

# **SOC 101 – Principles of Sociology**

## **Course Description**

This course introduces the student to the discipline of sociology, its development, theories, major findings, and to the sociological interpretation of modern society. Emphasis will be given to the importance of careful empirical investigation for the understanding of recent social and cultural changes. Students should be prepared to encounter basic issues in sociological method and in theory; inquisitiveness and an inclination toward systematic thinking will be useful.

## **Faculty Information**

**Dr. Tony Capon**

**Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00-9:30 & appointment in the classroom.**

## **Course Meeting Times and Location**

**Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:45, D211**

## **Textbook**

**Andersen, Margaret L. and Howard F. Taylor. *Sociology: The Essentials* (8<sup>th</sup> edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2011. The text is also available digitally. See the bookstore. You may also use the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> editions. They may be less expensive.**

## **Learning Outcomes**

**After successfully completing the course, a student should have the following skills and knowledge:**

### ***Critical Thinking:***

- **Utilize critical thinking skills to analyze society and human group behavior**
- **Develop the ability to think about society using the major sociological perspectives**
- **Develop an understanding of inequalities in our society and their consequences for both dominant and subordinate groups**
- **Demonstrate the ability to use the sociological imagination to understand human behavior**

### ***Cultures and Societies:***

- **Use sociological concepts to understand and analyze cultures and societies**

- Identify the interrelationships between social, political, economic, and cultural institutions
- Develop an understanding of cultural differences within American society and around the world
- Evaluate the impact of social, political, economic, and cultural institutions on individuals
- Demonstrate knowledge of major figures in the field of sociology

*Systematic Inquiry:*

- Understand and utilize social scientific research methods for analyzing the social world
- Develop an understanding of different research methods used in sociological research
- Understand the appropriateness of different methods for different research questions

## Course Requirements and Grading

*Six Exams:*

Each exam will have 25 multiple choice questions and 15 true-false questions worth two points each, and five short-answer questions worth four points each, for a total of 100 points on each exam. In calculating your final grade for the course, the highest grade on the six exams will count twice and the lowest grade will be thrown out. No make-up exams will be given unless the student presents a valid excuse. All make-up exams are given the day of the last exam. A student who misses an exam will receive a grade of 0.

*Ten Research Assignments:*

There will be ten research assignments. Each assignment is worth a varying number of points, but the total number of points for all the research assignments is 100. Assignments not turned in on time will receive no points. The ten research assignments will count as a seventh exam. The research assignments are in *Course Materials*.

*Attendance Policy:*

Beginning the week of September 5, attendance will be taken daily. You are allowed two unexcused absences during the term. For each unexcused absence after two, your final course average will be reduced by two percentage points.

## **Digication Requirement**

All students are required to maintain a learning portfolio in Digication that uses the (Three Rivers) College Template. Note that this is a college requirement, not a course requirement.

## **Course Policies**

### *Academic Integrity:*

Students in this course will be expected to adhere to standards of academic integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester is subject to sanctions that may include, but are not limited to, receiving a failing grade on the assignment or examination, or receiving a failing grade for the course.

### *Disabilities:*

In addition to contacting me, if you have a disability that may affect your work in this course, please contact Chris Scarborough (892-5751) if you have a learning disability or ADD. Please contact Judy Hilburger (892-5744) or Matt Liscum (383-5240) if you have a physical, visual, hearing, or psychiatric disability.

### *Other Policies:*

1. No eating in class.
2. If you chew gum, no one should hear it.
3. Chewing tobacco in class is permitted, as long as you don't spit.
4. Cell phones are to be turned off and put away. If your cell phone goes off in class, I will answer it for you. Texting, etc., while in class is prohibited. If you have a legitimate reason to have your cell phone on (you are on call, etc.), you must inform me before class. You may use a laptop in class to assist in taking notes. It is NOT to be used to check email, be on Facebook, etc.
5. No hats. Hats worn in class will be added to my ever-growing hat collection.
6. Asking your neighbor a question quietly will be tolerated. Conversations will not be.
7. Tape recording lectures is permitted.
8. **BOTH THE SYLLABUS AND TOPIC OUTLINE/EXAM SCHEDULE ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHANGES MAY BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING ANNOUNCED IN CLASS EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD.**

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**(Dates and Topics Are Tentative and Subject to Change)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC(S)</b>
August 29	Introduction to the Course; Chapter 1: What is Sociology?
August 31	Chapter 1: What is Sociology? (continued) Chapter 2: Culture
September 5	Chapter 2: Culture (continued)
NOTE: Chapter 3 will not be covered	
September 7	Chapter 4: Socialization and the Life Course
September 12	Chapter 4: Socialization and the Life Course (continued) Chapter 5: Social Interaction and Social Structure
September 14	Chapter 5: Social Interaction and Social Structure (continued)
September 19	<b>FIRST EXAM:</b> Chapters 1, 2, 4
September 21	Chapter 6: Groups and Organizations
September 26	Chapter 6: Groups and Organizations (continued) Chapter 7: Deviance and Crime
September 28	Chapter 7: Deviance and Crime (continued)
October 3	Chapter 8: Social Class and Social Stratification
October 5	<b>NO CLASS</b>
October 10	<b>SECOND EXAM:</b> Chapters 5-7
October 12	Chapter 8: Social Class and Social Stratification (continued) Chapter 9: Global Stratification
October 17	Chapter 9: Global Stratification (continued)
October 19	Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity
October 24	Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity (continued)

October 26	Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity (continued) Chapter 11: Gender
October 31	Chapter 11: Gender (continued) Chapter 12: Sexuality
November 2	<b>THIRD EXAM:</b> Chapters 8-10
November 7	Chapter 12: Sexuality (continued) Chapter 13: Families and Religion
November 9	Chapter 13: Families and Religion (continued)
November 14	<b>FOURTH EXAM:</b> Chapters 11-12
November 16	Chapter 13: Families and Religion (continued) Chapter 14: Education and Health
November 21	Chapter 14: Education and Health Care (continued) Chapter 15: Politics and the Economy
November 23	<b>NO CLASS</b>
November 28	Chapter 15: Politics and the Economy (continued)
November 30	<b>FIFTH EXAM:</b> Chapters 13-14
December 5	Chapter 16: Population, the Environment, and Social Change
December 7 (continued)	Chapter 16: Population, the Environment, and Social Change
December 12	<b>Make Up Day</b> (if needed)
December 14	<b>SIXTH EXAM:</b> Chapters 15-16 (9:30-10:45)

**NOTE:** If we do not need the make-up day, the sixth exam will be December 12.