INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS

This course is an introduction to the social forces that shape human action. We explore sociology’s history and the “sociological perspective.” We consider theories aimed at answering some of the big questions... Are we truly free? Why is there so much inequality in the world? Is crime “good?” Why do women go to the bathroom in groups? We also examine methods that sociologists use to gather and analyze social data. Throughout the course, we sample important sociological contributions from studies of inequality and stratification, deviance, religion, politics, race and gender, the environment, globalization, and more. Our sociological imaginations give us a peek at “the man behind the curtain,” so to speak. There are four objectives in this course. They are:

1. Students will be able to think “sociologically” about economic, political, and cultural issues.
2. Students will be able to interpret these issues through the lenses of major theoretical approaches.
3. Students will be able to apply social scientific methods to sociological questions and be able to evaluate the soundness of others’ applications.
4. Students will be able to recall factual information about the findings of important works of sociological significance.

If you make the effort, you’ll finish the semester with a broader and deeper understanding of the hidden forces that affect you and those around you. This is a valuable tool!

TEXTBOOK:

John J. Macionis, Sociology (13th edition; census update)

All other readings will be posted to the course website.

1 THIS SYLLABUS WILL CHANGE. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOWING ANY UPDATED COURSE INFORMATION IT PROVIDES ON BLACKBOARD!

PEER REVIEW IS PART OF THE LEARNING PROCESS. I MAY USE EXEMPLARY WORK FOR INSTRUCTIONAL USE IN THIS COURSE. NAMES AND OTHER IDENTIFIERS WILL BE REMOVED.
EVALUATION:

There are 680 possible points in this course. Grades will be composed of:

1. 12 very short, very easy in-class quizzes (20 pts each; 240 pts total)
2. 12 in depth, more difficult online quizzes (20 pts each; 240 pts total)
3. A midterm exam (100 pts)
4. A final exam (100 pts)
5. Any additional extra credit work I may make available (? pts)

Students will be able to track their grades easily throughout the quarter on Blackboard. Below are the characteristics of students who produce “A” work. Take these seriously. I do.

“A” Work:

Attendance: Students who produce “A” work have nearly perfect attendance. Their commitment to the class resembles that of the professor.

Preparation: Students who produce “A” work are prepared for every class. They always complete the assigned reading, and their attention to detail is such that they occasionally catch the professor in a mistake.

Curiosity: Students who produce “A” work show interest in the class and in the subject. They go to the library and read online on their own! They look up and dig out what they don’t know.

Participation: Students who produce “A” work contribute to class with passion and insight. They show initiative. They take responsibility for their education by claiming – not receiving - knowledge.

Practice: Make no mistake; talent is earned and rehearsed. Students who produce “A” work develop special skills and qualities over time. It may be confidence, insight, or enthusiasm. It may be unusual creativity, organizational skills, commitment – or a combination thereof. These talents are evident to the professor and to the other students in the class as well.

These criteria originated with Ann Coburn Collins – Saginaw State University

Quizzes (480 pts total):

Quizzes cover readings, activities, and videos. There are two quizzes most weeks, one at the beginning of the week (in-class) and one after that week (online through Blackboard). At the end of the semester, I will drop the lowest of both in-class and online quiz scores. In-class quizzes are meant to check whether you have completed the coming week’s assigned readings or videos. Online quizzes are meant to evaluate your comprehension of the previous week’s material.

In-class quizzes will be administered on paper. They will be primarily multiple choice. Online quizzes will be administered by Blackboard, and will be posted in the latter part of the quiz topic’s week. Online quizzes will include some short answer and essay questions. I expect complete sentences, proper grammar, and appropriately structured paragraphs. Each of these criteria helps you communicate your thoughts effectively. Online quiz questions may even prompt you to look to outside references for information. All outside references must be cited appropriately (see below)! Students will have until midnight on the following Friday night to complete the online quizzes, giving them at least seven days to complete it. I encourage students to consult with one another, or myself, for help with the online quizzes. Answers must be in the student’s own words.
The Writing Center:

The IVCC Writing Center offers free, unlimited, one-on-one tutoring for students in any class at any stage of their writing process. The Writing Center staff, which includes faculty and student tutors, is happy to assist students in understanding assignments, brainstorming topics, organizing and developing ideas, and revising and editing drafts. The Writing Center also has handouts on grammar and style, writing reference materials, and documentation manuals available in the Center and in the Stylebook. The schedule and appointment availability can be found by visiting the Web site (ivcc.edu/writingcenter), calling the Learning Commons at 815-224-0318, or stopping by the Writing Center in the Learning Commons.

