

Sociology 101-01
Principles of Sociology
Spring 2009

Instructor: Kathryn Brown-Tracy

Class: 9:00-11:45 F; Mohegan Campus, Room 308

Office Hours: After class or by appointment.

Home Phone: (860) 446-2783

Email: kbt56@tvconnect.net

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

A range of sociological topics will be covered. We begin the course by discussing sociological perspectives, sociological methods, socialization, gender stratification, class inequality, and race and ethnic relations. Thereafter, we examine some of the major social institutions society, including health and health care, the economy, the family, and education. We end the course by discussing social change and social movements.

Required Reading

Sociology IN OUR TIMES SEVENTH EDITION, by Diana Kendall

Course Goals

To develop and use a sociological imagination as a tool for understanding the basic concepts, theoretical perspectives and methods of inquiry.

To achieve an understanding of the connection between our personal experiences, the social context, and historical period in which we live.

To examine how various social forces control and shape individual lives and whole cultures.

To strengthen critical thinking skills and analytical skills by reading and writing critically and integrating ideas and concepts from the course material.

To apply critical thinking skills to understand social problems and relationships between social forces and individual perceptions.

To learn ways to transform personal, social relationships and structures.

Class Format

The in-class format will be a combination of small group discussion, some lecture, open discussion and small group activities. I will attempt in as much as possible to be a facilitator for student learning, rather than a disseminator of information. Class discussion in small groups and as a whole will form the most significant learning mode.

Participation is essential to making this class a success. Each individual brings a wealth of knowledge and experience—we can all learn together through sharing our respective insights.

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance is expected. A sign-in sheet is provided to note attendance and absences. Missing more than two classes will be very problematic for you finishing in good standing. If you miss class more than two times, 5 points will be taken off your final grade for each additional missed class.

Participation: Students are expected to actively engage in the course, by being prepared for and participating in all class sessions. **Reading the assignments before class is necessary for good discussions.** As you read, keep the following questions in mind:

What is the reading about?

What is the main point?

Are the arguments persuasive?

Does the analysis apply to my life/culture?

What is the most interesting thing I learned from the reading?

You will be responsible for reading all of the chapters assigned in the textbook even if class lectures do not cover each chapter in depth. Rather than try to cover everything on the surface we will delve deeper into select chapters as time allows.

Assignments: All assignments must be turned in on time. I do not expect anyone to hand these assignments in late except in case of a documented serious illness or emergency. In this case, contact the instructor to arrange for an alternative due date. **One point will be taken off for each day the take-home exam and/or research paper is late.**

Writing Center/Tutoring Center: if you find yourself struggling with any aspect of the course work please make an appointment to see me or seek help from the Writing Center or the Tutoring and Academic Success Center.

Disabilities statement: Do you have a disability which may require modifications in assignments or classroom participation? If so, please get in touch with me early in the semester, so we can make arrangements. Also, if have not already done, please communicate with the Disabled Student Counselor, or Chris Scarborough, who coordinate services to students with disabilities.

Course Requirements and Grading

Exam 1; Exam 2	100 pts.	25%
Final Exam	100 pts.	25%
<u>Research Paper</u>	<u>200 pts</u>	<u>50%</u>
Total	400 pts	100%

Grading scale:

A = 400-360 points

B = 359–320 points

C = 319-280 points

D = 279-240 points

F = 239 or below

Students' grades will be determined by the following elements:

Exams – There will be two examinations. Material for examinations will come from your readings in Sociology IN OUR TIMES. Each exam will consist of 25 questions and 10 short answer essays. These exams are 25% of your grade.

Final exam – This take-home exam will consist of a 3-5 page paper. You will be offered several questions to choose from and you will select two questions to answer. I expect the exam to be typed, double-spaced, and use of the MLA format. This will constitute 25% of your grade.

Research Paper – Choose a topic or issue, to research in-depth, from this course. For example, Gender Difference and Gender Inequality, Poverty, or Violence. You will write a 5-7 page paper. This paper must be typed, double-spaced, with standard margins, and 12 pt. font. It is expected that the paper be checked for proper grammar and spelling errors. This paper will be worth 50% of your grade.

