

Principles of Sociology

Fall 2012

SOC*K101, Section T1
Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Instructor: Barret Katuna

bkatuna@trcc.commnet.edu

Office Hours By Appointment: Monday and Tuesday Afternoons

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

II. **Course Information:**

- a. SOC K101
- b. Room: D104
- c. Day/Time: Mondays from 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.

Class 1: - August 27: Understanding Sociology/The Sociological Imagination: Class introduction; in-class writing assignment (autobiographical statement).

Labor Day is on Monday, September 3. We will not meet on Labor Day.

Class 2: - September 10: Theoretical Perspectives: Marx, Durkheim, Weber (Functionalism), Conflict, Symbolic Interaction, Feminist Theory: For tonight, be sure to have read Chapters 1 and 2.

Class 3: - September 17: Sociological Research/Methods: Review Chapter 2 and read the introduction to Chapter 3, pages 56-62 as a preview for our next topic.

Class 4: - September 24: Culture & Media: Read the remainder of Chapter 3 for today.

Class 5: - October 1: Exam #1. Note: *I will distribute paper topics today after the exam.*

Class 6 - October 8: Socialization & The Construction of Reality: Read Chapter 4 and pages 114-124 of Chapter 5.

Class 7: - October 15: Social Interaction/Social Structure - Networks and Organizations: Read the remainder of Chapter 5 and all of Chapter 6.

Class 8: - October 22: Social Control & Deviance: Read Chapter 7.

Class 9: - October 29: Building Blocks: Institutions of Society: Focus on Family & Education: Read Chapter 15 and 16.

Class 10: - November 5: Exam #2.

TRCC observes Veteran's Day on Monday, November 12. We will not meet for class this day.

Class 11: - November 19: Gender: Read Chapter 10. **Papers are due today.**
Note: *Sign up for a paper conference time in class today.*

Class 12: - November 26: 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.

Class 13: - December 3: Race and Ethnicity: Read Chapter 11.

Class 14: - December 10: Class Stratification & Power and Politics: Read Chapter 8 and the section on Democracy in Chapter 13, pages 409-434. **Re-writes of your paper are due today.** Note: *You must submit the original paper along with the re-write.*

Class 15: - December 17: 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 October 1 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 19. Your re-write of the paper is due on December 10.

Class Participation: Your class participation counts for ¼ 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.

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 and Laptop Computers

I know how hard it is to be in a setting where it is not permissible to use your cell phone. While you are in class, you must be respectful of your classmates and me by putting your cell phone on silent. If you cannot avoid looking at your cell phone while class is in session, I advise you to put it in your bag or packet. If an emergency should arise and you need to have your phone on vibrate, please notify me *in person* before class begins.

The use of laptop computers is not permitted for in-class note taking. I will post the lecture slides on our course Blackboard.

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.

Communication with Me

I am on campus on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you have a question about an assignment, please talk to me either before or after class and we can arrange a time to meet on a Monday or Tuesday. Please talk to me in person (instead of sending me an e-mail) whenever possible. I would much prefer to communicate with you in person than via e-mail.

XVI. Let's Have a Great Semester Together!

I want to make this class as interactive, educational, and productive as possible for you. Halfway through the semester, I will give you the opportunity 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.