

# SYLLABUS FOR SOC\*K101: PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

Course: SOC\*K101  
Course Title: Principles of Sociology  
Course Schedule: On-Line  
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## 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 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 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. 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:

- I. 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
- II. 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 globe
  - Evaluate the impact of social, political, economic, and cultural institutions on individuals
  - 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
- Develop an understanding of different research methods used in sociological research
  - Understand the appropriateness of different methods for different research questions

### **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, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. McGraw Hill, 2005.
- Lisa J. McIntyre, *The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. McGraw Hill, 2008.

### **IV. Course Assignments and Evaluation**

Your final course grade will be based on the following components:

- A discussion question will be posted each week in the weekly learning module. You will receive a letter grade each week based on the quality and quantity of your participation. Your overall discussion grade will count for 20% of your final grade.
- There will be five assignments during the course, and each will count for 5% of your final grade, for a total of 25% of your final grade.
- There will be two exams during the course, and each will count for 20% of your final grade. The exams will be essay format, and you will have several days to complete them.
- A service learning project will count for 15% of your final grade

All assignments and exams involve written work, and poor quality writing, including typographical errors, 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 the Shop Wing building on the Mohegan campus. You can contact them by email at [TRWritingCenter@trcc.comnet.edu](mailto:TRWritingCenter@trcc.comnet.edu) or by phone at 860-892-5773.

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.

### 8/26 Week 1: The Sociological Imagination

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 1-32
- McIntyre, Chapters 1 and 2

### 9/2 Week 2: Deductive and Inductive Theory

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 32-42
- McIntyre, Chapter 5

### 9/9 Week 3: Research Methods

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 43-61
- McIntyre, Chapter 6

Assignment 1 posted; due 9/16

### 9/16 Week 4: Theoretical Perspectives

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 441-478
- McIntyre, Chapters 3 and 4

### 9/23 Week 5: Culture and Subcultures

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 62-101
- McIntyre, Chapter 7

Assignment 2 posted; due 9/30

9/30 Week 6: Socialization

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 127-154
- McIntyre, Chapter 10

10/7 Week 7: Deviant Behavior and Social Control

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 209-255
- McIntyre, Chapter 11

Assignment 3 posted; due 10/14

10/14 Week 8: Social Structure

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 155-208
- McIntyre, Chapter 8

Midterm Exam posted; due 10/21

10/21 Week 9: Community and Social Change

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 650-680

Assignment 4 posted; due 10/28

10/28 Week 10: Stratification and Social Class

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp.114-127; 266-279; 292-305; 630-649
- McIntyre, Chapter 12

11/4 Week 11: Social Inequality

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 256-265; 428-440; 479-493
- McIntyre, Chapter 13

Assignment 5 posted; due 11/11

Service Learning project posted; due 12/4

11/11 Week 12: Education and Social Inequality

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 571-604

11/18 Week 13: Racial and Ethnic Inequality

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 280-291; 359-406
- McIntyre, Chapter 14

11/25 Week 14: Gender Inequality

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 102-114; 306-359
- McIntyre, Chapter 14 (continued)

12/2 Week 15: Gender Inequality Cont'd

Readings:

- Ferguson, pp. 102-114; 306-359
- McIntyre, Chapter 14 (continued)

Service Learning project due Friday, 12/4 by 5:00 p.m.

12/9 Week 16: Finals Week—No Class

Final Exam Posted; Due 12/16 by 9:00 a.m.