

# **Principles of Sociology**

Spring 2011

SOC\*K101, Section T8  
Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Instructor: Barret Katuna

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Office Hours By Appointment: Tuesday Afternoons

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I. **Course Title:** Principles of Sociology

II. **Course Information:**

- a. SOC K101
- b. Room: E227
- c. Day/Time: Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

III. **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 by examining the 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 refer 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.

In this course, we will explore the way in which sociologists understand, explore, and discuss the social world. Sociologists study everything (food, fashion, race, class, globalization, gender, and so forth).

#### IV. Course Goals/Learning Outcomes:

The aim of this course is to introduce you to the ways in which sociologists understand, explore, and discuss the social world. This course will:

- a. Help you to develop an understanding of the sociological perspective
- b. Introduce key concepts in sociology and their application to social phenomena
- c. Explain the logic and practice of conducting sociological research
- d. Introduce concepts for the consumption and production of social research
- e. Introduce theories that explain/fail to explain how societies and social constructions operate

As such, after successfully completing the course, you should have the following skills and knowledge that will enable you to apply the concepts from this course in your future plans:

- I. Critical Thinking: Utilize critical thinking skills to analyze society and human group behavior
  - a. Develop the ability to think about society using the major sociological perspectives
  - b. Develop an understanding of inequalities in our society and their consequences for both dominant and oppressed groups
  - c. Demonstrate the ability to use the sociological imagination to understand human behavior
- II. Cultures and Societies: Use sociological concepts to understand and analyze cultures and societies and to develop respect for other cultures and societies
  - a. Identify the interrelationship between social, political, and economic institutions
  - b. Develop an understanding of cultural differences within the United States and at the international level
  - c. Evaluate the impact of social, political, and economic institutions on individuals
  - d. Demonstrate knowledge of major figures in the field of sociology
- III. Systematic Inquiry: Understand and utilize social scientific research methods for analyzing the social world
  - a. Develop an understanding of different research methods used in sociological research
  - b. Understand the appropriateness of different methods for different research questions

- c. Learn the process of methods that incorporates creating research questions and reading literature in order to carry out empirically based sociological projects.

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V. **Instructional Methods:**

- a. Lecture
- b. Discussion
- c. In-Class Writing Assignments
- d. Exams and a Paper

VI. **Required Text:**

Susan J. Ferguson, *Mapping the Social Landscape: Readings in Sociology*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. McGraw-Hill. 2010.

ISBN 978-0-0735-2821-2

VII. **Disabilities Statement:**

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Disabilities Counseling Services at 892-5751. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact a counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon a disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. I appreciate your cooperation.

VIII. **Course Outline:**

The following is a tentative class schedule that is subject to change depending on the time required to cover the material and your collective needs as a class.

**Week 1: - January 25: Understanding Sociology/The Sociological Imagination:** Class introduction; reading due: Ferguson readings due: 1-3; in class essay.

**Week 2: - February 1: Theoretical Perspectives: Marx, Durkheim, Weber (Functionalism), Conflict, Symbolic Interaction, Feminist Theory:** Ferguson readings due: 17, 42, & 44; bring in two questions (typed or handwritten) that you have for each chapter.

**Week 3: - February 8: Sociological Research/Methods:** Ferguson readings due: 4-6; in-class research project.

**Week 4: - February 15: Culture & Media:** Culture readings due: Ferguson 7, 9, & 10. Media readings due: Ferguson 38 & 39.

**Week 5: - February 22: Exam #1**

**Week 6: - March 1:** Socialization & The Construction of Reality: Ferguson readings due: 11 – 14. I will distribute paper topics today.

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**Week 7: - March 8:** Social Interaction/Social Structure - Networks and Organizations: Ferguson readings due: 15 – 18. We will discuss your papers today.

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**Week 8: - March 15:** Spring Break, NO CLASS

**Week 9: - March 22:** Social Control & Deviance: Ferguson readings due: 19 – 22.

**Week 10: - March 29:** Building Blocks: Institutions of Society: Focus on Family & Education: Family reading due: Ferguson 53, Education readings due 50-52.

**Week 11: - April 5:** Exam #2

**Week 12: - April 12:** Gender & Race and Ethnicity: Gender readings due: Ferguson 27-30, Race and Ethnicity readings due: 31-34. Papers due.

**Week 13: - April 19:** Class Stratification & Power and Politics: Class Stratification readings due: Ferguson 23 & 24. Power & Politics readings due: Ferguson 35-37.

**Week 14: - April 26:** Paper conferences.

**Week 15: - May 3:** Social Change: Ferguson 56-58.

**Week 16: - May 10:** Exam #3; Re-writes of your paper are due today. You must submit the original paper along with the re-write.

## **IX. Evaluation Procedures**

I will determine your final grade by calculating the combined grades from exams, a research paper, and class participation (includes in-class writing assignments).

