

Syllabus

Honors Sociology 224: The Amish in Modern Society

(Honors Course, WRI, Social World AU)

Elizabethtown College*** Fall 2010

Time: Tues. 6:30
Room: Young Center Seminar Room
Instructor: Donald B. Kraybill
Office: Young Center

Office Hours: By appointment
Office Phone: 1469
E-mail: kraybilld@etown.edu

[This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor any time during the semester]

Required Texts (Secondary Non-Amish Sources)

Kraybill, Donald B. *The Riddle of Amish Culture*. The Johns Hopkins U. Press, rev.ed. 2001.
A Study Guide (82 pages) for *Riddle* is accessible on instructor's public folder.
Kraybill, Donald B., Steven M. Nolt, and David Weaver-Zercher, *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*. Jossey-Bass, 2007
Stevick, Richard A. *Growing Up Amish: The Teenage Years*. Johns Hopkins U. Press, 2007
*Kraybill, Donald and Marc. Olshan, *The Amish Struggle with Modernity*. U. Press of New England, 1994

Required Texts (Primary Amish Sources)

**One Thousand and One Questions and Answers*. Pathway Publishers, 1992
**In Meiner Jugend: A Devotional Reader in German and English*. Pathway Publishers, 2008

Other Primary Amish Sources (Available for research purposes)

Budget; Die Botschaft; The Diary; Plain Communities Business Exchange; Family Life, The Blackboard Bulletin, Plain Interests, Young Companion.

Secondary Sources

Several extensive bibliographies of secondary sources (books and scholarly journal articles) are in prof. Kraybill's public folder. News clippings from various media are also available. A list of relevant books on reserve in High Library will be distributed in class.

Website Resource

Consult www.etown.edu/amishstudies for extensive academic resources on the Amish.

*Provided by the instructor in class with option to purchase.

Course Description

Sociological theories and concepts will be used to analyze and compare Amish society with contemporary American society. Using concepts such as modernity, power, class, culture, gender, inequality, deviance, social control, social capital, and technology, the course will explore fundamental differences between Amish society and modern life. We will examine the Amish in the context of modern culture to explore questions about how societies construct values and organize social behavior, and how their members view the idea of progress, the impact of technology on human experience, and the roots of social well being.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. To master basic analytical concepts of social science for interpreting human societies.
2. To understand different methods that social scientists use to gather and analyze information about groups.
3. To understand the key features of Amish culture and social organization and how they contrast with mainstream American society.
4. To appreciate the cultural and structural adaptations that the Amish have negotiated with modernity in order to thrive as a distinctive cultural minority.
5. To learn to use primary sources and employ them effectively in conducting research.
6. To better understand the dynamics of modern society through the study of a tradition-oriented one.
7. To appreciate the diversity of human culture by learning how different societies construct divergent value systems that lead their members to view social reality in diverse ways.
8. To develop the skills of critical thinking and reasoning through a comparative approach (Amish/Modern) to the study of human societies.
9. To grapple with important intellectual questions about how social organization and human culture shape our values, create meaning, and impact our well being.

Course Requirements

1. Participation: Attend class, complete assigned readings and activities, engage in class discussion and debates, participate on field trips **outside** of class, read an essay drafted by peers, and present research findings in class and at the Etown College Scholarship Day on April 19, 2011.
2. Complete quizzes (written or oral) on assigned reading.
3. Prepare two short (3-4 page) papers.
5. Prepare a research paper (includes proposal, class presentation and Scholarship Day).
6. Complete a final exam.

Course Components and Grading Scheme

1. Participation (as described above)	10%
2. Quizzes/Debates/ Proposal	10%
3. Short Paper 1 & 2 (2 x 10%)	20%
4. Research Presentation	5%
5. Draft (3-pages) of Research Paper	10%
6. Research Paper	25%
7. Final Exam	20%

Grading

The six components when averaged together by their relative importance will generate a course grade based on the following scale:

90 – 100 pts	A	Excellent	60 – 69 pts	D	Poor
80 – 89 pts	B	Good	below 60 pts	F	Failing
70 – 79 pts	C	Average			

A plus and minus grading system is used to make finer distinctions within each grade.

