

Introductory Sociology
Sociology 1838G
Spring 2013
Blair 1103, Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:15

Instructor: Katherine Bass

Office: Blair 3148

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 8:30-9:30, Wed 10-12 or by appt

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Required Text

Macionis, John J. 2012. *Sociology*, 14th ed. Prentice Hall.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the discipline of Sociology. We will concentrate our energies on three substantive areas: 1) developing a sociological imagination to understand individuals in society and society in individuals, 2) exploring inequalities of race, class, gender, and sexuality, and 3) investigating social institutions and social change.

Course Objectives

This course will help you develop a sociological imagination and apply basic sociological insights (concepts, theories, methods, current research). By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Discuss how and why sociologists study society including what kinds of questions they ask, why they ask them, and how they answer them.
- Identify how history, social forces, and social institutions work together to shape our own personal biographies and actions.
- See how what we view as real is socially constructed and socially maintained.
- Understand how, when, and why our social worlds function through consensus and order and how, when, and why our social worlds contain conflict, disorganization, and inequality.
- Recognize how and why social power, resources, and rewards are unequally distributed locally, nationally, globally. Be able to answer: Who suffers? Who benefits? Why should we care?
- Understand and envision how people can act on and change society

Course Requirements

Students can earn up to 250* points in this class. The point distribution is:

3 Exams (@50 points each)	150
4 Assignments (@15 pts each)	60
8 In-Class Applications (@5 pts each)	40

*Five point quizzes may be added to the course per the cell phone policy discussed below. The addition of quizzes will change the total points possible in the course.

Readings: All readings in each section are to be completed prior to the first class in which they are covered. An overview of the readings will help you better understand the material presented in class.

Exams: There will be three exams in this course for 50 points each. Exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and true/false questions. All exams will be non-cumulative. Students are expected to take the exams on the date scheduled. If you know you cannot take the exam on the scheduled date because of a University conflict, you are expected to contact me to make up the exam BEFORE the scheduled date. If you miss an exam due to unforeseen circumstances, you must contact me within 24 hours of the original

exam date to discuss a make-up. Students who do not contact me within 24 hours will automatically receive a zero. All make ups will be Friday, April 26th at 4 p.m. in Blair 3103.

Assignments: There are eight assignments with varying due dates available on Desire2Learn (<http://www.eiu.edu/eionline>). Each student is expected to complete **FOUR** of these assignments throughout the course of the semester. You have the option of turning in a fifth assignment for extra credit.

Assignments should be approximately 1 page, typed in a Microsoft Word document, double spaced with no greater than 12 point font. They must be uploaded as an attachment in the appropriate Desire2Learn dropbox by the beginning of class on their scheduled due date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

In-Class Applications: For every chapter assigned in the textbook, we will complete an in-class application worth 5 points. I will present either a current event or a post from the website Sociological Images (<http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/>) that is relevant to the topic for that chapter. You will write a brief explanation about how the presented material relates to the material from the current chapter and/or answer a specific question I provide relating to the material. Applications can occur at any point during which the chapter is covered, including before lecture begins on the first day. It is absolutely critical that course readings are completed in order to succeed at the applications.

While there will be twelve opportunities to complete in-class applications, only the eight highest grades will count towards your final course grade. Additionally, in-class applications cannot be made up if a student is absent.

Attendance/Class Participation: This course is designed for discussion and participation from the students. Attendance and class participation are necessary to succeed in this course.

Final grades: Extra credit questions on the exams and the opportunity to complete a fifth assignment are the only extra credit points available in this class. You are encouraged to meet with me at any point to discuss your progress in the course, however final grades are non-negotiable.

Grading Scale

90-100%	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Classroom Guidelines

This course will be largely based on lecture and classroom discussions. In order to create a respectful and open learning environment, I ask that you:

- Come to class **on time** with reading and writing assignments completed.
- Engage in the ideas presented by thinking about them and participating in class discussions.
- Be present and attentive in the class and undistracted by other materials, students, or technology (including cell phones, iPads, laptops, etc.)
- Be respectful of others' viewpoints. I encourage you to express your views in class, but always do so in a professional manner.
- Communicate any needs or concerns to me in a timely manner.

Cell Phone Policy: The use of cell phones and other similar electronic devices can be distracting and disrespectful during class time. Students must keep their phones put away unless prior arrangements have been made with me (ie, kids in daycare, family emergency). Repeated use of cell phones during class time will result in pop quizzes, worth five points each, covering the material in the readings for that week. These quiz points will be added to the total points possible for the course.

Academic Integrity

All University policies concerning plagiarism and cheating will be upheld in this course. Academic dishonesty will result in one or more of the following consequences: failure on the exam or writing assignment, failure in the course, and/or expulsion from the University.

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 closes 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 of the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Tues, Jan 8 th	Introductions		
Thurs, Jan 10 th	What is Sociology?	Ch 1	
Tues, Jan 15 th	What do sociologists do?	Ch 2	Assignment 1 Due
Thurs, Jan 17 th	How do sociologists conduct research?		
Tues, Jan 22 nd	What is culture?	Ch 3	Assignment 2 Due
Thurs, Jan 24 th	What is culture?		
Tues, Jan 29 th	How do we become who we are?	Ch 5	
Thurs, Jan 31 st	What makes us human?		
Tues, Feb 5 th	All the world's a stage	Ch 6	

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Thurs, Feb 7th	Social interaction		
Tues, Feb 12th	<i>Exam 1</i>	<i>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, & 6</i>	<i>Bring #2 Pencil</i>
Thurs, Feb 14th	Equal opportunity?	Ch 11	
Tues, Feb 19th	Social Class in the U.S.		Assignment 3 Due
Thurs, Feb 21st	Poverty in the U.S.		
Tues, Feb 26th	Race matters	Ch 14	Assignment 4 Due
Thurs, Feb 28th	Race and interaction		
Tues, Mar 5th	<i>Spring Break – No class</i>		
Thurs, Mar 7th	Boys will be boys and girls will be?	Ch 13	Assignment 5 Due
March 12th & 14th	A Woman's Place		
Tues, Mar 19th	The Double standard: gender and sexuality	Ch 8	
Thurs, Mar 21st	Sexual Orientation		
Tues, Mar 26th	<i>Exam 2</i>	<i>Chapters 11, 14, 13 & 8</i>	
Thurs, Mar 28th	No Class		
Tues, Apr 2nd	Are we social puppets?	Ch 9	Assignment 6 Due
Thurs, Apr 4th	When difference becomes criminal		
Tues, Apr 9th	Fact or fiction: American families	Ch 18	Assignment 7 Due
Thurs, Apr 11th	Families in conflict		
Tues, Apr 16th	No Child Left Behind?	Ch 20	Assignment 8 Due
Thurs, Apr 18th	Problems in the U.S. educational system		
Tues, Apr 23rd	Making changes: Social movements & Collective Behavior	Ch 23	
Thurs, Apr 25th	Catch up and Review		
Tuesday, April 30th 2:45-4:45 p.m.	<i>Exam 3</i>	<i>Chapters 9, 18, 20 & 23</i>	