 2: I give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student name) permission to receive general messages

 to his/her cell phone about class information such as reminders for quizzes and help with homework

 questions for the 2014-15 school year.

\_\_\_\_ Option 3: I do not give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student name) permission to use any of the

 aforementioned applications with their cell phone.

Please write your name, and complete the other information below:

Student Name printed Student name signed student email address

Parent Signature email address