

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
Sociology K101 T11
Three Rivers Community College
Fall 2015

Instructor Katharine Richards, PhD
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Office Hours M 3-3:30p in D205E

Meeting Time M/W 3:30-4:45p
Classroom D211
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“The sociological imagination enables its possessor to understand the larger historical scene in terms of its meaning for the inner life and the external career of a variety of individuals. It enables him [or her] to take into account how individuals, in the welter of their daily experience, often become falsely conscious of their social positions.” – C.Wright Mills

Course Description

This course is a study of the major concepts used in the field of sociology. The nature of institutions will be examined both individually and in their dynamic interrelationships. Emphasis is placed on understanding the impact of society on our lives, and on increasing our effectiveness in controlling our destinies within it.

General Course Objective

Empower students to make informed choices based on knowledge of how our social world is constructed and may be altered.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge of research methods used in sociology
2. Understand and apply major theoretical perspectives in sociology
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major figures, concepts, and theories in the field of sociology
4. Demonstrate an understanding of how social factors as a whole influence individual and group values, attitudes, and beliefs
5. Develop an awareness of cultural differences within American society and around the globe
6. Understand trends in social inequality in American society
7. Understand causes and consequences of social inequality in American society
8. Understand causes and consequences of racial/ethnic inequalities in American society
9. Understand causes and consequences of gender inequalities in American society
10. Learn about real world settings and situations that reflect and illustrate sociological concepts and perspectives

Course Materials:

Textbook

Andersen, Margaret L., Howard F. Taylor, with Kim A. Logio. 2015. *Sociology: The Essentials*. 8th ed. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

Other assigned readings are available through Blackboard as PDF files or weblinks

Schedule

Weekly readings are due on Monday unless otherwise listed. Changes may be made and assignments added, check Blackboard for updates

PART 1 – THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Week 1 – Aug. 31 & Sept. 2 *Introduction*

Read for Wednesday: Chp.1 The Sociological Perspective pgs.3-13

- Mon: Introductions
- Wed: The sociological imagination

Week 2 – Sept. 9 *Social Theory*

Read for Wednesday: Chp.1 The Sociological Perspective pgs.13-23

- Mon: **NO CLASS** in observance of Labor Day
- Wed: Major sociological theories, hand out assignment #1 due 9/16

Week 3 – Sept. 14 & 16 *Research Methods*

Read: Chp.3 Doing Sociological Research; Excerpt online by Schwalbe, "Finding out how the social world works"

- Mon: The scientific method
- Wed: Goals and tools of sociological research; assignment #1 due; hand out take-home exam #1 due 9/23

PART 2: CULTURE AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Week 4 – Sep. 21 & 23 *Culture*

Read: Ch.2 Culture and the Media

- Mon: What is culture?
- Wed: How does culture change?; Film: Happy; exam #1 due in class

Week 5 – Sept. 28 & 30 *Socialization*

Read: Chp.4 Socialization and the Life Course

- Mon: How do we become who we are?
- Wed: Socialization throughout life; Film – Life at 7: Peers

Week 6 – Oct. 5 & 7 *Social Structure*

Read: Chp.5 Social Structure and Social Interaction

- Mon: The collective consciousness
- Wed: Positioning ourselves in society – status, roles, and interaction

Week 7 – Oct. 12 & 14 *Social Organization*

Read for Wednesday: Chp.6 Groups and Organization

- Mon: **NO CLASS** in observance of Columbus Day
- Wed: Being "in" or "out"

Week 8 – Oct. 19 & 21 *Deviant Behavior and Social Control*

Read: Chp.7 Deviance and Crime

- Mon: Understanding deviance
- Wed: Reacting to deviance; hand out assignment #2 due 10/28

Week 9 – Oct. 26 & 28 *Economic and Political Institutions*

Read: Chp.15 Economy and Politics

- Mon: Who controls what?
- Wed: Legitimizing power; assignment #2 due; hand out take-home exam #2 due 11/4