Course Policies

Respect for each other: I will respect your initiative and commitment to this course by coming to class prepared and teaching to the best of my ability. Do me the same courtesy by coming to class ready to think, learn, and having completed any assigned work. Disrespectful behavior toward myself or others will not be tolerated. Disrespectful behavior includes:

- TEXTING – I am particularly intolerant of texting in class. I will tell you to leave.
- Showing up more than 5 minutes late
- Sleeping
- Personal discussions while others are speaking
- Insulting language directed at individuals or groups

Respect for ideas. Everyone in this course including myself should treat others’ ideas with respect. The course material and class discussions will cover sensitive topics from the proper role of government to sexual orientation to the plight of endangered species. Disagreements may arise. Try to be aware of others’ points of view. On the other hand, if you find yourself offended, please try to raise the issue in a constructive manner in class, afterward, or anonymously, so the situation can be addressed.

Special Considerations. Special consideration for a student on arbitrary grounds such as gender, sexuality, skin color, hair color, body piercing, body odor, or lack of appreciation for the unique genius of Phil Collins is, of course, forbidden. Not forbidden, however, is special consideration on grounds of demonstrated effort. If a student demonstrates serious effort and engagement in all aspects of the course, I will be much more likely to show leniency during consideration of any real extenuating circumstances.

Attendance is absolutely mandatory. Lecture, activities, and discussion are central parts of this course. If you are absent, you are not participating. If you signed up for this course, you agreed to participate. However, I certainly understand that unexpected things occasionally pop up (sickness, death, car trouble, Borg invasions, etc.). MWF students may miss up to 3 class periods without penalty. TTH students may miss up to 2 class periods without penalty. Students do not need to notify me of these, or any absences. However, any absences beyond the limits stated above will result in 50 points deducted from your end of semester score! This is a serious deduction, and I am rigid in its application. Do not let it happen!

Late Assignments. Nothing will be accepted late. Everything is scheduled from the beginning of the course. Note that much of the reading and half of our quizzes depend on working computers and networks. It is your responsibility to plan ahead. Excuses such as, “the network was down,” “my connection failed,” or “my printer died” are simply not acceptable!
Plagiarism, Cheating, etc. Academic violations such as plagiarism (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another as one’s own, without crediting the source) or cheating in any way will be dealt with very severely. I will use programs to detect plagiarized text. If required, students in this course must provide computer copies of their written work for examination by plagiarism detection software. Make sure to keep electronic copies (and backups) of all course work.

Withdrawal. It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course if you feel it is necessary. I will not initiate a withdrawal for you. In other words, I will let you fail! On the other hand, if you do feel like your expectations for the course are not being met or if you feel that you are not meeting my expectations, I strongly encourage you to come and see me before taking any other steps.

Interesting Links:

Here are some sociologically oriented websites that you might find helpful or fun…

