

SOC 101 – Principals of Sociology CRN 31469

FALL 2011

Meeting Days/Time: Tuesday 6:30-9:15pm

Instructor: Carmela Smith

Campus Office Hours: By appointment only

How to contact me: Blackboard email only.

I do have a TRCC email (CSmith1@trcc.commnet.edu); however, it is not for student correspondence, if you are having trouble with Blackboard you must contact the help desk.

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. 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/Group Discussions	15%
Chapter questions	15%
Essays (10 points each)	20%
Paper	20 %
<u>Exams: Final</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total:	100%

A+ = 97-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69
A = 94-96	B = 84-86	C = 74-76	D = 64-66
A- = 90-93	B- = 80-83	C- = 70-73	D- = 60-63
			F = 0-59

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 every class period. You will be permitted one absence; beginning with your second absence, you may lose 3 points off your final score per each absence. For example, if you miss a class and your total score is 80 (B-), then your final score is 80 (B-); however, if you miss two classes and your total score is 80, your final score goes down to 77 (C+). In order to avoid this type of impact on your grade, you need to contact me directly if you are going to miss a class.

Additionally, the use of cell phones, laptops, or any electronic devices 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 but you also 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. Side conversations affect this part of your grade in a negative way. Please respect others and keep all conversations not pertaining to class outside of the class.

3. Writing Assignments: There are several writing assignments for this course. Pay 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.

a.) Chapter Questions: When responding to these questions, you need to incorporate your understanding of the chapter readings into your answers.

b.) ESSAYS: Do not give me just your opinion without factual information to support your point of view. Also, acknowledge what the opposing point of view is and argue why it is not in line with your point of view.

c.) PAPER: You must support your point of view and the opposing point of view with factual support. Basically, you are writing “two papers,” one with your point of view and the other with the opposing

point of view. You need to research your topic thoughtfully with recent sources in order to do so. Remember, you need to argue both sides equally regardless of your opinion on the subject.

4. Group Discussions: Students are required to participate in group discussions. Each group will be given an essay question(s) to review/discuss. Each group must then share their ideas with the class. The class should share their own comments on the topic. Group members will change with each chapter. Group discussions help students to identify and reinforce the course material.

5. Late Assignment Policy: For each business day your Assignment is late, you will lose five points. In order to avoid this, you must contact me directly prior to submitting your assignment late.

6. Exams: There will be a final exam. It will require thoughtful well written answers. No midterm exam.

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 (or print it out from Blackboard).

8. Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who require accommodations are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center 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 TRCC, we expect the highest standards of honesty. Academic dishonesty is defined in your 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. Make-up exams are seriously discouraged. Extra credit opportunities are not provided in this course.

NOTE: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER ANY ASPECT OF THIS SYLLABUS, IN WHICH CASE THE STUDENTS SHALL BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE

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: 9/5 – NO CLASS – Labor Day

11/7 – NO CLASS – Work on Paper

*****All assignments will be posted on Blackboard and need to be submitted by Blackboard email.*****

DATE	Topics/Activities	Readings/ Assignments	Assignment Due dates
8/30	Review Syllabus Essay Writing & Practice Class introduction	Review Syllabus & Essay Writing	8/30
9/6	The Sociological Perspective & Research	Chapter 1	9/6
9/13	Culture	Chapter 2	9/13 – Chapter Question Due
9/20	Socialization	Chapter 3	9/20
9/27	Social Structure & Interaction in Everyday Life	Chapter 4	9/27 – 1 st Essay Due
10/4	Groups and Organizations	Chapter 5	10/4
10/11	Deviance and Crime	Chapter 6	10/11 – Chapter Question Due
10/18	Class and Stratification in the United States Global Stratification	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	10/18
10/25	Race & Ethnicity Sex & Gender	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	10/25 – 2 nd Essay Due
11/1	Families & Intimate Relationships	Chapter 11	11/1 – Chapter Question Due
11/8	NO CLASS	No Class	11/8 – NO CLASS – use this time to research for your paper
11/15	Education & Religion	Chapter 12	11/15 – PAPER DUE
11/22	Politics and the Economy in Global Perspective Health, Health Care & Disability	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	11/22
11/29	Population & Urbanization Collective Behavior, Social Movements & Social Change	Chapter 15 Chapter 16	11/29
12/6	FINAL EXAM POSTED ON VISTA BLACKBOARD	FINAL EXAM	12/6 – Exam Posted on Blackboard – no meeting in class
12/13	FINAL EXAM DUE via Blackboard email	FINAL EXAM DUE	12/13 FINAL EXAM DUE – submit work on Blackboard email by 9PM. No meeting in class

Writing Assignments:

Each assignment instruction will be posted on Blackboard prior to the due date. All assignments must be submitted to me by the date it is due via Blackboard email. You must do two things:

- 1. attach it as a word document**
- 2. paste the assignment within the email itself**

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 proper citation style.

What are “empirical” sources?

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 [you cannot use pros & cons websites]), 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 first page. Please include page numbers.

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

Assignment Grading Rubric

Writing Assignments:

Points are assessed as follows:

1. **Thesis statement– 20 points** - Your paper has an intelligent thesis/theme, and the entire work is consistent with this theme.
2. **Supportive Body – 20 points**
Chapter questions – You refer to the text book with a clear knowledge of the chapter in order to support your answer.
Essays & Paper Citations – You refer to scholarly texts in the main body and bibliography per the ASA style guide. You use these citations to support your opinion. You do not just make a statement without facts to back it up. For example, you cannot write, “most Americans agree in having universal healthcare.” You do not have this knowledge on your own...where did you get this information from...it must be from a credible source.
3. **Conclusions – 20 points** – Your conclusion is thoughtful and wraps up the papers points well.
4. **Professionalism – 20 points** - 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. You remain focused throughout your entire paper.
5. **Ownership – 20 points** – This paper came across with your enthusiasm, conviction and pride in your work. You wrote this paper yourself creatively and did not just “copy” the text with general or simple statements such as, “I agree” without elaboration.

Total possible points for writing assignments: 100 points.

Again, a reminder:

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2. **paste the assignment within the email itself**