

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY  
(Sociology 1838 – Introductory Sociology)

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The purpose of this course is to provide a general overview of the discipline of sociology, to impart a basic understanding of the “sociological imagination.” Quite simply, the latter is a way of looking at the world, in the words of Peter Berger, such that “things are not what they seem to be.” It is way of getting past commonsensical explanations of the world and human behavior, and developing an ability to appreciate social (or systemic) explanations for why things seem to be the way they are. In short, the discipline of sociology emphasizes explanations that move beyond individualistic ones, the ones that most of you embrace quite readily. Sad to say, most of you will continue to do so even after spending 15 weeks in an introductory sociology class. Sadder still, many of you will do so even after declaring sociology as your major!

(Required Text: *Sociology (eleventh edition)* by John J. Macionis, Pearson/Prentice Hall Publishers.)

Guidelines for the course:

**Attendance:** I can't stress too strongly how important coming to class is. Students who come to class tend to do a whole letter grade better than those who don't. I will take attendance almost every day that we meet. Missing class can hurt you when it comes time for the exams and quizzes. To encourage you to come to class, **4%** of your final grade is determined by your class attendance.

**Quizzes:** I will give pop quizzes. **Generally**, these quizzes will be between 7 and 15 points and will be T-F and MC questions. The quizzes will tend to cover the READING that you are assigned. This is a way of me ensuring that you are coming to class with at least a rudimentary understanding of what we are talking about, and that you don't wait until right before the exam to do your reading. **All** exams and quizzes will cover assigned reading material! Quizzes will count for **21%** of your final grade. **All** quizzes count in the determination of your final grade.

**Participation:** I expect you to talk in class. There are few things more boring than a professor droning on (and on and on and on....) about his/her subject matter. However, you can't participate if you haven't read. So, come to class prepared to participate. Because this class is so large, I will NOT give formal credit for participation. HOWEVER, I will come to know people who participate and it may be something that would aid you in your final course grade, particularly if you are someone who is on the borderline between two letter grades.

**“Paper:”** You will have a 3-page theme that you will be required to submit. It will be on the topic of “socialization,” and I will discuss this more when we cover the topic and I will assign the deadline, length, style, etc. It is NOT a term paper, it is an essay. This counts for **5%** of your final grade. I do not accept late papers. You will have ‘til 4 p.m. on the day that they are due to submit your essay.

**Exams:** There will be three (3) exams given and all three of them count in the determination of your final grade. The content of the exam will be T-F, MC, and probably a matching column. **The final exam will be given according to the Final Exam schedule published in the *Daily Eastern "News."* There will be no departing from that schedule.** In other words, please don't come and tell me you'll miss your ride home, your mom is having a baby, you're getting married, etc. and can't take the final then. The exams, all of which count, constitute **70%** of your final grade.

**Make-up policy:** I understand that students get sick, athletes have meets and games, and sometimes people just don't do what they're supposed to and they miss a quiz. I have ONE UNIFORM POLICY WITH RESPECT TO MISSED QUIZZES: Missed quizzes are given on the last day of the regular class day of the semester at 4 p.m. in Blair Hall. If you miss your make-up at that time, you receive a "0" (zero) for that quiz.

**General conduct:** I lecture. I don't use PowerPoint. PowerPoint makes us dumb (see what David Byrne, former lead singer of Talking Heads, says about this). To make things easy on everyone, the following rules apply:

- Don't talk while I am talking. I never mind people making good wisecracks (notice that I wrote, "good") but it is distracting to me – and your peers – when people just start talking while a lecture is going on, a student is asking a question, etc.
- **Don't** have your cell phone on! **Don't** have your cell phone on. It is rude and inconsiderate. If you are expecting such an important phone call, you probably shouldn't be in class. Only I am allowed to have my cell phone on during class. This is an example of the sociological concept of POWER! In addition, given the current state of the world, my cell phone will allow me to convey to you that an emergency situation exists.
- Class time is 50 minutes. There will be times that I let you out a few minutes early. That is my decision, not yours. So, don't start closing your notebook with 5 minutes to go in class.
- Sleepy, tired, bored? You have to let me and the rest of the class know by snoring, yawning, etc.? I will embarrass you, rest assured. It is more comfortable to be in a bed, on a couch, etc. if you need rest and/or sleep – a desk top simply doesn't cut it.

Chapters in the Macionis text for **Exam 1:**

Chapters 1-6 (Introduction to the discipline and basic topics such as Culture, Groups, and Socialization, as well as basic theory and methods)

Chapters in the Macionis text for **Exam 2:**

Chapters 10, 11, 12, and 24 (general treatment of stratification/inequality)

Chapters in the Macionis text for **Final Exam** (NOTE: THE FINAL IS **NOT** COMPREHENSIVE!):

Chapters 17, 18, and 22 (An examination of important **institutions**, such as government, the economy, and the family.)