

SYLLABUS FOR SOC101: PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

Course: SOC*K101 Principles of Sociology

Course Schedule: W 6:30 p.m. – 8:45pm.

Location: D105

Instructor: Aron Gerson

Office: D-205E

Email: Agerson@trcc.commnet.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Required Text:

Shepard, Jon. M. *Sociology* (11th edition, 2013. New York: Wadsworth).

Fall 2017

Course Description:

Sociology is the study of groups, organizations, institutions, and societies, and their influence on human behavior. Sociology goes beyond individual and psychological explanations of human behavior to look at social factors and trends that shape individual behavior and the behavior of groups and societies. These social trends and factors include cultural aspects of societies, such as beliefs, values, and social norms. They also include structural aspects of societies, which refers to the positions and roles people occupy in groups, institutions, and societies as a whole. In particular, sociology focuses on patterns of social inequality, especially class, racial and ethnic, and gender inequalities in society—how they are created and maintained and how they affect our opportunities, beliefs, and attitudes, and behavior in society. Overall, sociology allows us to analyze societies and social behavior from a critical perspective, thereby providing us with a better understanding of social problems and issues.

Course Requirements:

The class will **Stress** reading, analysis, and discussion. Students are expected to have done the assigned readings before each class session. If the instructor sees that students have not done the readings or, there will be surprise quizzes. The exams will also cover both class lecture as well as the course readings. It is mandatory for students to check Blackboard on a regular basis. On September 20, October 4 and October 11 we will have class online due to religious observance. I will be opening up discussion platform with a series of discussion questions it is mandatory for students to respond. Failure to answer the discussion questions will result in a letter grade reduction or possibly failing the class.

Students will be called upon to discuss the readings. Students will be required to do one 5 to 7-page term paper. The paper assignment is attached. Items 1-4 on the paper on the paper Assignment will be due on **9/20**. I have also attached an outline, which gives some examples to what expected for items 1-4. All assignments are due by 10 PM on the date they are due. During the semester there will also be a midterm and a final. Students will also be required to

present their papers to the class to enable the instructor to give greater feedback. Having students present their research during class would allow other students and instructor to provide constructive feedback.

Besides submitting the final draft of the paper on Blackboard for the instructor to grade, It will also be required to upload your final paper to the college dictation upload pro-folio. Below there is link obtain the directions.

http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/PDF/DigicationUpload.pdf.

The state Board of Regents and the college requires instructors to assign an assignment to assess the level of student's competence in sociology.

Course Policies:

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students must come to class regularly; if more than five minutes late, the student will be marked late. Two latenesses will constitute an absence. More than **three or more undocumented absences** will result in automatic withdrawal. If you cannot make it to class on time, please drop the course!! I will not accept any excuses of lateness from any students.

Keep me informed if for any reason you cannot attend class. The best way to contact me is by email.

You must indicate the Course and Section in the subject line; otherwise, there will be no reply.

Not participating in class will result in a deduction of the final grade. Handing in late assignments will result in a reduction of the final grade or possibility of failing the course. If you miss an exam, there will be no make-ups, so make sure you come to class on the day of an exam. If you have a valid excuse for missing an exam, official proof must be submitted (e.g., doctor's note).

The use of cell phones is prohibited!! If a cell phone goes off during the class, I will take note of it, and it will reflect on your final grade.

Requesting Accommodations for a Documented:

If you have a disability of any kind that may affect your progress in this course, please contact Matt Liscum, the TRCC Disability Service Provider (DSP) at 860-383-5240. His office is Room A-119 in the Counseling and Advising Office. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Students are expected to follow to standards of academic honesty. If there is a question about cheating or plagiarism, the college's **Academic Integrity Policy** (revised 8 January 2003) will be followed.

Proofreading Requirement:

Before handing in your paper assignments to the instructor, you must proofread. If your paper is incoherent or disorganized, it will not be graded, and a grade of F will be assigned. **If your need to improve your writing skills, I strongly encourage you to visit The Writing Center in room C117 for assistance.**

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES POLICY REGARDING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT REPORTING, SUPPORT SERVICES, AND PROCESSES POLICY

Statement of Policy for Public Act No. 14-11: An Act Concerning Sexual Assault, Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence on Campus:

"The Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) in conjunction with the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) is committed to ensuring that each member of every BOR governed college and university community can participate fully in the process of education free from acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, and stalking. It is the intent of the BOR and each of its colleges or universities to provide safety, privacy, and support to victims of sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS TITLE IX STATEMENT OF POLICY:

"Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities in federally funded schools at all levels. If any part of a school district or college receives any Federal funds for any purpose, all of the operations of the district or college are covered by Title IX.

