

Principles of Sociology

Fall 2011

SOC*K101, Section T6
Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Instructor: Barret Katuna

barrekatuna@yahoo.com

Office Hours By Appointment: Thursday Afternoons

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

II. **Course Information:**

- a. SOC K101
- b. Room: D105
- c. Day/Time: Thursdays 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.

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*, 6th 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: - September 1: Understanding Sociology/The Sociological Imagination: Class introduction; in-class writing assignment (autobiographical statement). The lecture tonight will be based on Chapters 1 (Mills), 2 (Gaines), and 3 (Romero) of the Ferguson text. Between tonight and our next class meeting, please be sure to read these three chapters. You are responsible for this material for Exam 1.

Week 2: - September 8: Theoretical Perspectives: Marx, Durkheim, Weber (Functionalism), Conflict, Symbolic Interaction, Feminist Theory: Tonight, we will review Chapters 1, 2, and 3 and start on this next section on Theoretical Perspectives. The Ferguson readings due for today: Chapters 17 (Williams) and 42 (Leidner). Bring in two questions (typed or handwritten) that you have for Chapters 17 and 42.

Week 3: - September 15: Sociological Research/Methods: Ferguson readings due: Chapters 4 (Schwalbe), 5 (Haney, Banks, and Zimbardo), and 6 (Duneier); in-class project.

Week 4: - September 22: Culture & Media: Culture readings due from the Ferguson text: Chapters 9 (Sandhu) and 10 (Trask). Media reading due from the Ferguson text: Chapter 38 (Mantsios).

Week 5: - September 29: Exam #1. Note: *I will distribute paper topics today.*

Week 6: - October 6: Socialization & The Construction of Reality: Ferguson readings due: Chapters 11 (Lorber) and 14 (Dyer). Note: *We will discuss the paper assignment today.*

Week 7: - October 13: Social Interaction/Social Structure - Networks and Organizations: Ferguson readings due: Chapters 15 (Adler and Adler) and 16 (Jankowski).

Week 8: - October 20: Social Control & Deviance: Ferguson readings due: Chapter 19 (Rosenhan), 20 (McLorg and Taub) and 21 (Draus and Carlson).

Week 9: - October 27: Building Blocks: Institutions of Society: Focus on Family & Education: Family reading due from the Ferguson text: Chapter 53 (Cherlin), Education readings due from the Ferguson text: Chapters 50 (Crow Dog and Erdoes), 51 (Kozol) and 52 (Arnett Ferguson).

Week 10: - November 3: Exam #2.

Week 11: - November 10: Gender: Ferguson readings due: Chapters 27 (Risman), 28 (Pascoe) and 30 (Loe). **Papers are due today.** Note: *Sign up for a paper conference time in class today.*

Week 12: - November 17: Paper conferences. I will meet individually (during our class time – in our classroom) with each of you to talk about your first paper submission and my comments on this first draft.

Week 13: - December 1: Race and Ethnicity: Ferguson readings due: Chapter 31 (Bonilla-Silva) and Chapter 33 (Flower Kim).

Week 14: - December 8: Class Stratification & Power and Politics: Class Stratification readings due from the Ferguson text: Chapters 24 (Domhoff) and 25 (Shapiro). Power & Politics readings due from the Ferguson text: Chapters 35 (Mills) and 36 (Clawson, Neustadtl, and Weller). **Re-writes of your paper are due today.** Note: *You must submit the original paper along with the re-write.*

Week 15: - December 15: Exam #3.

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.
<hr/>	
100%	

Exams: I will proctor the exams during class periods.

Paper: I will distribute the paper topics on September 29 in class. We will talk about the logistics of the paper on October 6 in class. The paper must be at least five pages long, double-spaced, in 12-point, Times New Roman font. I will only accept hard copies of the paper; you must number and staple your papers. A hard copy of the paper is due on November 10. Your re-write of the paper is due on December 8.

Class Participation: Your class participation counts for $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 December 8. All extra credit assignments must be submitted to me in hard copy format.

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 10th 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, please notify me in advance of your absence.

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 or miss an exam due to a family or personal emergency, please speak with me or e-mail me regarding this matter.

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.