**Course Description:**
Do movies address the real issues of human relations or are they an exaggeration of our relationships with each other? Can we learn valuable lessons from films? In this course we will examine social relations and social problems through the lens of sociologists. We will learn how three major schools of thought in sociology perceive and analyze social relations. These include Functionalism, Conflict Theory, and Symbolic Interactionism. While they all have constructive lessons to teach each student will be given a chance to decide which ideas to use that explicates social relations. We will delve into areas of gender, class, race, immigration, work, and power inequality through these films. We will develop the skill to analyze films from a sociological perspective. Ultimately we will analyze the power of this medium as a determinant of culture and ideology.

**Course Requirements:**
After watching each film in class students will be required to read assigned sections of the book. These sections pertain to the topics depicted in each film and will give different perspectives in order to analyze the issues at hand. Class discussions will be held in order to develop a deeper understanding of the issues. Participation, and not just attendance, in class discussions determines more than 10 percent of your grade. This makes sharing your views with others especially important. Students are to write a two-page response paper for each film watched in class. Papers are to be written after readings and class discussions about each film. **Emailed and late papers will not be accepted.** Missing more than two classes will result in earning a lower letter-grade and missing four classes will result in a failing grade, no exceptions. No laptops allowed during class session.

**Grades will be determined as follows:**
Response Papers: 10@ 10 points each-----------------------------------------------100

**Reading Assignments:**

Week One: Thursday, Jan. 12th

**Sicko**----Healthcare, social movements, political sociology

Week Two: Thursday, Jan. 19th

**Sling Blade**--------poverty, mental illness, criminal and social deviancy--- submit paper # 1 (on Sicko)
Week Three: Thursday, January 26th  
**Reds**---------social movements, political movements, political sociology, political theory-submit paper # 2 (on Sling Blade)

Week Four: Thursday, Feb. 2nd  
**Chaos**--------gender, inequality, sexuality-----------------------
submit paper #3 (on Reds)

Week Five: Thursday, Feb. 9th 
**Iron Jawed Angels**-----social movements, gender, political sociology

Week Six: Thursday, Feb. 16th  
**XXY**--------sexuality, gender, transgender, transsexuality---
submit paper #4 (on Chaos and Iron Jawed Angels)

Week Seven: Thursday, Feb. 23nd  
**Up in the Air**------labor, gender, class, economy, alienation---
submit paper #5 (on XXY)

Week Eight: Thursday, Mar. 1st  
**American Violet**-----poverty, inequality, criminal justice, race----
submit paper # 6 (on Up in the Air)

Week Nine: Thursday, Mar. 8th  
**Taxi to the Dark Side**------political sociology, torture, war, state power---
submit paper #7 (on American Violet)

Week Ten: Thursday, Mar. 15th  
**Spring Break**

Week Eleven: Thursday, Mar. 22nd  
**Quiet American**------political sociology, war, foreign policy  
Submit paper # 8 (on Taxi to the Dark Side)

Week Twelve: Thursday, Mar. 29th  
**Why We Fight**--------war, political sociology, political power, militarism------
submit paper #8 (on Taxi to the Dark Side).

Week Thirteen: Thursday, Apr. 5th  
**Ides of March**-----modern society and loneliness, individualism--------
submit paper #9 (Quiet American)

Week Fourteen: Thursday, Apr. 12th  
**Paradise Now**-----family and marriage, drugs, individualism------
submit paper #8 (on Ides of March)

Week Fifteen: Thursday, Apr. 19th  
**Monster**--------sexuality, deviance, bisexuality, criminal justice--------
submit paper #10