Title IX protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination, including discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. All students (as well as other persons) at recipient institutions are protected by Title IX – regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, part-or full-time status, disability, race, or national origin-in all aspects of a recipient's educational programs and activities."

If any student experiences sexual misconduct or harassment, and/or racial or ethnic discrimination on Three Rivers Community College Campus, or fears for their safety from a threat while on campus, please contact Edward A. Derr, the Diversity Officer, and Title IX Coordinator:

Edward A. Derr
Title IX Coordinator and Diversity Officer
Admissions Welcome Center * Office A116
574 New London Turnpike, Norwich CT 06360
860.215.9255 * EDerr@trcc.commnet.edu

It is a good idea that students come and see me after class to discuss course progress.

Student Out Comes:

By the end of the term a student should be able to:

1. Identify key sociological concepts and theoretical perspectives in sociology.
2. Explain how dominant theoretical perspectives and sociological concepts connected to formulating, analyzing, and interpreting research questions about social phenomena.
3. Describe the multiple, and sometimes contradictory, explanations of social phenomena that exist across various sociological theories.
4. Interpret data from graphs and charts
5. Assess the relevance of sociological research in how the individual, groups, and institutions address social problems, inequality, and public policy.
6. Explain how large-scale social institutions such as the family, education, work, politics, religion, and health shape our lived experiences, local communities, and broader society.
7. Locate the role of the individual and small group interaction in creating social change at the local and societal level.
8. Develop your sociological imagination by challenging past opinions and assumptions about personality, group dynamics, inequality, and social change.
9. Apply sociological concepts and theories to current and historical social phenomena.
10. Define key terms used within the sociology discipline.

Course Assessments:

1. The midterm and final exams will test the student's ability to understand the basic sociological concepts, sociological language and measure critical thinking skills.
2. Class discussions will assist in strengthening student's critical thinking through questions raised by during the lecture instructor.
3. During class participation, the instructor will be assessing and measuring both the student's analytic and critical thinking skills.
4. The term paper will assess the student's ability to write coherently and apply the sociological concepts learned during the semester.

CLASS PREPARATION:

Note Taking:

1) Outline as you read: this method often requires you to begin by skimming through the reading to see what the major topics and possible divisions or sections might be. Then you will need to read the material more slowly than usual since you should also be writing your outline of the major points as you read along.

2) Taking notes: This method requires that you break down the material into smaller, more digestible sections, the length of which will be determined by your level of concentration and the level of difficulty of the reading. After each small section, close the book and write down what the important points are. Then go back and reread the section to be sure you did not miss anything and to check your facts, before going on to the next section. The advantage of this method is that it allows you to read whole sections without having to stop to write your outline. Note: Just highlighting is not always the best method.

3) Have a dictionary handy to look up the meaning and pronunciation of words you are unfamiliar with and/ or have difficulty pronouncing. If you do not own a dictionary, try to find the definition and pronunciation of words online.

4) Note taking in class: It is essential to come to class prepared so that the material discussed is not entirely new to you. **Coming to class prepared means having done the reading and bringing your notes to class so that you may participate more effectively.** Certainly, you should take down what is written on the PowerPoint, but there will also be important information coming from me as well as other students that will not be written on the board. This information should be written down as well. If you have prepared, you will be more likely to discern what you need to be writing down.

Using Blackboard is a Course Requirement:

Students are required to regularly log in to their Blackboard Account for important classroom or home assignments, syllabus and course announcements. Students should familiarize themselves with Blackboard to facilitate class discussion as well as raising questions regarding course materials, readings or classroom discussion. I will post discussion questions for topics covered in class on a regular basis to enhance both online and classroom discussion. It will be important to be able to discuss sociological concepts from class lectures and the readings and to be able to apply sociological reasoning to examine social phenomena affecting current society.

Grades earned are based on your performance, on class participation, term paper and its drafts, Blackboard Discussion Posts, quizzes, midterm and the final exam.

Grading Distribution

Attendance and Class Participation	10%
Midterm	25%
Blackboard Posts	10%
Term Paper and drafts	30%
Final Exam	25%
Total*	100%

Grading Scale

Scored Between			Letter Equivalent
95	to	100	A
90	to	Less than 94	A-
86	to	Less than 89	B+
83	to	Less than 85	B
80	to	Less than 82	B-
75	to	Less than 79	C+
70	to	Less than 74	C
65	to	Less than 69	D+
60	to	Less than 64	D
		Less than 60	F

Course Outline

8/30	Introduction and class overview	
	The Sociological Perspective	1 -31
9/06	Practice of Social Research	31-57
	Paper topics are due for class discussion. Please have your topic written on a sheet of paper.	
9/13	Culture	58-83
9/20	Socialization over the Life Course	84-113

On 9/20 The class will be held online through Blackboard due to the holiday of *Rosh Hashanah* (Sundown). It is mandatory to respond to the series of discussion questions posted to Blackboard. I will be video recording my lecture; it is your responsibility to watch and make sure you understand the material.

