

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

On-line class Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Wm. Reed Benedict

Office: Blair Hall 3149

Cell Phone: (217) 549-9021

TEXT BOOK:

Chambliss, William J. and Daina S. Eglitis
2015. Discover Sociology. Second Edition. Sage

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The aim of this course is to introduce you to rudimentary concepts of the "Sociological Perspective." Sociology is the systematic study of human societies and human behavior in social settings. The emphasis of the course will be to give the beginning student a basic understanding of perspectives and methods that characterize sociological studies in a variety of important areas. Sociology invites you to place your personal experience in the context of a social world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) My primary goal is to equip you with an in-depth understanding of what the field of "sociology" entails, and more importantly, how the "sociological perspective" can be instrumental in understanding the problems and society in which you live.
- 2) The second is to improve your ability to sort out important facts, retain those facts, and be able to apply them appropriately in logical arguments.
- 3) The last objective will be to further develop your analytic skills.

The first objective can be accomplished by participation. The second and third objectives will be accomplished by adequately meeting the class requirements/assignments.

TEACHING METHOD:

This course is conducted online within the D2L environment. Organization, motivation, and strong time-management skills are critical for your success in this course. Although we do not meet face-to-face, you will meet in asynchronous (D2L Discussion Boards) spaces. As in any other "traditional" course, you are part of an active, vital learning community.

The course will combine on-line discussion and assignments will correspond to both discussions and course readings. On-line discussion will be focused on clarification and critique of key concepts and application to salient historical and current events.

Do not make the mistake of assuming that an online course will be easier and less time-consuming. Students who make this mistake usually end up falling behind in their coursework and fail to meet the course objectives. Online courses do allow a flexible schedule; however, you must meet course objectives and assignment deadlines as you would for an on-campus course.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Technology Requirements: This class requires that you have consistent access to a computer and a strong reliable internet connection. If you have issues with D2L or your password, please contact the Help Desk at, 581-4357.

Communication (use D2L email): To keep all communications organized, please use the email contained in this course if you need to email me.

EVLAUATION of ASSIGNMENTS:

Stay ahead and be consistent- This class is designed at the same rate as a face-to-face class but **YOU** are in charge of your own lectures by reading the textbook.

- **Discussions** – For each discussion thread, you will be expected to contribute one original posting (**minimum of 200-300 words**) and a minimum of two responses to classmates' posts (**minimum of 100-125 words each**) by **11:59 pm Sunday** of each week. Moreover, a one or two sentence reply will not be acceptable. To take this class seriously and receive a good grade, you will need to log-on and interact with the class throughout the week even if you have completed your posting requirements. **This is not a weekend course.** You will find that if you wait until the last minute to read the posts, it will be difficult to follow the discussion. Moreover, others will not have a chance to respond to your posts. **To this end, students who only post on the weekend will have points deducted.**

- **Original post (5 pts)**
- **Two replies minimum (First reply = 2 pts, Second reply = 3 pts). More are appreciated and encouraged.**
- **Post early and reply throughout the week. All are due by 11:59 pm Sunday**
- **Late posts will not be accepted. You will not earn full credit if you post only on the weekend.**

Keep up daily and you will not have a problem. You don't want to complete your required posts on Monday and never return to follow the discussion or participate further. This defeats the entire purpose of on-line learning.

- **Exams:** All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Three exams have 50 questions and are worth a total of 100 points each. The fourth exam will have 25 questions and is worth 50 points.
Don't wait until 11pm on the due date to start your exams. Procrastination is not a favorable quality in online learning. The advantage of the course is that you are able to do your assignments at a time that is convenient to you; however keep in mind that technology is sometimes not our friend. You may have computer issues that interfere with being able to complete exams on time.
- **Writing Assignment:** You will write a 2 – 3 (10 points) page paper based on the Sociological Inquiry. This is an opportunity to reflect upon and analyze what is being taught in the course. This exercise requires that you apply course materials to analyze a social phenomenon. This paper is an intellectual exercise in which I am asking you to describe and explain your own experiences and observations from a sociological perspective. Most of the chapter discussion questions are controversial so there is no right or wrong answer per se. Simply take any topic discussed in class or something you have seen, heard, or read in the media and apply sociological concepts to our own experiences and observations (as opposed to memorizing theories and definitions.) If you choose to take a stance on a controversial

issue, you do not need to believe (or have a strong conviction) for the position you argue. In fact, you will probably learn more about the issue if you take the side opposite your normal tenet. Do not simply describe the video, newspaper article or event, rather I will expect you to focus on the application of course materials and apply this information to your chosen topic.