For example: 70–72 = C- 73–76 = C 77–79 = C+

Sample Grade Calculation

Participation	85%	x .10 =	8.5	pts
Quizzes	75%	x .10 =	7.5	pts
Brief Paper 1 & 2 (2 x 10%)	90%	x .20 =	18.0	pts
Research Presentation	80%	x .5 =	4.0	pts
Research Paper Draft	90%	x .10 =	9.0	pts
Research Paper	85%	x .25 =	21.3	pts
Final Exam	80%	x .20 =	<u>16.0</u>	pts
		Total:	84.3	pts Grade = B

Evaluation of Written Work

This is a writing and research intensive course (WRI). Spelling, grammar, style, and appearance will be considered in determining the grade for all written work in the course! All papers (except in-class quizzes) must be typewritten. Late papers will be reduced by a letter grade unless you have obtained prior permission for an alternate date.

Examinations

The final exam will consist of short answer questions and a series of essay questions. Four essay questions will be randomly selected from a previously distributed list. Weekly quizzes will cover assigned material designated in the course calendar. A quiz may be a written assignment or a classroom quiz (oral or written). Missed quizzes cannot be made-up, but the lowest quiz will be dropped from the grade calculation.

Plagiarism and Cheating

You are expected to follow the highest standards of academic integrity and honor. Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic integrity and according to College Policy could result in a course grade of F. See *College Catalog* (p. 262-264). Academic dishonesty is a serious issue and you will be responsible for the full consequences of any violations. Academic integrity applies to exams, written work, use of internet resources, and any other information that you present as your own. Inappropriate use of the ideas or work of others without full acknowledgment is considered plagiarism. Please read and be familiar with the booklet *Academic Integrity at Elizabethtown College*.

Class Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend class regularly, to be prepared to discuss the assigned material, to engage in class discussions, and to participate in assigned class activities. Poor attendance and poor participation will adversely affect the class participation component of your grade.

Papers

Brief Paper I “Modernity, the Amish, and Me” (3-4 pages)	Due: Sept 28
Brief Paper II “Supreme Court Brief,” (3-4 pages)	Due: October 26
Research Paper (Draft) Three pages	Due: November 9
Final Research Paper (12-14 pages)	Due: December 10

Field Trips

As a part of the course requirements, you are expected to participate in field trips, which will be scheduled **outside** the regular class time. One of these may be a full-day trip. We may have one or two meals in Amish homes. Each meal will cost about \$18.00 and is your responsibility. More details regarding the exact dates and plans will be announced in class.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Elizabethtown College welcomes otherwise qualified students with disabilities to participate in all of its courses, programs, and activities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations to access course material, activities, or requirements, you must:

1. Contact the Director of Disability Services, Lynne Davies, in the Center for Student Success, BSC 228, by phone (361-1227) or email daviesl@etown.edu.
2. Meet with Prof. Kraybill, the instructor, within two weeks of receiving a copy of the accommodation letter from Disability Services to discuss your accommodation needs and their implementation.

Specifications for Papers

Citation Format:

All papers must be in 12 pt font, 1.5 line spacing and 1.0 margins. Please follow Chicago Manual of Style (See *Keys for Writers*, pp 214-223). Use abbreviated endnotes and a full bibliography. See also format of sample research paper.

Late Papers: All late papers, unless approved by the instructor, will be deducted 10% per day.

Brief Paper I: Modernity, the Amish, and Me

Length: 3-4 pages (See citation format for all papers) Due date: September 28.

Organization: Background reading, Chapter 2 of *The Amish Struggle with Modernity*.

The paper should engage the following issues:

1. What is modernity?
2. Define, with examples, several three features of modernity.
3. Select a feature and describe its impact on you and one of your great grandparents.
4. Discuss two aspects of modernity that the Amish try to avoid; explain why.

Brief Paper II: Persuasive Argument on Amish Education

Length: 3-4 pages (See citation format for all papers) Due date: October 26.

In class we will re-enact (debate) the 1972 U.S. Supreme Court Decision known as *Wisconsin vs. Yoder*. The case focuses on whether Amish students should be permitted to “drop out” of school after completing eighth grade or continue in school until they are 16 years old.

You will be divided into two groups: 1) Attorneys for the State of Wisconsin and 2) Attorneys for the Amish. Students on each side will prepare a one page legal brief (Quiz) that summarizes their argument *against* or in *support* of the Amish.

