

Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 2710-004
Spring 2009
Blair 1165, MWF 1:00-1:50

Instructor: Katherine Bass

Office Hours: MW 2-3, TTh 10-11, or by appt

Email: klbass@eiu.edu

Office: Blair 3147

Office Phone: (217) 581-6591

Required Text

Macionis, John J. 2007. *Sociology*, 11th 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 3). Investigating sociological perspectives of social institutions of economy, family, religion, and education.

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 200 points in this class. The point distribution is:

3 Exams (@50 points each)	150
2 Writing Assignments/Discussion leading (@20 pts each)	40
Attendance/Classroom Participation	10

Exams: There will be three exams in this course for 50 points each. Exams will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer 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 exam date. If you miss an exam do to emergency (extreme illness, death in the family, etc.) you have one week to retake it.

Writing Assignment/Discussion Leading: Each student will be expected to complete a writing assignment and lead discussion in a small group on two occasions. Groups will be assigned at the end of the first week of classes. Each group will decide who will lead discussion on which days. On the day you lead discussion for your group you are expected to:

- 1) Download the appropriate assignment from the course WebCT page
- 2) Complete the writing assignment for that day
- 3) Write two open-ended discussion questions related to the assignment for your group to discuss.
- 4) Bring two copies of your writing assignment to class – one to turn in and one to use for your presentation.
- 5) Present your assignment to the group and facilitate a discussion on the topic.

Writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day you lead discussion (If you are late for class, your paper will be graded as a late paper). Writing assignments and discussion questions should be typed in one document approximately 2 to 3 pages in length. All writing assignments must be typed, double spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font, and one inch margins. Make sure you ALWAYS cite your sources, including your course textbook (see citation examples under “Course Documents” on WebCT). You must PROOFREAD your paper for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. I recommend you have someone else look over your paper or utilize EIU’s writing center (3110 Coleman Hall).

Late papers will be accepted up to 1 week after the due date, but they will be graded at *HALF CREDIT*.

***If you are not the discussion leader for your group, you do not have to complete the writing assignment for that day. However, you are expected to participate in the small group discussion. Attendance/participation will be weighted more heavily on group discussion days.

Attendance/Class Participation: This course is designed for discussion and participation from the students. Class participation is worth 10 points that will be distributed during in-class activities, reaction papers to class discussion, group participation, etc.

Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit assignments in this course. 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, text messages, iPods, laptops, etc.) Turn cell phones to silent/vibrate when you enter the classroom.
- 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.

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.....	Assignment
January 12	Introduction and Syllabus	
January 14, 16	What is Sociology?	Chapter 1
January 19	No Class	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 21	Sociological Research	Chapter 2
January 23	Small Group Discussion	Writing Assignment 1 Due
January 26, 28	Culture.....	Chapter 3
January 30	Group Discussion	Writing Assignment 2 Due
February 2, 4	Socialization	Chapter 5
February 6	Group Discussion	Writing Assignment 3 Due
February 9, 11	Social Interaction.....	Chapter 6

Date	Topic.....	Assignment
February 13	No Class	Lincoln's Birthday
February 16	Group Discussion	Writing Assignment 4 Due
February 18, 20	Deviance	Chapter 9
February 23	EXAM 1	Bring #2 Pencil
February 25, 27	Stratification	Chapter 10
March 2, 4	Class	Chapter 11
March 6	Group Discussion	Writing Assignment 5 Due
March 9, 11	Race & Ethnicity	Chapter 13
March 13	Group Discussion	Writing Assignment 6 Due
March 16-20	No Class	Spring Break
March 23, 25	Gender	Chapter 13
March 27, 30	Sexuality	Chapter 8
April 1	Group Discussion	Writing Assignment 7 Due
April 3	Exam 2	Bring # 2 Pencil
April 6,8	Family	Chapter 18
April 10	Group Discussion	Writing Assignment 8 Due
April 13, 15	Religion	Chapter 19
April 17	Group Discussion	Writing Assignment 9 Due
April 20, 22	Education.....	Chapter 20
April 24	Group Discussion	Writing Assignment 10 Due
April 27	Population	Chapter 22: 580-588
April 29	Collective Behavior.....	Chapter 23
May 1	Exam Review	
Tuesday, May 5 – 2:45-4:45	Final Exam.....	Bring #2 Pencil