http://www.sociologyguide.com/basic-concepts/index.php
http://www.sparknotes.com/sociology/
http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/sociology-for-dummies-cheat-sheet.html
http://www.everydaysociologyblog.com/
http://www.sociology.org/
http://thesociologist.tumblr.com/
http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/
http://www.thesociologicalcinema.com/
http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics and Quizzes</th>
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| 1    | 08/20-08/24 | The Sociological Perspective             | 1. Macionis ch.1 p 2-10  
                                         |                                         | 2. Peter Berger – Invitation to Sociology                                      |
|      |             |                                          |                                                                                     |
| 2    | 08/27-08/31 | The Science of Sociology Begin: Theory   | 1. Macionis ch.1 11-21  
                                         | In-class Quiz for Week 2  
                                         |                                         | 2. Schwalbe – How the Social World Works                                      |
|      |             |                                          |                                                                                     |
| 3    | 09/03-09/07 | Finish: Theory Research Methods           | 1. Macionis ch. 2 28-51  
                                         | In-class Quiz for Week 3  
                                         |                                         | 2. Jacobs – Doing Research with Streetcorner Crack Dealers                    |
|      |             |                                          |                                                                                     |
| 4    | 09/10-09/14 | Culture and “Society”                     | 1. Macionis ch. 3 58-68 (to Material Culture)  
                                         | In-class Quiz for Week 4  
                                         |                                         | 2. Macionis ch. 4 88-104 (to Critical Review)                                 |
|      |             |                                          |                                                                                     |
| 5    | 09/17-09/21 | Socialization and Social Construction     | 1. Macionis ch. 5 112-119  
                                         | In-class Quiz for Week 5  
                                         |                                         | 2. Macionis ch. 6 141-149 (Reality thru Tact)                                |
|      |             |                                          | 3. Berger and Luckman - Socialization                                                |
|      |             |                                          |                                                                                     |
| 6    | 09/24-09/28 | Social Control and Deviance               | 1. Macionis ch. 9 216-238 (to Death Penalty)  
                                         | In-class Quiz for Week 6  
                                         |                                         | 2. Chambliss – The Saints and the Roughnecks                                    |
|      |             |                                          |                                                                                     |
|      |             |                                          |                                                                                     |
|      |             |                                          |                                                                                     |
| Week 7 | 10/01-10/05 | Groups, Orgs, and Social Structure | 1. Macionis ch7 162-174 (to Evolution…)  
2. Adler and Adler – Clique Dynamics |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | In-class Quiz for Week 7  
Online Quiz due Friday 10/05 | |
| Week 8 | 10/08-10/12 | Inequality, Stratification, and Status | 1. Macionis ch10 248-267 (skip 252-256)  
2. Macionis ch11 274-293 |
| | | In-class Quiz for Week 8  
Online Quiz due Friday 10/12 | |
| Week 9 | 10/15-10/19 | Gender and Sexuality | 1. Macionis ch. 8 196-209  
2. Messner – The Politics of Sexuality |
| | | No In-class Quiz for Week 9  
Online Quiz due Friday 10/19 | Video: Kilbourne – Killing Us Softly  
Midterm – Week 1 thru Week 8 material |
2. Marx – The Communist Manifesto - Excerpt |
| | | In-class Quiz for Week 8  
No Online Quiz due Friday 10/12 | Close Reading of Marx’s Communist Manifesto  
with Dean Jeff Anderson |
2. Krugman - America’s Unlevel Field |
| | | In-class Quiz for Week 11  
Online Quiz due Friday 11/02 | |
2. Domhoff – Testing for a Class Dominance View… |
| | | In-class Quiz for Week 12  
Online Quiz due Friday 11/02 | Video: Why We Fight |
| Week 13 | 11/12-11/16 | Political Economy | 1. Reich – Supercapitalism ch. 1 |
| | | In-class Quiz for Week 12  
Online Quiz due Friday 11/02 | |
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<th>Week 14</th>
<th>Globalization</th>
<th>1. Reich – Supercapitalism ch. 2</th>
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<td>In-class Quiz for Week 14</td>
<td>Online quiz due Friday 11/23</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Globalization / Social Movements</td>
<td>1. Reich – Supercapitalism ch. 3</td>
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<td>11/26-11/30</td>
<td>In-class Quiz for Week 15</td>
<td>Online Quiz due Friday 11/30</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Environment and Sustainability</td>
<td>1. Schnaiburg et al. – Treadmill of Production…</td>
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<td>12/03-12/07</td>
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<td>2. Daly – Steady State Economics</td>
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<td>Weeks 17&amp;18</td>
<td>Final Exams (see below)</td>
<td><strong>No Quizzes!</strong></td>
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<td>12/12-12/18</td>
<td>Optional Extra Credit Projects Due</td>
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**Final Exam Schedule:**

**MWF 9:00a and 11:00a Classes - Wednesday, December 12**

**TTH 11:00a - Thursday, December 13**

**MWF 8:00a - Monday, December 17**

**TTH 8:00a - Tuesday, December 18**