

SOC 101 – Principals of Sociology

Spring 2010
SOC 101 – Principals of Sociology T7
Meeting Days/Time: Thursdays 6:15-9:15pm

Instructor: Carmela Smith

Campus Office Hours: By appointment only

How to contact me: Use e-mail: CSmith@gwcc.commnet.edu

I am more than happy to set up an appointment to answer your questions; however, I will answer your question(s) in a timelier manner by e-mail. If you have not yet set up an e-mail account, please do so. If you need assistance, please contact the help desk. Please note that I do not have regular office hours, therefore you will need to set up an appointment if you find e-mail alone is not enough.

Please note that my e-mail address is available for matters pertaining only to academia, and is not to be used for any other purpose.

Welcome to Principals of Sociology!

In this course, you will have an introduction to the perspective, concepts and methods of the sociologist and they apply to the understanding of various social institutions, processes and problems.

Catalog Description for SOC 101 – Principals of Sociology (3 credits)

Prerequisite: Placement test score indicating ENG K101 or completion of ENG* K100 with a "C" grade or better.*

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 interrelationship. Emphasis is placed on understanding the impact of society on our lives, and on increasing our effectiveness in controlling our destinies within it.

Course Objective:

Students will be able to define, describe, and apply fundamental sociological concepts and investigatory methods.

Learning Outcomes

1. An understanding of the sociological perspective.
2. An understanding of different theoretical perspectives used in sociology.
3. An appreciation of the role of social factors in influencing individual behavior.
4. The ability to think about society from a critical perspective, especially how social positions in society shape how people think and act.
5. An understanding of inequalities in our society and their consequences for both dominant and subordinate groups.

Required Text:

Kendall, Diana, *Sociology in our Times: The Essentials, 7th Edition*. Wadsworth, 2010, 2007

1. Grading: Your grade will be determined as follows:

Participation	25
First Essay	50
Second Essay	50
Paper	75
Exams: Midterm & Final (50 each)	100
Total:	300

A+ = 294-300	B+ = 261-269	C+ = 231-239	D+ = 201-209
A = 279-293	B = 249-260	C = 219-230	D = 189-200
A- = 270-278	B- = 240-248	C- = 210-218	D- = 180-188
			F = 0-179

2. a) Attendance: You are expected to attend every class, turn in all assignments on time and participate in classroom discussions. Attendance will be taken toward the end of every class period. You will be permitted two absences; beginning with your third absence, you lose five points off your final score per absence. For example, if you miss two classes and your total score is 240 (B-), then your final score is 240 (B-); however, if you miss three classes and your total score is 240, your final score goes down to 235 (C+). Students with perfect attendance will get 5 bonus points added to their final average. Students who miss one class will receive 3 bonus points. "Perfect attendance" means that you are always present in class and always sign the attendance sheet. Failure to sign the attendance sheet by the end of class will count as an absent. There are no excused absences that would allow one to receive bonus points. It is expected that you arrive on time each class as it is disrupted to the group when there are late arrivals.

Additionally, the use of cell phones or pagers during class without permission of the professor is unacceptable. Please turn off or silence all electronic devices during class.

b) Class participation – this grade not only depends upon your presence in class and the in-class assignments that you complete. You need to take an active part in your education. This is an interactive class I do not merely stand up in front of the class and lecture. You will be required to participate in discussions.

3. Writing Assignments: There are several writing assignments for this course (essays). Pay strict attention to the comments I make on your papers. Make sure you do not keep making the same mistakes. If you continue to make the same mistakes, you will lose more points on the next paper.

4. Revisions on Papers: Students may be required to revise their papers. Regardless of your original score, revising your paper will involve much more than superficial improvements; you might be asked to reconsider your entire argument, in addition to clarifying your usage of key terms. In these ways, the revision process will increase your capacity for critical thinking – the ability to approach a situation from more than one perspective.

5. Late Assignment Policy: For each business day your Assignment is late, you will lose five points.

6. Exams: There will be an in class midterm and final exam. They will require thoughtful well written answers.

7. General Responsibilities: If you miss class, you will need to get lecture notes from another student. If you lose your syllabus, you must acquire another copy from another student.

8. Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who require accommodations are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center located in ENG C105 to arrange for approved accommodations. This resource offers academic, career and personal support to university students with documented disabilities. After disclosing, students are urged to discuss their needs with individual instructors to arrange accommodations.

9. Academic Honesty: At SCSU, we expect the highest standards of honesty. Academic dishonesty is defined in your university student handbook. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaborations on assignments, unauthorized access to examinations or course materials, plagiarism, and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's idea(s) or work as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally. Such behavior can lead to academic dismissal from the university.

10. Make-up & Extra Credit Policy: I do not allow student to make up assignments or exams without extraordinary circumstances. Students must provide appropriate documentation to support their case for a make-up. Make-up exams are seriously discouraged. Extra credit opportunities are not provided in this course.

Course Reading & Assignment Outline

Reading Assignments and Due Dates (Please Note: All reading assignments should be completed before the assigned due date. It is imperative that you keep up with the assigned readings).

