

SOC 1838: Intro to Sociology
Fall 2012

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Office hours: Mondays from 10:30am to 12:30pm, and on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. I am also happy to meet with you, by appointment, outside of these scheduled hours.

The central goal of this course is to introduce students to “the sociological imagination.” We will seek to understand the connections between our everyday lives and the (mostly) invisible social processes, institutions, and structures of the social world. We will learn to identify these connections and then use them to explain why things are the way they are and why we do the things we do.

We will explore the discipline of sociology in three ways. First, we will examine *how* sociologists study the social world by learning the main theoretical and methodological approaches in the discipline. Second, we will examine how the social world is even *possible* by learning about social interaction and the structure of society. Third, we will examine the incredible influence of social stratification. In our global society, knowing something about the way American society is set up allows us to better understand other societies and their structures. In particular, we will discuss the role of the economy in shaping our society and our life chances.

Course objectives

The actual content of this course is better expressed in terms of what you will be able to do after you complete it. Students who fulfill all course requirements, attend all class sessions, and engage in a good faith effort to comprehend the material, will:

1. Develop a sociological imagination and be able to
 - Understand how different sociological approaches explain society
 - Apply the sociological imagination to current issues in work
2. Learn the key theoretical approaches to social structure, social change, and to social interaction
3. Identify the general forces shaping our life chances and be able to
 - Summarize approaches to stratification
 - Describe what makes the economy an influential social institution

Textbook

Macionis, John. 2012. *Sociology*. 14th Edition. You must bring this text to class! You will need it to participate fully in class. It is also available from online booksellers and I encourage you to buy your own copy—even an older edition will serve you well.

Course Requirements

You are expected to attend every class, having read and prepared for a discussion, in class exercise, and/or guest speaker. You must come willing and capable of participating. To be capable of participating you must have read the material and you must have developed your own interest in the issues covered in the assigned chapter.

Assignments	My Points	Points
Exam 1 20%		100
Exam 2 20%		100
Exam 3 20%		100
Fieldwork Write-Ups Each worth 25 points (2) 10%		50
Final Exam Essay Short essay on Wright reading (3 pages, double-spaced) 10%		50
Final Exam 20%		100
Total		500

Please track your points; come see me over the term to be sure there are no discrepancies!

Exams

The exams cover both the reading and **lecture** material. You will be tested on the chapters covered up to the date of the exam, plus all lecture and in class material.

Your final exam will cover Chapters 5, 6, and 16, plus the excerpts from Wright. The exam is somewhat cumulative because you will be reviewing Chapter 16 and the Wright reading. You will be tested on your full comprehension of this material so the questions will be both new and drawn from those on Exam 3. Lecture material will also be on the final exam.

Every exam will test both lower and higher-level thinking (that is, knowledge and understanding of concepts).

All exam make-ups will take place on the last Friday of the semester, December 7th. Anyone who misses an exam, for any reason, will have the opportunity to take the make-up exam on that date. If you are ill, please don't come to class! Get better, stay caught up on the reading, and let me know, as soon as you can, that you are missing the exam.

Reading notes

I will provide "reading notes" for the assigned reading. These are questions, keyed to the text, that allow you to assess your reading comprehension. When you can answer the question, you know that you have understood the material. I encourage you to do complete these for each chapter. You are welcome to bring your reading notes to me so that you can be sure that you fully understand the material.

At this level, completing the reading notes constitutes "studying." You won't see homework in this class; rather, you are expected to engage the reading and the lecture material independently.

Classroom Courtesy

All electronic devices must be turned off or to “silent” mode when you enter the classroom. That is the rule—you are asked to take 75 minutes out of your day to attend class and let your voice mail take a message. For the sake of your own impression management, please detach from your electronic devices. You want to present your best self; that is, your attentive, intelligent, and engaged self.

Please check your cells AFTER class and see who called or sent you a text while you were busy getting an education. Do NOT pull your cell out to see who called. You are in class and not available to anyone.

If you have some special circumstance where you MUST see who has called you or you MUST take a particular call, let me know.

Attendance

We all need to be here because the quality of each student’s engagement matters to the learning of the entire class. I do realize that emergencies occur, we all get sick, and life happens. To accommodate, you are given the opportunity to make up any missed exams on the last day of the semester.

Late work

Work turned in within 24 hours of the due date will be docked 10%. Anything turned in within 48 hours will be docked 20%. If something really holds you up and you cannot turn in your work until several days have passed (you need the weekend, for example) that work can only earn up to 50% of the points possible.

Grade appeals

Keep all of your graded work in case you find a discrepancy with your final grade in the course. It is up to you to maintain your own documentation that you were in class and completed the assigned work. **Date** your notes and your writing assignments, and **keep** your scantrons!

I am always willing to talk with you about how your work is evaluated. If you would like me to re-evaluate an exam or writing assignment, I ask that you provide a write-up of the reason for your grade appeal. I must receive this write-up within one week of returning the graded assignment.

Communications Policy

I encourage you all to contact me at anytime if you have questions, need assistance, or simply want to chat more about the content of the course or sociology more broadly. I hold office hours three times a week. My office hours are especially for my students and I welcome and strongly recommend that you all come to see me regularly during office hours.

Without question, email is the best way to reach me; however, my email gets very full very quickly. Therefore, I have four guidelines I ask you to follow when communicating to me via email.

- Always include the **class name** (SOC 1838) in the subject line
- Tell me what **class time** you are enrolled in so that I know who I am responding to
- Always begin the email in a professional manner (“Dear Professor Deerman” is good) and end it professionally (“Thank you” is good).
- ALWAYS... I repeat ALWAYS, sign your email with your first and last name!

Any email that follows these four guidelines will get my full attention and I will respond as soon as I am able.

Finally, please keep in mind that our relationship is a professional one between a professor and a student and therefore you should use proper English in your email and avoid slang and various forms of text message language (e.g., “LOL”, “C-ya”, “Bcuz”)

Academic Dishonesty

It is dishonest to copy someone’s exam, to use notes or texts during an exam when prohibited from doing so, to have someone complete assignments for you, or to claim another person’s written work as your own. It is also an act of academic dishonesty to misrepresent your class attendance.

The definition of academic dishonesty and its consequences are in the Student Code of Conduct. In the past, I have failed students who plagiarized and I have failed students who misrepresented their class attendance. **I will report every incident** to Student Standards regardless of the severity of the offense.

I take seriously the fact that there are people who dream of going to college and have no chance of ever attending; thus, I hold college students to a very high standard of conduct and expect unimpeachable behavior from each of you.

Note: All material in this course syllabus, including exam dates, may be subject to change, especially when student learning will benefit from instructor flexibility responsiveness.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY STATEMENT

For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone and call 911. All faculty offices have telephones and during normal business hours (8-12 and 1-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor and room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

TORNADO STATEMENT

In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

BUILDING FIRE STATEMENT

In case of fire, activate the fire alarm and exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building and cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north and south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north and south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair and Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the egress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.