

Syllabus for Sociology 101 – Principles of Sociology

Course: SOC*K101 Principles of Sociology

Course Schedule: F 11:00AM – 1:45PM

Location: D109

Instructor: Chloe Duhaime Marrero

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Sociology is the study of people in groups. These groups can be as small as a family and as large as an entire society. In this course, we will explore the ways individuals and groups influence each other and how behavior is affected by various social factors. As budding sociologists, we will seek to become aware of our cultural perspective, how this affects the way we experience the world, and how the unique experiences of others affect their worldview. We will look at cultural and structural beliefs, values, norms, and roles, as well as social change and the varying theories around how such change comes about.

The course will build your knowledge and understanding of sociology cumulatively throughout the semester. We will first lay the foundation of sociological understanding by examining general concepts, theories and research methods of sociology. Then we will begin to apply these concepts to various social stratifications and phenomena: race, gender, economic class, and so on.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Explain social, organizational, political, economic, historical, or cultural elements that influence and are influenced by individuals and groups.
- Summarize different theories and research methods used to investigate social phenomena.
- Explain ethical issues pertaining to social contexts and phenomena.
- Explain issues of diversity within and across cultures.
- Apply concepts or theories of social phenomena to real world situations.

Course Readings

Assigned weekly readings should be done by the beginning of each class. Reading assignments are subject to change and changes will be announced during class. Supplemental material may also be handed out. It is important to complete the readings as we will spend much of class discussing their content.

The required book for the class is:

Ferguson, Susan J., 2017. *Mapping the Social Landscape: Readings in Sociology*. 8th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Participation & Attendance

As this course meets once weekly, therefore attendance and participation is imperative. Attendance will be taken during each class. Missing class will affect your final grade. If you know you will have to miss a class please talk to me about it at least a week beforehand. I take attendance seriously because you are an important part of this class. Your thoughts, perspective and questions are fully appreciated and required for the sake of learning through each other. Participation will be determined by:

- Attendance
- Participation in discussions
- Participation in group exercises

Quizzes

There will be 11 unannounced quizzes throughout the semester. They will be administered during the first 15 minutes of class. I encourage you to arrive to class on time as once the quizzes are collected, no more will be handed out. If you are late and miss the quiz, you will not receive credit and it will bring down your final grade. Collectively the quizzes will account for 25% of your final grade. These quizzes will be made up of 2-3 questions and will primarily test you over the material we will be discussing that day. Therefore, it is important to read the required material before class. You can drop your lowest quiz score.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Your course grade will be based on attendance/participation, two assignments, a research paper, a final exam, and 11 quizzes based on the weekly readings. Grades will be calculated out of a total of 200 possible points distributed below:

Assignment	Points
Attendance/Participation	20 (10%)
Quizzes (lowest quiz grade will be dropped)	50 (25%)
Assignment 1	20 (10%)
Assignment 2	20 (10%)
Research paper	50 (25%)
Final exam	40 (20%)
Total Points	200

The assignments, quizzes, and the final exam involve written work. You will be graded not only on your understanding and application of the material but also on the quality of your writing including spelling, grammar and proper use of American Sociological Association (ASA) formatting. If you would like help developing your writing skills, you can visit The Writing Center in room C117. I am available to review and discuss assignments so long as it is several days prior to due dates.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date assigned. Late assignments will have 10 points taken off for each day it is late. So if your paper is graded 40/50 points, and you are late one day, the grade will go down to 30/50. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with Matt Liscum in Room A-119 in the Counseling and Advising Office as soon as possible. He can be reached at (860) 383-5240 or MLiscum@trcc.commnet.edu. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

Cell Phone Policy

Please be considerate to your classmates. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices are only permitted in the classroom if they are turned off or on silent. They should not be answered or used during class. If there are extenuating circumstances, please let me know prior to class and we will come to an agreement. If you are using your device during class, you may be asked to leave and your attendance grade will be affected.

Course Schedule

The following schedule is a tentative list of the topics and required readings for each week. Changes to the schedule will be announced in class.

WEEK 1- August 31st

- Welcome/Introductions
- Course overview
- Introduction to sociology as a social science
- Introduction to research project: Start thinking about subject matters

WEEK 2- September 7th

- Understanding sociological study: Example-Suicide
- Theoretical frameworks: Functionalism, Symbolic Interactionism, Conflict Theory
- Readings: Ferguson 1-Mills, 2-Gaines, 3-Romero, 4-Hunter & McClelland, 5-Marks & Engels, and 6-Rosenhan

WEEK 3- September 14th

- Social Research: cursory introduction to social research
- Readings: Ferguson 7-Schwalbe, 8-Haney, Banks & Zimbardo, 9-Loe

WEEK 4- September 21st

- Culture→“Our cultures” activity
- Socialization
- Readings: Ferguson 10-Becker, 11-McDowell, 12-Trask, 13-Kane, 14-Van Ausdale & Feagin, 15-Granfield, 16-Dyer

WEEK 5- September 28th

- Groups and Social Structure
- Social inequality
- Readings: Ferguson 17-Conley, 18-Adler & Adler, 19-Williams
- **Reminder**: Research paper subject synopsis due next week

WEEK 6- October 5th

- Deviance, Crime, and Social Control
- Readings: Ferguson 20-McLorg & Taub, 21-Boswell & Spade, 22-Colvin
- **Assignment 1** handed out and explained
- **DUE**: Proposal/synopsis of research paper subject

WEEK 7-October 12th

- Social Class: Socioeconomics
- Readings: Ferguson 23-Davis, Moore & Tumin, 24-Domhoff, 25-Shapiro, 26-Shaefer, Edin & Talbert

WEEK 8- October 19th

- **Assignment 1 DUE**
- Gender
- Readings: Ferguson 27-Risman, 28-Westbrook & Schlit, 29-Pascoe, 30-Bales
- **Assignment 2** handed out and explained
- **Reminder**: Research paper rough list of references due next week

WEEK 9- October 26th

- Race and Ethnicity
- Racism and Inequality
- Readings: Ferguson 31-Desmond & Emirbayer, 32-LeDuff, 33-Kimm, 34-Glenn
- **DUE**: rough list of references for research paper

WEEK 10- November 2nd

- **Assignment 2 DUE**
- Social Institutions: Power and politics; Mass Media
- Readings: Ferguson 35-Mills, 36-Zweigenhaft & Domhoff, 37-Freeland, 38-Klinenberg, 39-Cooky, Messner & Musto, 40-Lindner

WEEK 11-November 9th

- Social Institutions: Economy and Work; Education; Health and Medicine
- Readings: Ferguson 41-Leidner, 42-Wingfield, 43-Hochschild, 47-Obama, 48-Rubin, 49-Wailoo, 50-Dog & Eroses, 51-Stevens, 52-Ferguson

WEEK 12-November 16th

- **DUE**: rough draft of research papers
- Research paper writing workshop

RECESS—NO CLASS On Friday, November 23rd

WEEK 13- November 30th

- Social Institutions: Religion; Family
- Readings: Ferguson 44-Weber, 45-Dandaneau, 46-Read, 53-Cherlin, 54-Edin & Kefalas,

WEEK 14- December 7th

- SOCIAL CHANGE: So what?
- Readings: Ferguson 56-Goodwin & Rojas, 57-Bates, 58-Anderson
- Course wrap up: Sociology and Us
- Research paper DUE

WEEK 15- December 14th

- Final exam