Paper II is due a week after the debate. You must take **one side of the issue and develop a persuasive argument based on evidence**. You must **argue either for or against** granting an exemption for Amish youth to end formal education at 14 years of age, rather than at 16, the typical state standard. Your paper must include at least eight primary and secondary sources.

Research Paper: Comparative Analysis of Amish and Modern Practices

Length: 12-14 pages of text. (See citation format for all papers) Due date: December 10.

Sources: The research paper should utilize at least 12 different sources, including primary source materials whenever possible. Internet sources must be approved by the instructor.

Organization:

1. Specify a research question (problem).
2. Describe a particular aspect of Amish life (7-8 pages).
3. Describe the same aspect of modern culture (2-3 pages).
4. Compare the social consequences of the selected issue (3 pages).

The focus of this final section should be on the social consequences of the differences, e.g., What difference do the differences make? So what?

Sample topics: schooling, work/occupation, businesses, gender roles, funerals, healthcare, holidays, weddings, use of automobile, higher education, understanding of the self, beliefs, values, dress, church leadership, worship rituals, mobility, bureaucracy, socialization, technology, use of mass media, tractors, electricity, American images of the Amish revealed in mass media (novels, movies, popular culture), ex-Amish, sexual/domestic abuse, etc. This is not an exhaustive list. There are many other possibilities! Two or more students are discouraged from writing on the same topic, but may do so with the instructor's permission. You are also welcome, to pursue other topics, not listed above with permission from the instructor.

A one-page research proposal (Quiz) listing at least six sources is due October 5. The proposal should provide an overview of your research question, describe how you plan to investigate the question and explain your methods of research.

Draft of Research Paper. TWO COPIES of three pages of the paper, a list of **ALL** references/sources, and an **Abstract** is due November 9. **You must visit the Writing Center and have a writing consultant review the draft before submitting it.** The draft will be graded.

You are expected to present a brief summary of your research findings in class at the end of the semester. This oral presentation will be graded. You are also expected to present your results at the Etown College Scholarship Day, April 19, 2011

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Honors Sociology 224
The Amish in Modern Society

Class Schedule (Weekly Topics and Assignments)

		Assigned Readings
Aug 31	Course Introduction Who Are the Anabaptists, the Amish? Sociological Concepts and Methods What is Modernity?	
Sept 7	NO CLASS, THURSDAY SCHEDULE	
Sept 14	Religious Beliefs and Values Nonviolence, Forgiveness, and Grief	AG: 1-10, 12-13, Append
Sept 21	Modernity Theory and Concepts Negotiation with Modernity Cultural Values and Practices	AS: 2; R: 1, 2
Sept 28	Community Structure and Social Capital Symbols and Rituals Paper I Due	R: 3,4,5,6
Oct 5	Socialization Family, Gender, Abuse Research Proposal Due	GA: 1-3, 5-6
Oct 7–Oct 10: Fall Break		
Oct 12	Adolescence and <i>Rumspringa</i> Courtship and Marriage	GA:7-11
Oct 19	Education and Schooling Wisconsin v. Yoder debate	GA: 4, R: 7
Oct 21: Mid-term (No Exam)		
Oct 26	The Puzzles of Technology What is Progress? Paper II Due	R: 8, 9

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Nov 2 The Rise of Amish Businesses Two Business Essays; AS:8,10; R:10
Do Amish Enterprises Succeed?

Nov 9 Diversity, Deviance, Social Control AG: 11
Shunning, Ex-Amish and Amish Converts
Demographics and Migration www.ETOWN.EDU/AMISHSTUDIES
Draft of Research Paper (3 pages) Due

Nov 16 Managing Public Relations R:11
The Amish in the American Imagination and Popular Culture
Amish Spirituality Lecture in Young Center, 7:30 pm

Nov 23 Are the Amish an Oppressive Society? (Debate/Quiz) R:13
The Costs and Rewards of Being Amish, of Being American

Nov 25–Nov 28 **Thanksgiving Break**

Nov 30 Managing Social Change R:12
The Future: Will the Amish Survive?

Dec 7 **Research Presentations**
Final Exam Review

Dec 10 **Research Paper Due** (Friday 12:00 noon)

Dec 14 **Final Exam**

Key: AG : *Amish Grace* GA: *Growing Up Amish* R: *The Riddle of Amish Culture*
AS: *Amish Struggle with Modernity* “Business” Two Business Essays provided
by instructor