CLASS POLICIES:

In this class we will be reading and discussing topical and often controversial social issues. Every student should feel free to contribute and share your ideas with your classmates. However, if and when you do disagree with others, then you must do so in a respectful and civil manner. While it is encouraged and certainly acceptable to disagree with others, it is not tolerable to flame or attack others. We should be able to passionately express our ideas and at the end of the day “agree to disagree.” Failure to comply with the policy above can result in your dismissal from this course.

GRADING SCALE FOR THIS CLASS IS:

Grading will be based on three (3) objective examinations worth 100 points and one (1) worth 50 points. The examinations will cover both the readings and discussion. The additional 120 points will be based on your posts and replies to the D2L discussion board and your paper. Original posts are 5 pts and the two replies are worth 5 pts combined (first post 2 pts, second post 3 pts). **Late posts will not be accepted.**

A	470 – 423 pts	90 – 100%
B	422 – 376	89 - 80
C	375 - 329	79 - 70
D	328 – 282	69 - 60
F	281 and below	59 - 0

COURSE POLICIES:

Changes to Course Syllabus – During the course of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, schedule or other course details as needed. The changes will be communicated through WebCT email or discussion.

Assignment Due Dates – No late assignments will be accepted in the course without prior approval. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

Class Behavior – The “virtual” classroom is a “safe” environment for students. The focus will be on learning. Rude or threatening language, inflammatory assertions (often referred to as “flaming”), personal attacks, and other inappropriate communication will not be tolerated. For a detailed explanation, consult EIU’s Student Conduct Code.

Academic Integrity – Evidence of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may result in an F for the course. All written work submitted *must* be your own work and reflect your own thoughts. Appropriate recognition of sources of information is required through such means as quotation marks for direct quotations and citations *with page numbers*; or other indications of sources when paraphrasing is used. Copying and pasting from other sources is still plagiarism. Use of materials from the Internet should include complete URLs. If you have any questions or concerns regarding academic integrity, please contact the instructor, or refer to the section on academic dishonesty in the student catalogue.

At a minimum, those found guilty of academic dishonesty will receive a score of "0" for that particular assignment. Additional handling of cases of academic dishonesty will be at the discretion of the instructor.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Eastern Illinois University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy and availability of accommodative services for students with disabilities must be addressed to the instructor and the Office of Disability Services (217) 581-6583 **within the first week** of the semester so the ODS, student, and instructor can work out appropriate accommodations.

CONSEQUENCES OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic integrity - Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

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.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER:

The Student Success Center - Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

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

Tentative Schedule and Assignments

Please note:

- The “week” is from 12:01am Monday to 11:59 pm Sunday
- All work must be received by 11:59 pm on Sunday for credit.

****I reserve the right to adjust the schedule and will communicate any changes via D2L email.**

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignment	Points
1	August 21 - 27	Welcome and Introduction Familiarize yourself with D2L Chapter 1 – Discover Sociology	Read: Chapter 1 and 2 Syllabus Discussion: Introductions Chapter 1	10
2	Aug. 28 – Sept 3	Chapter 2 – Sociological Research	Discussion: Chapter 2 Read: Chapter 3	10
3	September 4 – 10	Chapter 3 – Culture & mass media	Discussion: Chapter 3 Study for Exam	10
4	September 11 - 17	No Class		
5	Sept. 18 - 24	Exam 1 – Chapters 1,2,3	Exam 1 Read: Chapter 4	100
6	Sept 25 – Oct 1	Chapter 4 – Socialization	Discussion: Chapter 4 Read: Chapter 5	10
7	October 2 – 8	Chapter 5 – groups and organizations	Discussion: Chapter 5 Read: Chapter 6 Study for Exam	10
8	October 9 - 15	Chapter 6 – Deviance	Discussion: Chapter 6	10
9	October 16 -22	Exam 2: Chapters 4, 5, 6	Exam:	100
10	October 23 -29	Chapter 7 – Social class and inequality	Discussion: Chapter 7 Read: Chapter 8	10
11	October 30 – Nov 5	Chapter 8 – Global inequality and poverty	Discussion: Chapter 8 Read: Chapter 9	10
12	Nov 6 - 12	Chapter 9 – Race & ethnicity	Discussion: Chapter 9 Study for Exam	10
13	Nov 13 - 19	Exam 3: Chapters 7, 8, 9	Read: Chapter 10 Exam Writing Assignment Due	100 10
14	Nov 20 - 26	Thanksgiving break	No class	

14	November 27 - Dec 4	Chapter 10 – Gender & Society	Discussion: Chapter 10 Read: Chapter 11	10
15	Dec 5 - 10	Chapter 11 - Family	Discussion – Chapter 11 Study for Exam	10
16	Dec 11 - 15	Final Exam – Chapters 10 and 11	Final exam	50
18			Total points	470