

SYLLABUS FOR SOC*K101: PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

Course: SOC*K101
Course Title: Principles of Sociology
Course Schedule: On-Line
Instructor: Steven Neufeld
Office: Mohegan Campus Annex Room 1
Phone: 860-383-5233
Email: sneufeld@trcc.commnet.edu

I. Course Description

Sociology is the study of groups, organizations, institutions, and societies, and their influences 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 inequality, and the way they influence how we think and act both individually and collectively. 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.

The course is divided into three parts, with an exam after each part. The first part of the course will examine how sociologists study the social world. This will discuss the idea of sociology as a science, the research methods used by sociologists to study the social world, and theoretical perspectives on society and social behavior. The second part of the course will explore the sociological concepts of culture and social structure. In terms of culture, we will look at issues such as culture and socialization, deviance, crime, and social control. In terms of social structure, we will examine concepts such as statuses and roles, groups and organizations, total institutions, and community. The final part of the course will study social inequality, including class inequality, racial and ethnic inequality, and gender inequality. Along the way, students will also be introduced to various prominent theorists in the history of sociology, such as Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Parsons, and Goffman.

II. Learning Outcomes

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

- An understanding of the sociological perspective

- An understanding of different research methods used in sociological research
- An understanding of different theoretical perspectives used in sociology
- An appreciation of the role of social factors in influencing individual behavior
- The ability to think about society from a critical perspective, especially how social positions in society shape how people think and act
- An understanding of inequalities in our society and their consequences for both dominant and subordinate groups
- A knowledge of major figures in the history of sociology

III. Course Readings

Written assignments and discussion based on the readings in class will be a significant part of your class participation grade. The required texts for the class are:

- Susan J. Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape: Reading in Sociology, 4th Edition*. McGraw Hill, 2005.
- Lisa J. McIntyre, *The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology, 3rd Edition*. McGraw Hill, 2006.

IV. Course Assignments and Evaluation

Your final course grade will be based on four components:

- Each week, you will receive a written assignment in the weekly learning module based on the readings for the week. These assignments will require you to apply concepts and ideas from the McIntyre text to the readings in the Ferguson reader, as well to think about sociological topics, processes, and issues more generally. These assignments will count for 40% of your final grade.
- There will be a final paper due at the end of the course that will count for 30% of your final grade.
- A discussion question will be posted each week based on the weekly topic and course material. The quality and quantity of your participation will count towards 30% of your final grade.

All assignments and exams involve written work, and poor quality writing, including poor spelling and grammar, will negatively affect your grade. At a minimum, you should spell check all work before it is submitted. If you want assistance with your writing skills, I strongly urge you to use The Writing Center in room 106 on the Mohegan campus. You can contact them by email at TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu or by phone at 860-892-5773.

All written work must be typed. Late work will be penalized accordingly. Failure to complete assignments and/or exams will count more negatively towards your final grade than work that receives an F but reflects some level of effort.

Online 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.

V. Course Schedule

The following schedule is a list of the lecture topics that are intended to be covered each week as well as the required readings for the week. Any revisions will be announced during the course.

Week 1: The Sociological Imagination

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 1-36
- McIntyre, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2: Deductive and Inductive Theory

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 36-47
- McIntyre, Chapter 5

Week 3: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 47-65
- McIntyre, Chapter 6

Week 4: Theoretical Perspectives

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 429-451; 452-472
- McIntyre, Chapters 3 and 4

Week 5: Culture and Subcultures

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 66-118
- McIntyre, Chapter 7

Week 6: Socialization

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 161-173
- McIntyre, Chapter 10

Week 7: Deviant Behavior and Social Control

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 230-278
- McIntyre, Chapter 11

Week 8: Social Structure

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 173-229
- McIntyre, Chapter 8

Week 9: SPRING BREAK!!

Readings: None

Week 10: Community and Social Change

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 637-653; 665-672

Week 11: Stratification and Social Class

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 147-161; 289-303; 318-331
- McIntyre, Chapter 12

Week 12: Social Inequality

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 279-289; 488-516
- McIntyre, Chapter 13

Week 13: Education and Social Inequality

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 573-600

Week 14: Racial and Ethnic Inequality

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 380-420
- McIntyre, Chapter 14

Week 15: Gender Inequality

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 119-147; 342-353; 366-379
- McIntyre, Chapter 14 (continued)

Week 16: Finals Week—No Class

Final Papers due Friday, 5/11