PART 3: SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Week 10 – Nov. 2 & 4	<i>Social Class</i>
Read: Chp.8 Social Class and Social Stratification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon: Types of stratification • Wed: Causes of inequality; exam #2 due in class 	
Week 11 – Nov. 9 & 11	<i>Educational Inequalities</i>
Read: Chp.14 Education and Health Care pgs.338-349; Kozol “Still Separate, Still Unequal” article on Blackboard	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon: What are the goals of education? • Wed: What is the impact of educational inequalities? 	
Week 12 – Nov. 16 & 18	<i>Racial and Ethnic Inequalities</i>
Read: Chp. 10 Race and Ethnicity; read article at Blackboard weblink by Questlove titled “Trayvon Martin and I ain’t shit”	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon: Social construction of race and ethnicity; Film: Jane Elliot Brown Eyes/Blue Eyes • Wed: Structural inequalities; hand out final project due 12/14 	
Week 13 – Nov. 23 & 25	<i>Thanksgiving Week</i>
Mon: NO CLASS – Time out of class to work on your final project due 12/14	
Wed: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	
Week 14 – Nov. 30 & Dec. 2	<i>Gender Inequalities</i>
Read: Chp. 11 Gender	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon: The social construction of gender • Wed: Feminist theory; Film - (un)veiled: Muslim women behind the hijab 	
Week 15 – Dec. 7 & 9	<i>Global Inequalities</i>
Read: Chp.9 Global Stratification; article by Sandhu, “Instant Karma”	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon: Stratification on a global scale • Wed: Social change 	
Week 16 – Dec. 14 & 16	<i>Course Conclusions</i>
Read: Excerpt by Johnson, “What Can We Do? Becoming Part of the Solution”	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon: Course conclusions; Handout take-home final exam questions • Wed: No class – work on take-home final exam 	
Week 17 – Dec. 21	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon: Take-home exam due at 3:30p 	

Student Assessment

In addition to the categories below there will be opportunities for extra credit with pop quizzes throughout the semester that will boost your exam grade.

Course Component	Percentage
Class Participation	10%
Assignments	20%
Project (Choose research paper or service learning)	20%
Exams (Exam 1=10%, Exam 2 =20%, Exam 3=20%)	50%

Readings

Look on Blackboard each week for questions to focus your reading of the assignments. Take notes and be prepared to answer questions on the readings in class. Readings are due on the date listed.

Writing

The quality of your writing does impact your grade for this course. All writing should be spell-checked and edited for grammar and content. Common mistakes to avoid are mixed sentence constructions, incorrect comma usage, and incomplete thoughts. When writing be sure to fully answer the question asked. If your writing skills are not strong I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the resources we have at The Writing Center. I will also review drafts of assignments if submitted to me several days in advance of the due date and I welcome all students to visit with me during office hours or around class time to discuss questions.

Late Work

Work handed in past the due date may be penalized up to a full letter grade. Exams cannot be submitted after I have returned the graded exams, which is usually one week after the exams are due, without explicit permission from me. **Failure to complete the assignments, project and/or exams will hurt your final grade more than submitted work that receives an F but reflects some level of effort.**

Class Participation

Your participation is beneficial to your success and that of everyone else in class. This means being present, attentive during lectures and taking an active role in class and group discussions. Your comments and questions are valued and humor is encouraged.

Assignments

Two assignments will each be worth 10% of your class grade. The first assignment will ask you to observe, describe and analyze a social setting. For the second assignment you will choose a social norm to break, one that will not harm yourself or others, and reflect on the social repercussions. Details of the assignments will be distributed in class.

Final Project

You may choose to do a service learning project, including five hours of volunteer service with a local organization, or a research paper for your final project. Details of each option will be distributed in class.

Exams

There are three take-home exams throughout the semester, the third being your final exam and is not cumulative. The first exam is worth 10% of your class grade and is based on the topics of our first three weeks of class. The second and third exams are each worth 20% of your final grade and cover more topics as listed in the schedule.

Policies and Resources:

Cell phone and Laptop Use

Silence your cell phone before class begins. If it is necessary to accept an urgent call or respond to a text please do so outside the classroom. It is obvious and distracting to text in class and you may be asked to leave the room if doing so. Laptops may be used to take notes if preferred; however, if they are used for other purposes you may be asked to put them away.

The Writing Center

Stop by C-117, call (860) 892-5713, or visit their website at:

http://www.threerivers.edu/Div_academics/TASC/WritingCenter/WritingCenter.shtml

The Writing Center offers valuable resources to students including references, guides and access to trained tutors.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

TRCC Disabilities Service Providers Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119	
Matt Liscum (860) 383-5240	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Disabilities• Sensory Disabilities• Medical Disabilities• Mental Health Disabilities
Chris Scarborough (860) 892-5751	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Disabilities• ADD/ADHD• Autism Spectrum

Academic Integrity

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.

Observance of Religious Holidays

After reviewing the syllabus, please contact me if you foresee a conflict between any course requirements and your religious observances so that we may plan ahead if alterations to the schedule are needed.