Items 1-4 are Due must submit through Blackboard by 12 AM

9/27-10/4	Social Structure and Society	114-137
	Group and Organizations	138-166

On 10/4 Class will held online through Blackboard due to the holiday of *Sukkot* (Sundown). It is mandatory to respond to the series of discussion questions posted to Blackboard. I will be video recording my lecture; it is your responsibility to watch and make sure you understand the material.

10/11-18	Deviance and Social Control	167-201
	Midterm emailed to students	

Class on 10/11 will be held online through Blackboard due to the holiday of *Shmini Atzeret* (Sundown). It is mandatory to respond to the series of discussion questions posted to Blackboard. I will be video recording the lecture; it is your responsibility to watch and make sure you understand the material.

10/18	Midterm Due in Class	
10/25	Social Stratification	206-236
	First Draft of paper due	
10/25	Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity	237-273
11/8	Inequalities of Gender	275-303
	Family	304-337
11/15	Education	338-371
11/22	Thanksgiving Recess	
11/29	Religion	412-445
	Take Home final handed out	
12/13	Paper presentations	
	Final Examination is due in first part of the class.	
12/17	Submit Final Draft to Blackboard by midnight	

Paper Assignment:

The final version of the paper is due NO later than 12/17. Papers must be typed double spaced and be at least 5 to 7 pages. Papers not typed will not be accepted and will result in a failing grade. No late papers will be accepted, and there is the possibility of failing the class. No excuses will be accepted.

All papers and course assignments must be submitted online through the University of New Haven's Blackboard. **On 9/6** we should be up to chapter 2, which covers **Sociological Research Methods.** **By 9/7** you should have, in writing, a topic for your paper and 4-5 sociological research questions. I will go over your topics and research questions in class, assist and suggest further improvements. **On 9/12** We will be discussing how to research, and write a sociological paper and its expectations. **On 9/20** items one through four, below, are due. They must be written in essay format, but will not be graded. This part of the assignment will give the instructor an understanding of some of the difficulties and struggles students are having with their topics. This will enable the instructor to give further critical feedback and guide the student through the research process, so do not lose sleep over this assignment, I will guide you. Make sure you cite your sources. Papers with no citations will result in failing the class, and there will be no makeup. If caught plagiarizing, it will result in failing the class with no second chances!!!

Do not write your paper as an outline that is not what I am asking for.

Instructions for the paper:

The student must select at least three to five sources from scholarly books or peer reviewed journals. Electronic subscriptions to Social Science Journals, paid by the University of New Haven can be used. NO use of internet sites or encyclopedias unless I approve the website. Websites for approval must be submitted by **10/12.**

Items 1-4 are due on 9/26

First Draft (items 1-6) is due 10/25

Final draft is due 12/17

Topic

Come up with your research question or questions?

Introduce your variables and define them.

Come up with your hypothesis.

Do a literature review. (Summary of each article selected).

Conclusion: Does the literature answer your questions? If not, how would you re-conduct the study? Indicate what research methods you would use?

If you need assistance, please send me your research questions and hypothesis, and indicate the variables that are going to be used for the paper. Once I see what is on your mind, I will be able to help you better.

Suggestions for Term Paper

Come up with a topic for your paper considering any topic you are interested in understanding the Social World. (I.E Social Media, texting while driving, work environment, etc.)

Then think about a few sociological questions with cause and effect relationships.

Examples of questions:

How do social media (Independent variable) affect school performance (dependent variable)?

How does parental supervision in regards to the use of social media affect school performance?

Continue to think about cause and effect relationships and come up with a sufficient number of questions that will assist you in answering the first question.

To come up with supporting questions, think about variables, such as class, gender, race, age and so on.

After you decide on your research questions, then introduce and define your independent and dependent variables.

The **independent variable** causes the change, and the **dependent variable** is what changes.

Remember to keep your independent variable constant.

The **hypothesis is** what you think your answer to your research questions is going to be.

Examples of hypotheses:

The more hours a teenager spends on social media can affect school performance.

More parental supervision in the use of social media can have a positive effect on school performance.

Limiting time using social media will have a positive effect on school performance.

