

Introductory Sociology
Eastern Illinois University
Soc 1838G-004 3 Credit Hours Spring 2025

Class: TTh 11:00 - 12:15

Professor: Darren Hendrickson, Ph.D.

Phone: 217.581.3123

Office Hours: TTh 3:30-4:30, W 11:00-1:00, or by appointment

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“Sociology will be satisfying, in the long run, only to those who can think of nothing more
entrancing than to watch people and to understand things human”

- Peter Berger

Required Text:

Daina S. Eglitis, William J. Chambliss, & Susan L. Wortman. 2022. *Discover Sociology*. 5th
edition. Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Course Description and Objectives:

Sociology is the scientific study of human society and social interaction. In fact, the catalog course description for Introductory Sociology reads, “Scientific description of the regularities and patterns of behavior that characterize our society and the larger global environment. Sociological analyses of the social forces that affect our daily lives.” 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
- Explain the social diversity of the United States and incorporate the variables of sex, race, ethnicity, social class, and age in developing an understanding of our social world
- Develop an understanding of the recurring patterns that characterize social life
- Explain the role of theory in sociological inquiry and identify the strengths and weaknesses of major research strategies
- Describe how societies are established and change

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 Tuesday, May 6 from 2:45 - 4:45.

(2). *Reading Quizzes:* To help ensure that students are completing assigned readings prior to class there will be 8 student *Reading Quizzes* during the semester. *Reading Quizzes* will be completed online via the course D2L page, they will be composed of five questions designed to assess if you have completed the assigned reading, and you will have five minutes to complete the quiz. While there will be a total of 8 *Reading Quizzes*, you are only required to complete 6 of the *Reading Quizzes*. If you complete all 8 *Reading Quizzes* I will use your 6 highest scores when calculating your final course grade. Additional information about *Reading Quizzes* will be posted on the course D2L page.

(3). *Subculture Writing Assignment:* This assignment is designed to give you an opportunity to reflect on, and think sociologically, about the impact of subcultures on your life and sense of self. The specific instructions and due-date for the *Subculture* writing assignment will be posted on the course D2L page and announced in class.

(4). *Inequality Matters/Private Lives, Public Issues Writing Assignments:* In order to help you further develop an understanding of the sociological perspective and for you to be able to apply basic sociological concepts and ideas you are required to complete two *Inequality Matters/PL, PI* writing assignments. The specific instructions and due-dates for the *Inequality Matters/PL, PI* writing assignments will be posted on the course D2L page and announced in class.

(5). *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%
Subculture Writing Assignment..... 7.5%
Inequality Matters/PL, PI..... 7.5%
Reading Quizzes..... 5%
Total..... *100%*

Desire2Learn (D2L):

The syllabus, exam and assignment grades, writing assignment instructions, *Reading Quizzes*, and other relevant course materials will be available through the course D2L page. Also, any course announcements will be posted on the D2L. One of the cool features of D2L 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. Information about D2L is available at the following site:

www.ciu.edu/d2l/

Course Schedule:

Jan. 14 - Jan. 16 General Introduction to the Course
Chapter 1: Discover Sociology

Jan. 21 - Jan. 23 Chapter 1: Discover Sociology (cont'd)
Chapter 2: Discover Sociological Research



Organizing Social Life

Jan. 28 - Jan. 30 Chapter 3: Culture & Mass Media

Feb. 4 - Feb. 6 Chapter 3: Culture & Mass Media (cont'd)

EXAM #1 –Thursday, Feb. 6th

Feb. 11 - Feb. 13 Chapter 4: Socialization and Social Interaction

Social Inequality

Feb. 18 - Feb. 20 Chapter 7: Social Class and Inequality in the United States

Feb. 25 - Feb. 27 Chapter 9: Race and Ethnicity

Mar. 4 - Mar. 6 Chapter 9: Race and Ethnicity (cont'd)

EXAM #2 –Thursday, Mar. 6th

Mar. 11 - Mar. 13 Chapter 10: Gender, Sexuality, and Society

Mar. 17 - Mar. 21 ☺☺☺☺ *Spring Break* ☺☺☺☺

Social Institutions

Mar. 25 - Mar. 27 Chapter 6: Deviance and Social Control

Apr. 1 - Apr. 3 Chapter 11: Families and Society

Apr. 8 - Apr. 10 Chapter 11: Families and Society (cont'd)

EXAM #3 –Thursday, Apr. 10th

Apr. 15 - Apr. 17 Chapter 12: Education and Society

Apr. 22 - Apr. 24

Chapter 16: Health & Medicine

Apr. 29 - May 1

Chapter 17: Population, Urbanization, and the Environment
(pgs. 481-495 and 503-510)

EXAM #4 – Tuesday, May 6th -- 2:45 - 4:45

Policies:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Much of the material presented during class time will be included on 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. Finally, for students with “borderline” final grades the Professor may consider the student’s attendance record.

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. Please arrive on-time for exams. If you arrive late on an exam day, and one or more students has already completed the exam, you will be required to schedule a make-up 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.). Make-up exams may be somewhat different than the original exam. Late writing assignments will 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.

Academic Support Center: Students who could use additional help achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Academic Support Center <https://www.eiu.edu/academicsupportcenter/>. The Academic Support Center provides individual consultations, as well as assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. In addition, Academic Alerts may be utilized by faculty to help students who are not making academic progress or are not attending classes regularly get connected with the Academic Support Center and other important resources. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 2230.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Accessibility and Accommodations. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Accessibility and Accommodations. Please stop my McAfee Gym, Room 1336, or call 217.581.6583 to make an appointment.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct <https://www.eiu.edu/deanofstudents/conductcode.php>. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students. <https://www.eiu.edu/deanofstudents/>. Furthermore, if you are found cheating or plagiarizing you will receive a zero for that assignment, exam, or quiz.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): All work submitted in this course must be your own. Students should not use advanced automated tools (i.e. artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, etc.) on assignments in this course.

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.

Audio/Video Recording: The use of recording devices during class is not allowed. Exceptions will be made only under special circumstances.

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