

SYLLABUS FOR SOC101: PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

Course: SOC*K101 Principles of Sociology

Course Schedule: T 6:30 p.m. – 9:15pm.

Location: D102

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: Wadworth).

Course Discription:

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 are not doing the readings on the assigned days there will be surprise quizzes. It exams will also cover both class lecture as well as the course readings. Students can be tested on topics covered by the readings not covered during class time.

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 **2/14/2017**. I have also attached an outline, which gives some examples to what is required 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 instructor to give greater feedback. Having students present their research during class would enable other students and instructor to give constructive feedback.

Course Policies:

Students must come to class regularly; attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. 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 class 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 given (e.g., doctor's note).

The use of cell phones is prohibited during class!! 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 writing skills are not strong, I strongly encourage you to visit The Writing Center in room C117 for assistance to avoid deductions in your grade.**

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHTER 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 insuring that each member of every BOR governed college and university community has the opportunity to 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 are 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 own 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 get the le 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, buy one. If dictionary is not relatively available try to find the definition and pronunciation of words online.

4) Note taking in class: It is very important to come to class prepared so that the material discussed is not completely 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 chalkboard or overhead, 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.

Methods for Test Preparation:

1) Make sure you are keeping up with the weekly readings. Organize your notes from class and from your readings. Do not rely on just one or the other- incorporate both.

2) Study groups: 3-4 people work best. Study groups are an excellent way to ensure that you know the material, as you will occasionally assume the role of "teacher" explaining certain points to the others in the group. This role should be shared by each member of the group.

3) Flash Cards: Index cards are very useful. Write the word/concept/idea on one side and write the definition/explanation/example on the other side. Then test yourself as you are waiting on line at the ATM, on lunch breaks, riding the subway, etc.

4) Do NOT cram the night before. Start studying as early as possible. Take advantage of office hours if you should have any questions, as there may not be time for review during class.

Term Grades will be based on the following:

Attendance and Class participation	10%
Midterm	30%
Paper/and presentation	30%
Final Exam	30%

Grade distribution: 95-100=A, 90-94=A-, 86-89=B+, 83-85=B, 80-82=B-, 75-79=C+, 70-74=C, 65-69=D+, 60-64=D and Below 59=F

Course Outline

1/24/17	Introduction and class overview	
	The Sociological Perspective	1 -31
1/31 /17	Practice of Social Research	31-57
	Paper topics are due for class discussion.	
2/7/17	Culture	58-83
2/14/17	Socialization over the Life Course	84-113
Items 1-4 is Due must submitted through blackboard by 12AM		
2/21/17	Social Structure and Society	114-137
2/28/17	Group and Organizations	138-166
2/28/17	Review for Midterm in second half of class	
3/7-21/17	Deviance and Social Control	167-201
3/7/17	Midterm Exam second half of class	
3/14/17	Spring Break	
3/28/17	Social Stratification	206-236
	First Draft of paper due	
4/4/17	Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity	237-273
4/11/16	Inequalities of Gender	275-303

Passover, class would be held online. Check blackboard for course lectures and assignment for this class.

Paper Assignment:

The final draft of the paper is due NO later than 5/19!!! 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 failing the class. No late papers accepted!!! No excuses will be accepted!!! If you do not hand in the paper on time, there is the possibility of failing the class. All papers and course assignments must be submitted online through the Three River CC's blackboard system. 1/31 we should be up to chapter 2, which covers Sociological Research Methods. On 1/31 you should have in mind a topic for your paper. I will go over your topics in class and assist with formulate a sociological research questions. Items one through four must be written in essay format, which will not be graded. This part of the assignment will give instructor an understanding of some of the difficulties and struggles students are having with their topics. This will enable the instructor to give critical feedback and guide the student through the research process, so do not lose sleep over this assignment I will guide you. On 1/31 we will be covering how to write a sociological paper and it's expectations. Make sure you cite your sources. Papers with no citations will result in failing the class and there will be no makeups. If a student is caught plagiarizing, it will result in the student failing the class and I will not give any second chances!!!

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

Instructions for the paper:

Student must select at least Five to Eight sources from scholarly books or peer reviewed journals. NO use of the internet unless I approve the website. Websites for approval must be submitted by **2/28** Electronic subscriptions paid by Three Rivers Community College are OK.

Items 1-4 is due on 2/14/17

First Draft is due 3/28/17

Final draft is due 5/19/17

- 1) Select a topic:
- 2) Come up with your research question or questions.
- 3) Introduce your variables and define them.
- 4) Come up with hypothesis.
- 5) Do a literature review. (Summary of each article selected).
- 6) Conclusions: (Does literature answer your questions or not? If not, how will you conduct the study? Indicate what research methods you are going to use?)

Please also send me your research questions and hypothesis. Indicate the variables that are going to be used for the paper.

Once I see what is in your mind, I will be able to help you more.

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

Part one: paper outline.

- I. First come up with a topic for your paper.

- II. Then think about a few sociological questions with cause and effect relationships.
Examples of questions:
 1. How does the war's fatality in Afghanistan discourage or encourage the young adults to enlist?
 2. Despite war fatalities, do young adults enlist in the army because of the benefits? (Think about what type of benefits will encourage someone to join the army).
 3. How does economic class contribute someone deciding to enlist in the Army?
 - a. Keep on thinking about cause and affect relationships and come up with a sufficient number of questions that will assist you in answering the first question.
 - b. To come up with supporting questions, think about variables, such as class, gender, race, age and so on.

- III. After you come up with your research questions, then introduce and define your independent and dependant variables.
 1. The independent variable causes the change and the dependant variable is what changes.
 2. Remember to keep your independent variable constant.

IV. Hypothesis is what you think your answer to your research questions is going to be.

Examples of hypothesis:

1. Fatalities might discourage someone to join the army.
2. Young adults most likely overlook war fatalities because of the benefits.
3. The lower class is most likely to be the first to enlist in the army because of the need of money for college.