SOC 101 – Principles of Sociology

Course Description

This course introduces the student to the discipline of sociology, its development, theories, major findings, and to the sociological interpretation of modern society. Emphasis will be given to the importance of careful empirical investigation for the understanding of recent social and cultural changes. Students should be prepared to encounter basic issues in sociological method and in theory; inquisitiveness and an inclination toward systematic thinking will be useful.

Faculty Information

Dr. Tony Capon

Office Hours: D205, Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00-9:30 or by appointment.

Course Meeting Times and Location

Section 6: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:45, D107;
Section 9: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00-12:15, D105.

Textbook

Andersen, Margaret L. and Howard F. Taylor. *Sociology: The Essentials* (6th edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2011.

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing the course, a student should have the following skills and knowledge:

***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**

***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 world**
- **Evaluate the impact of social, political, economic, and cultural institutions on individuals**
- **Demonstrate knowledge of major figures in the field of sociology**

***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**

Course Requirements and Grading

Six Exams:

Each exam will have 25 multiple choice questions and 15 true-false questions worth two points each, and five short-answer questions worth four points each, for a total of 100 points on each exam. In calculating your final grade for the course, the highest grade on the six exams will count as one and a half exams, while the lowest grade will count as half an exam. No make-up exams will be given unless the student presents a valid excuse. A student who misses an exam will receive a grade that is 25 points lower than the lowest passing grade for the exam.

Ten Research Assignments:

There will be ten research assignments. Each assignment is worth a varying number of points, but the total number of points for all the research assignments is 100. Assignments not turned in on time will receive no points. The ten research assignments will count as a seventh exam. The research assignments are in *Course Content.* Go there first to read them. They are submitted in *Assessments*.

Attendance Policy:

Beginning Tuesday, January 24, attendance will be taken daily. You are allowed two unexcused absences during the term. For each unexcused absence after two, your final course average will be reduced by two percentage points.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity:

Students in this course will be expected to adhere to standards of academic integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester is subject to sanctions that may include, but are not limited to, receiving a failing grade on the assignment or examination, or receiving a failing grade for the course.

Disabilities:

In addition to contacting me, if you have a disability that may affect your work in this course, please contact Chris Scarborough (892-5751) if you have a learning disability or ADD. Please contact Judy Hilburger (892-5744) or Matt Liscum (383-5240) if you have a physical, visual, hearing, or psychiatric disability.

Email:

Do not use Blackboard to email me. It is unreliable. Use my TRCC email: jcapon@trcc.commnet.edu. I strongly suggest you use your TRCC email to email me rather than another server (e.g. AOL, Yahoo, gmail). Email from those accounts could get sent to my junk mail.

Other Policies:

1. No eating in class.
2. If you chew gum, no one should hear it.
3. Chewing tobacco in class is permitted, as long as you don't spit.
4. Cell phones, Blackberries, pagers, etc., are to be turned off and put away. If your cell phone goes off in class, I will answer it for you. Texting, etc., while in class is prohibited. If you have a legitimate reason to have your cell phone on (you are on call, etc.), you must inform me before class. You may use a laptop in class to assist in taking notes. It is NOT to be used to check email, be on Facebook, etc.
5. No hats. Hats worn in class will be added to my ever-growing hat collection.
6. Asking your neighbor a question quietly will be tolerated. Conversations will not be.
7. Tape recording lectures is permitted.
8. BOTH THE SYLLABUS AND TOPIC OUTLINE/EXAM SCHEDULE ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHANGES MAY BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING ANNOUNCED IN CLASS EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD.

COURSE OUTLINE

(Dates and Topics Are Tentative and Subject to Change)

DATE	TOPIC(S)

January 19	Introduction to the Course; Chapter 1: What is Sociology?
January 24	Chapter 1: What is Sociology? (continued) Chapter 2: Culture
January 26	Chapter 2: Culture (continued)

NOTE: Chapter 3 will not be covered

January 31	Chapter 4: Socialization and the Life Course
February 2	No Class
February 7	Chapter 4: Socialization and the Life Course (continued) Chapter 5: Social Interaction and Social Structure
February 9	Chapter 5: Social Interaction and Social Structure (continued)
February 14	**FIRST EXAM**: Chapters 1, 2, 4
February 16	Chapter 6: Groups and Organizations
February 21	Chapter 6: Groups and Organizations (continued) Chapter 7: Deviance and Crime
February 23	Chapter 7: Deviance and Crime (continued)
February 28	Chapter 8: Social Class and Social Stratification
March 1	**SECOND EXAM:** Chapters 5-7
March 6	Chapter 8: Social Class and Social Stratification (continued) Chapter 9: Global Stratification
March 8	Chapter 9: Global Stratification (continued)
March 13	Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity
March 15	Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity (continued) Chapter 11: Gender
March 20 & 22	No Class
March 27	Chapter 11: Gender (continued)

March 29	**THIRD EXAM**: Chapters 8-10
April 3	Chapter 12: Sexuality
April 5	Chapter 12: Sexuality (continued) Chapter 13: Families and Religion
April 10	Chapter 13: Families and Religion (continued)
April 12	**FOURTH EXAM**: Chapters 11-12
April 17	Chapter 13: Families and Religion (continued)
April 19	Chapter 14: Education and Health Care
April 24	Chapter 14: Education and Health Care (continued) Chapter 15: Politics and the Economy
April 26	Chapter 15: Politics and the Economy (continued)
May 1	**FIFTH EXAM:** Chapters 13-14
May 3	Chapter 16: Population, the Environment, and Social Change
May 8 (continued)	Chapter 16: Population, the Environment, and Social Change
May 10	**SIXTH EXAM:** Chapters 15-16
May 15	Make-up Day (if necessary)