Instructor: Joanna Dennis
Class Meets: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
Office Hours: AC2 Room 115
Room: Academic 1, Arts and Sciences Dept.
Dept. Office #: (305) 919-5859
E-mail Address: dennisj@fiu.edu


Evaluation: For this course there will be several in class and out of class papers, in class debates, midterm, a final project and final exam. For the final project, you will be required do a presentation on a topic to be announced in class. Presentations are in a group format. Your group’s topic must be approved before you begin. Presentations will be at the end of the semester. Details about the project will be announced in class.

Grades are determined based on the papers/debates, exams and final project. In addition, attendance, participation & HW will increase or decrease your final grade.

The format of the exams may consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer; fill in the blank, short essays and/or true/false. There will be no makeup for the midterm or final exam.

GRADING
Grades are determined as follows:
Midterm  25%
Final  25%
Debates  25%
Final Presentation 25%
Homework, attendance & participation will increase or decrease your final grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE
INTRODUCTION TO COURSE  AUGUST 25

CULTURE AND VALUES  AUGUST 27 – SEPTEMBER 22
September 1, Monday, Labor Day - University Closed
Issue 1  Does the News Media Have a Liberal Bias?
Issue 2  Is Third World Immigration a Threat to America’s Way of Life?
Issue 15  Should Biotechnology Be Used to Alter and Enhance Humans?
Issue 17  Should Laws Against Drug Use Remain Restrictive?

GENDER AND AGE STRATIFICATION  SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 24***
Issue 3  Does Divorce Have Long Term Damaging Effects On Children?
Issue 4  Are Professional Women “Opting Out” of Work by Choice?
Issue 5  Should Same Sex Marriages be Legally Recognized?
Issue 8  Has Feminism Benefited American Society?
Issue 9  Is the Gender Wage Gap justified?
MIDTERM          OCTOBER 27

STRATIFICATION AND SOCIAL CLASS  OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 19
Issue 6      Is increasing Economic Inequality a Serious Problem?
Issue 10     Is Government Dominated by Big Business?
Issue 11     Does Capitalism Undermine Democracy?
Issue 12     Should Government Intervene in a Capitalist Economy?
Issue 13     Was the Welfare Reform the right Approach to Poverty?

RACE AND ETHNICITY  NOVEMBER 21
Issue 7      Is America Close to being a Post Racial Society?

CLASS PRESENTATIONS  NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 3

FINAL          DECEMBER 5

Other Topics May Include...
The Family
Education
Religion
Politics & The State
Economics And The World Of Work
Health & Medicine
Population & Urbanization
Social Movements & Social Change
Deviance and Social Control