

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: D209, Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-9:20 & appointment.

Course Meeting Times and Location

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

Textbook

Andersen, Margaret L. and Howard F. Taylor. *Sociology: The Essentials* (8th edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2011. The text is also available digitally. See the bookstore. You may also use the 6th or 7th 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 that is 25 points lower than the lowest passing grade for the exam.

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 an eighth exam. The research assignments are in *Materials*.

Attendance Policy:

Beginning the week of September 8, 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.

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, Blackberries, pagers, etc., 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)

DATE	TOPIC(S)
September 1	Introduction to the Course; Chapter 1: What is Sociology?
September 3	Chapter 1: What is Sociology? (continued) Chapter 2: Culture

September 8 Chapter 2: Culture (continued)

NOTE: Chapter 3 will not be covered

September 10 Chapter 4: Socialization and the Life Course

September 15 Chapter 4: Socialization and the Life Course (continued)
Chapter 5: Social Interaction and Social Structure

September 22 Chapter 5: Social Interaction and Social Structure (continued)

September 24 **FIRST EXAM:** Chapters 1, 2, 4

September 29 Chapter 6: Groups and Organizations

October 1 Chapter 6: Groups and Organizations (continued)
Chapter 7: Deviance and Crime

October 6 Chapter 7: Deviance and Crime (continued)

October 8 Chapter 8: Social Class and Social Stratification

October 13 **SECOND EXAM:** Chapters 5-7

October 15 Chapter 8: Social Class and Social Stratification (continued)
Chapter 9: Global Stratification

October 20 Chapter 9: Global Stratification (continued)

October 22 Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity

October 27 Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity (continued)

October 29 Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity (continued)
Chapter 11: Gender

November 3 Chapter 11: Gender (continued)
Chapter 12: Sexuality

November 5 **THIRD EXAM:** Chapters 8-10

November 10 Chapter 12: Sexuality (continued)
Chapter 13: Families and Religion

November 12 Chapter 13: Families and Religion (continued)

November 17	FOURTH EXAM: Chapters 11-12
November 19	Chapter 13: Families and Religion (continued) Chapter 14: Education and Health
November 24	Chapter 14: Education and Health Care (continued) Chapter 15: Politics and the Economy
November 26	NO CLASS
December 1	Chapter 15: Politics and the Economy (continued)
December 3	FIFTH EXAM: Chapters 13-14
December 8	Chapter 16: Population, the Environment, and Social Change
December 10 (continued)	Chapter 16: Population, the Environment, and Social Change
December 15	MAKE-UP DAY
December 17	SIXTH EXAM: Chapters 15-16 (11:00-12:15)

NOTE: If we do not need the make-up day, the sixth exam will be December 15.