Note: 3/11 – NO CLASS – Spring Break
3/25 – NO CLASS

Week	Topics/Activities	Readings Assignments	Assignments Due
1	The Sociological Perspective and Research Process	Chapter 1	1/21
2	Culture	Chapter 2	1/28
3	Socialization	Chapter 3	2/4
4	Social Structure and Interaction in Everyday Life	Chapter 4	2/11
5	Groups and Organizations	Chapter 5	2/18
6	Deviance and Crime	Chapter 6	2/25
7	Class and Stratification in the united States	Chapter 7	3/4
~	No Class	Spring Break	3/11
8	Global Stratification	Chapter 8	3/18
~	No Class	No Class (Work on Midterm Exam)	3/25
9	Race and Ethnicity Sex and Gender	Chapter 9 & 10	4/1 (Midterm Exam due)
10	Families and Intimate Relationships	Chapter 11	4/8
11	Education and Religion	Chapter 12	4/15
12	Politics and the Economy in Global Perspective	Chapter 13	4/22
13	Health, Health Care, and Disability	Chapter 14	4/29
14	Population and Urbanization Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change	Chapter 15 & 16	5/6
15	Final Exam	Final Exam	5/13 Final Exam

Writing Assignments:

Each assignment instruction will be given prior to the due date. All take home assignments must be typed and submitted to me in class on the date it is due. Do not send me your paper electronically.

Citations and References:

All direct quotes must be properly cited. Any reference to other works should be properly referenced. Be sure to avoid quoting large portions of text that are not integrated into your own writing. Be sure to explain a quote in your own words to convey the point that you are trying to make. If such precautions are not exercised, you will be held responsible for plagiarism. To avoid possible plagiarism, careful use of quotations and references should be used.

You should have a basic knowledge for how to make correct citations, and how to list references. There are many different models for how to do this. Please use the citation style in Sociology (ASA). Information about this citation format can be obtained at www.calstatela.edu/library/bi/rsalina/asa.styleguide.htm.

What are “empirical” sources? How does one find “empirical” sources?

Empirical research involves a test of reality, through observation (direct or indirect), in order to determine results. The scientific method is utilized, which indicates that such observations are peer reviewed and are not simply achieved through personal experience.

Empirical resources can be found through the various search engines available at the SCSU library. CONSULS, “SocIndex (EBSCO)” and “Sociological Abstracts” can be used in order to find scholarly books and related articles. Be sure that you are searching for ‘peer reviewed’ items before you conduct your search? Reports published by government agencies responsible for the release of this information are not biased through their relationships with religious, political, or other idealistic groups.

The items below indicate those that are NOT acceptable forms of empirical sources. This selection is not in any way exhaustive.

Examples of **non-empirical** sources;

- Class notes, Dictionaries, Encyclopedia/Wikipedia, Textbooks, Websites (with the exception of scholarly articles and reports from government agencies and non-profits), Popular books, Newspapers, Magazines, Radio/TV

Technical aspects of your paper

All writing assignments should meet expected page length guidelines, be stapled, typed, and double-spaced in Times New Roman font size 12, with one-inch margins. Your name and title of your paper should appear on the title page. Please include page numbers.

If you need assistance with your writing skills, I strongly urge you visit the **Writing Center**.

Standard Writing Assignment Grading Rubric

Category	4: Excellent 100-90	3: Good 89-80	2: Fair 79-70	1: Poor 69-60	0: Failure 59-0
A. Fulfilling the assignment	You did all that was asked in the instructions, and made it seem natural, and key to the intelligence of the work.	You did all that was asked in the instructions.	You followed many but not all of the instructions; something technical or thematic was left out.	You followed few of the instructions.	You followed none of the instructions, and wrote a different paper altogether.
B. Professionalism	Your essay has a clear beginning, middle and end; paragraphs are made appropriately at the introduction of a new topic sentence; there are no sentence fragments, run-on sentences, grammatical errors, or spelling errors.	Your essay shows good effort, but is missing one of the elements at the left.	Your essay is missing two of the elements at the left.	Your essay is missing three of the elements at the left.	Your essay is missing four or more elements at the left.
C. Citations	You refer to scholarly texts in the main body and bibliography per the ASA style guide.	You refer to scholarly texts in the main body and bibliography per the ASA style guide, but made an error.	You refer to scholarly texts in the main body and bibliography per the ASA style guide, but made two errors.	You refer to scholarly texts in the main body and bibliography per the ASA style guide, but made three errors.	You refer to scholarly texts in the main body and bibliography per the ASA style guide, but made four or more errors.
D. Ownership	You wrote this paper yourself, and it is obvious that you did so with enthusiasm, conviction and pride in your work.	You wrote this paper yourself, but it reads as though you could have put more effort in.	You wrote this paper yourself, but it reads as though you barely made time to do it at all.	You wrote this paper yourself, but it does not reflect the standard expected of a college student.	You did not write this paper yourself, and so receive a score of ZERO for the assignment.
E. Theme	Your paper has an intelligent theme, and the entire work is consistent with this theme.	Your paper has a theme that you illustrate throughout, but the theme does not show much thought.	Your paper has a confusing theme, and it is hard to tell if your paper supports it or not.	Your paper contains a lot of information that seems unrelated to its theme.	Your paper does not appear to have a theme.
F. Analysis (as well as your ability to apply sociology to your topic)	Your observations were accurate and showed that you can look beyond the surface for latent social meanings.	Your observations were accurate but somewhat superficial; you did not do as much critical thinking as you could have.	Your observations seem accurate but were sometimes hard to follow and not very deep.	Your observations were often inaccurate and/or confusing, and not of a college level.	You made no real observations in the paper.