Exams (3)	45% - 15 points each.
Paper	30% - I will average your initial grade and re-write grade.
Class Participation	25% - Includes discussion and in-class assignments.
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100%	

**Exams:** I will proctor the exams during class periods.

**Paper:** I will distribute the paper topics on March 1 in class. We will talk about the logistics of the paper on March 8 in class. You will have a choice of at least two options. The paper must be four to five pages long, double-spaced, in Times New Roman font. I will only accept hard copies of the paper; you must number and staple your papers. ~~A Hard hard copyies of the paper isare due on April 12. On April 26, I will have conferences with each student to discuss your initial drafts. Your Re\_ writes of tthe paper isare due on May 10.~~

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**Class Participation:** Your class participation counts for ¼ of your final grade. This grade depends on your presence in class and in-class assignments that you complete. I will take attendance during every class period. By taking an active role in your education, you will enhance your learning potential as well as maximize the learning experiences of your fellow classmates. This is an interactive class and I value your opinions and life experiences. In-class assignments are not all announced beforehand, nor are they all on the syllabus.

**Extra Credit:** You have the potential to earn an additional half letter grade on your final grade. Only 3 extra credit opportunities are available to each student and you may do a combination of Option 1 and Option 2 assignments. Each extra credit assignment counts for 1 point. Option 1: Attend a campus activity and describe and analyze the activity using at least three sociological concepts. Option 2: Find an article in a newspaper that focuses on a key concept that we are exploring in class. Explain and analyze the social phenomena using sociological concepts. You must submit these one-page essays to me in class. I will accept extra credit assignments up until May 10.

**X. Final Grade Scale**

A	=	94 - 100
A-	=	90 - 93
B+	=	87 - 89
B	=	83 - 86
B-	=	80 - 82
C+	=	77 - 79
C	=	73 - 76
C-	=	70 - 72
D+	=	67 - 69
D	=	63 - 66
D-	=	60 - 62
F	=	00 - 59

**XI. College Withdrawal Policy**

A verbal “drop or withdrawal” from course(s) will be accepted through the 10<sup>th</sup> week of classes in accordance with the designated withdrawal deadlines. You will

need to provide the following information: full name, address, date of birth, student identification number and social security number, course reference number (CRN), description/subject and instructor's name, and if it's applicable VA/FA benefits. Verbal drops or verbal withdrawals are ONLY processed through the Registrar's Office and Submarine Base site.

**XII. Instructor's Attendance Policy**

Consistent attendance at class meetings is crucial to success in this course (especially since it only meets once a week). By attending all the class meetings, you will receive the full benefit from instruction. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting class notes, articles, and any assignments I give during class from a fellow student.

**XIII. Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; **clearly document the sources of the material you use from others**; and act at all times with honor. **If you ever present someone else's work as your own** (for example, if you cheat on assignments or exams and/or plagiarize when writing essays or papers), you will automatically fail the class.

**XIV. Cellular Phones, Laptop Computers, etc.**

I understand that many of you have cellular phones and beepers that you will bring with you to class. While in class or in the Learning Resource Center, your phones and beepers should be either off or in silent mode. Please do not leave your phones in a mode that permits them to vibrate when you receive a message or call. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. In addition, you are also not permitted to read or receive text messages during class. If there are extenuating circumstances that require you to be available by phone or beeper, please speak to me before class. In addition, if you bring your laptop with you to class, please use your laptop only for note taking purposes and refrain from checking your e-mail, surfing the Web, or browsing Facebook. I reserve the right to reconsider laptop usage during class.

**XV. Important Information to Help You Do Well in this Course:**

This syllabus is a rough guide for the semester and is subject to change. The dates may shift a bit to accommodate your interests and the pace of class discussion.

*Missing Class*

If you are going to miss class, you must notify me of your absence in advance. Only a signed doctor's note (for you, your child or an elderly or a person with a disability for whom you are responsible) or proof of a family emergency will be acceptable. If you must miss a class for a religious commitment, you must notify me by the second session of class, February 1.

***Late Work***

I will only accept late work in cases of extenuating circumstances such as a family or personal emergency. Everyone in this class is aware of the deadlines. Please mark your calendars now and note all of the exam dates and paper deadlines.

If you must submit an assignment late due to a family or personal emergency, please come to talk to me or e-mail me at my Three Rivers Community College e-mail account and we can talk either before or after a class session.

**XVI. Let's Have a Great Semester Together!**

I want to make this class as interactive, educational, and productive as possible for you. I will personally give you the opportunity on two occasions throughout the semester to provide feedback to me via anonymous in-class evaluations on my instruction. At any point throughout the semester, please feel free to let me know if the course materials, the lecture, or in-class assignments are working/not working for you in terms of the class organization.