Sociology 101-06
Course Outline

Week 1 1/23	Class Overview/Introduction
Week 2 1/30	The Sociological Perspective Kendall, Chapter 1 Sociological Research Methods Kendall, Chapter 2
Week 3 2/6	Culture Kendall, Chapter 3
Week 4 2/13	Socialization Kendall, Chapter 4
Week 5 2/20	Society, Social Structure, and Interaction Kendall, Chapter 5
Week 6 2/27	Deviance and Crime Kendall, Chapter 7 Movie: <i>Cheaters</i>
Week 7 3/6	Mid-Term
Week 8 3/13	Class and Stratification in the United States Kendall Chapter 8 <i>Activity: Stratification, Social Class, and Distribution of Wealth</i>
Week 9 3/15-22	Spring Break No Class
Week 10 3/27	Sex and Gender Kendall, Chapter 11 <i>Guest Speaker: Lisa Luck</i>
Week 11 4/3	Race and Ethnicity Kendall, Chapter 10 <i>Class Activity: Race/Gender Stereotypes</i>
Week 12 4/10	Spring Recess No Classes
Week 13 4/17	Families and Intimate Relationships, continued Kendall, Chapter 15 Domestic Violence- <i>Guest Speaker TBA: Women's Center</i> Mini-Project Due
Week 14 4/25	Education Kendall, Chapter 16 <i>Video: Freedom Writers/discussion questions</i>

Week 15 5/1	Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change Kendall, Chapter 20
Week 16 5/8	Final Exam Due
Week 17 5/15	Research Paper Due

Final Take-Home Exam Due 4/25

Criteria for grading exam:

Your grade for the exams will be based on the following criteria:

Understanding and effort: does the writing demonstrate a full knowledge of the relevant assigned readings and class lectures. Was effort put into understanding the questions, reviewing the readings and class notes, and answering the questions thoroughly? **25% of grade**

Does the writing communicate clearly? That is, is the paper well organized, with a good amount of detail in the presentation? Is it free from major errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling typos, etc.? **75% of grade**

Research Paper: Due 5/9

This paper must be typed, double-spaced, with standard margins, and 12 pt. font. It is expected that the paper be checked for proper grammar and spelling errors.

Choose a topic or issue from this course.

Examples: Gender Difference and Gender Inequality
Poverty
Violence

Explain why this issue is particularly interesting or important to you (for example, it is personally relevant, politically important, and/or intellectually stimulating). **25% of grade**

What is the sociological significance of this issue? In other words, analyze the issue using a sociological framework. You should make extensive use of the reading and lecture material from this course. **100% of grade**

How do you see that social change could (or should) be brought about in this area? **10% of grade**

What steps could you take toward social change in this area? **10% of grade**

The following will be considered when evaluating your paper:

Does the author demonstrate an understanding of important sociological

concepts, theories and issues? **15% of grade**

Does the paper adequately and effectively use evidence? **10% of grade**

How creative is the author (e.g. introduces new ideas, integrates material in an innovative way)? **5% of grade**

Is the paper well-written in regard to clarity, grammar, and spelling?
10% of grade

Does the paper flow in the sentence, paragraph and paper-as-a-whole? Does the paper make a coherent argument or statement? **15% of grade**

Structure your paper roughly as follows: 1-2 pages explaining why the issue you chose is significant or interesting to you; 3-4 pages analyzing the issue sociologically (the heart of the paper); 1-2 pages discussing social change in regard to your issue.

Sociology 101-01

Principles of Sociology

Spring 2008

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Required Reading

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Course Goals

To develop and use a sociological imagination as a tool for understanding the basic concepts, theoretical perspectives and methods of inquiry.

- To achieve an understanding of the connection between our personal experiences, the social context, and historical period in which we live.
- To examine how various social forces control and shape individual lives and whole cultures.
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Sociology 101-01 Course Outline

Chapter 1 - The Sociological Perspective

Chapter 2 - Sociological Research Methods

Chapter 3 - Culture

Chapter 4 - Socialization

Chapter 5 - Society, Social Structure, and Interaction

Chapter 7 - Deviance and Crime

Chapter 8 - Class and Stratification in the United States

Chapter 9 – Global Stratification

Chapter 10 – Race and Ethnicity

Chapter 11 - Sex and Gender

Chapter 15 - Families and Intimate Relationships

Chapter 16 - Education

Chapter 20 - Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change