

CRITICAL THINKING IN SOCIOLOGY
Sociology 4461-101
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SYLLABUS
(M - F: 9:15-10:50, Ketchum 234)

Rolf Kjolseth
Summer A Term 2008

Required Texts: (A) = Anderson, Reality Isn't What It Used To Be. (W) = Wolf, N. The End of America
(E) = Edelman, M. Constructing the Political Spectacle.

Wk	Mtg	Date	Reading	Topics
1	1	June 2	-----	Introduction and overview of the course.
1	2	3	A: ix – 28	Homo erectus to sapiens. How? What's "postmodernism"?
1	3	4	A: Ch 2	Where's Oz? Is relativity livable? What's education?
1	4	5	A: Ch 3-4	How is truth created? Can we escape the spoken world?
1	5	6	A: Ch 5-6	If our world is stories, what's really real? How real is identity?

2	6	9	A: Ch 7	Is "titytainment" compatible with "democracy"?
2	7	10	A: Ch 8	What does it take to make postmodernism acceptable?
2	8	11	A: Ch 9	Why are there always two separate paths to religiosity?
2	9	12	A: Ch 10-11	Who gains & loses from different forms of globalism?
2	10	13	MID - TERM EXAM	

3	11	16	W: ix-34	"-isms" & "-ocracies" -What do they mean?
3	12	17	W: 35-72	Whom do we love to hate, why & with what consequences?
3	13	18	W: 73-92	Who has a right to know what about whom and why?
3	14	19	W: 93-132	How is uncertainty and ignorance developed and spread?
3	15	20	W: 133-155	How can law be used to undermine law?

4	16	23	E:1-36	What are the uses and abuses of social problems?
4	17	24	E:37-89	Political leaders (to love or hate): are they wizards, prophets, or gamblers?
4	18	25	E:90-119	Sticks and stones may bread your bones but when can words really kill you?
4	19	26	E:120-130	When is it clear that things must be perfectly unclear?
4	20	27	-----	Review of Edelman

5	21	30	-----	Class Field Trip (location TBA)
5	22	July 1	-----	In class reading of the U.S. Declaration of Independence
5	23	2	-----	Course Review
5	24	3	FINAL EXAM	
