

Introductory Sociology
Eastern Illinois University
Soc 1838G-003 Spring 2013

Class: MWF 1:00-1:50

Professor: Darren Hendrickson, Ph.D.

Phone: 581-8364

Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:30, Th 12:00-2:00, or by appointment

Room: 2103 Blair Hall

Office: 3122 Blair Hall

E-Mail: dhendrickson@eiu.edu

“It can be said that the first wisdom of sociology is this – things are not what they seem.”

- Peter Berger

Required Text:

John J. Macionis. 2012. *Sociology*. 14th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Course Description and Objectives:

Sociology is the scientific study of human society and social interaction. Of course, all of us already have considerable experience living in society and interacting with other people. However, sociology provides a unique way of looking at the familiar. It should help us understand our experiences in a more systematic and critical way. In this course, students will be introduced to the range of topics covered in sociology including: the different theories and methods used in sociology; race, class, and gender inequalities; the role of different social institutions; crime and deviance; and collective behavior.

The objectives for the course are as follows:

- To develop an understanding of the sociological perspective
- To learn and be able to apply basic sociological concepts and ideas
- Enhance your understanding of how social forces shape and regulate both society and our everyday lives
- To encourage and provide opportunities for critical thinking

These objectives will be met through lectures, class discussions and exercises, readings, video presentations, writing assignments, and examinations.

Consider this class an opportunity to examine issues and ideas – some perhaps familiar to you – in a way you may never have contemplated them before. You will learn to examine these issues using the sociological perspective. Further, you will be given opportunities to use what you learn from the course materials, the professor, and your fellow classmates to develop your own “sociological imagination.”

Readings:

The reading assignments for each week are indicated below in the course schedule. You are expected to complete the reading in advance of the respective class session so you will be prepared for lecture and discussion. In class we will deal with additional and occasionally different material than is found in the corresponding readings. Nonetheless, class lectures and discussion are designed to build off of and complement assigned readings. To succeed in this course you must complete the assigned readings.

Course Requirements:

(1). *Examinations:* There will be a total of four examinations in this course. Three of the exams are scheduled during the semester and will take place during the regular class time (see schedule below). The fourth examination will be administered during finals week on Wednesday, May 1st from 12:30 - 2:30.

(2). *Thinking About Diversity Writing Assignments:* In order to help you further develop an understanding of the sociological perspective - which includes how factors such as race, social class, and gender shape social experiences - and for you to be able to learn and apply basic sociological concepts and ideas you are required to complete *three* Thinking About Diversity Writing Assignments during the course of the semester. The specific instructions for the writing assignments are included at the end of the syllabus. It is important that you follow the directions for the assignment or you will receive a “0.”

(3). *Participation:* Students are expected to both raise and answer questions and remain active participants in this course. Participation, discussion, and questions are expected and required from all students.

Grading Scale:

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

Basis for Final Grade:

Exam #1..... 20%
Exam #2..... 20%
Exam #3..... 20%
Exam #4..... 20%
Thinking About Diversity
Writing Assignments 20%
Total..... *100%*

Desire2Learn:

Exam and assignment grades will be available through the course Desire2Learn page. A copy of the course syllabus, other important course documents, and course announcements will also be posted on the Desire2Learn course page. One of the cool features of Desire2Learn is that you can view all of your grades throughout the semester, therefore you can always calculate your current course grade - you don't need to ask me.

Course Schedule:

Jan. 7 - Jan. 11 General Introduction to the Course
Chapter 1: The Sociological Perspective

Jan. 14 - Jan. 18 Chapter 1: The Sociological Perspective (cont'd)
Chapter 2: Sociological Investigation

Organizing Social Life

Jan. 23 - Jan. 25 Chapter 3: Culture

Jan. 28 - Feb. 1 Chapter 6: Social Interaction in Everyday Life (Pgs. 124-129)
Chapter 7: Groups and Organizations (Pgs. 144-153)

Social Inequality

Feb. 4 - Feb. 8 Chapter 11: Social Class in the United States

EXAM #1 – Monday, Feb. 4th

Feb. 11 - Feb. 13 Chapter 11: Social Class in the United States (cont'd)

Feb. 18 - Feb. 22 Chapter 12: Global Stratification (Pgs. 268-280)
Chapter 13: Gender Stratification

Feb. 25 - Mar. 1 Chapter 13: Gender Stratification (cont'd)

EXAM #2 – Friday, Mar. 1st

Mar. 4 - Mar. 8 Chapter 14: Race and Ethnicity

Mar. 11 - Mar. 15 ☺☺☺ *Spring Break* ☺☺☺

Social Institutions

Mar. 18 - Mar. 22 Chapter 9: Deviance

Mar. 25 - Mar. 29 Chapter 18: Families

Apr. 1 - Apr. 5 Chapter 18: Families (cont'd)

EXAM #3 – Wednesday, April 3rd

Apr. 8 - Apr. 12 Chapter 20: Education

Apr. 15 - Apr. 19 Chapter 21: Health and Medicine

EXAM #4 – Wednesday, May 1st – 12:30 - 2:30**Policies:**

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Attendance will be taken on a daily basis, but it will not be used as part of your final grade determination. However, regular class attendance is strongly recommended. Much of the material presented during class time will be included on the examinations. You are responsible for any course material that you miss if you are not in class, regardless of the reason for your absence. Most certainly your grade will suffer if you miss a number of classes.

Late/Missed Assignments & Exams: Assignments are to be turned in on time and examinations are to be taken when scheduled. If, for some reason, you are going to miss an examination or an assignment due date, you must make every effort to notify me in advance. If you fail to notify me in advance that you are going to miss an examination, you will not be able to make-up that exam. Furthermore, make-up exams and due date extensions will only be given with a legitimate excuse (medical reason, death of a family member, etc.). Additionally, make-up exams may be somewhat different than the original exam. Late writing assignments will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade for every day they are late. Please plan ahead to ensure that you are able to meet the due dates and deadlines for this course.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Not allowed. If you are found cheating or plagiarizing you will receive a "0" for that assignment, exam, or quiz and you will be immediately reported to the Office of Student Standards. See the University policy regarding academic integrity for details about plagiarism.

Cell Phones/Text Messaging: I recognize that you are all busy people that need to stay connected however, please turn off the ringer on your cell phone before coming to class. Furthermore, text messaging during class is not permitted or tolerated.

Tape Recorders: The use of tape recorders, or other recording devices, during class is not allowed. Exceptions will be made only under special circumstances.

Special Needs: Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) to address any necessary academic accommodations. Adaptations of methods, materials, or testing can be made to provide for your equitable participation in class as long as I am aware of your needs before tests and assignments.

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.

Note: All material in this course syllabus, including exam dates, may be subject to change