

S0CL 100: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

Section: 004

Class hours: TR 9:35-10:55am

Class room: GH 138

Instructor: Dr. Musalia

Office: Grise Hall 124

Office Hours: TR 8:30-9:30am; 1:10-2:10pm and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course fulfills the Category C (Social and Behavioral Sciences) general education requirement. It will help you attain these general education goals and objectives:

- #1. The capacity for critical and logical thinking
- #7. An appreciation of the complexity and variety in the world's cultures
- #9. An understanding of society and human behavior

Sociology is the scientific discipline that studies how social groups influence human action and interaction. We will learn the methods of inquiry sociologists utilize to examine the influence of gender, race, class, region of the country, and type of community, on an individual's values, behavior, and expectations. Students will explore the difference and similarities among cultures within the United States and the world. We will focus on the contribution of social institutions like family, education, the economy, and the polity make in shaping a society's knowledge. Through discussion of these sociological issues the course will enable you to think critically about the social world in which we live.

In a nutshell, at the end of this course you should be able to:

- 1) Be familiar with the central concerns and key concepts of Sociology
- 2) think sociologically about personal experiences and public issues,
- 3) Be sensitive to social and cultural influences upon human activities and opinions,
- 4) Understand that social issues can be explained from multiple perspectives, rather than from a single point of view,
- 5) Take a position on a social issue and to convincingly justify that position,
- 6) Realize that learning, knowing, and understanding involve critical thinking and its application, rather than simply memorizing facts and definitions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course requirements include class attendance, class participation, completing all assigned readings and exams.

Class Attendance:

Attendance and participation in class discussions is essential for a good performance in the class. Excessive tardiness, leaving class early or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

If you miss any class, it is your responsibility to contact other students for notes, announcements, items or handouts distributed in class during your absence. I will not rehash the class for you or provide lecture notes. In addition, in case any graded work (e.g. papers, assignments, tests) is returned on a day you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to find your copy. I am responsible for bringing graded work back to class only on the day that the graded work for the entire class is due.

Examination:

- (i) You will be expected to take a total of five (5) exams during the course of the semester. The exams will primarily be composed of multiple choice and True/False questions.

Final Grade: The final grade for each student will be based on the grade point average score taking into consideration class participation, and the five sit-in exams. All your course work is equally weighted - meaning that a poor performance in one of the grades will certainly lower your average and final grade.

COURSE GUIDELINES

I am generally a friendly person, but take class matters rather seriously. Because of this, I have guidelines for the class that need to be considered carefully. Your continued attendance of this class after reading these guidelines will be considered as an agreement to abide by the guidelines.

1. Be on time. I start and finish my classes on time. Moreover, I take roll only once - at the beginning of class. Getting to the class after the roll has been taken will NOT be considered as an attendance for purposes of this course.
2. I do not give make-up exams except on extreme and documented emergencies. Besides, the dates for the exams are FIXED and cannot change, save for under very severe and extreme circumstances.
3. This course is designed to be informative and the assignments and exams will be used to find out if this goal is being achieved. If for any reasons you are encountering any difficulties regarding this course or its requirements, see me immediately.
4. All assigned readings for each class should be completed BEFORE the day's class.

5. Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room 445, Potter Hall. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from me without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Disclaimer:

This syllabus is subject to change by the course instructor at any time during the course of the semester should such changes be necessary to facilitate the pedagogical objectives of this course.

GRADING SCALE:

Your letter grades will be assigned as follows on a percentage scale:

A 90-100 B 80-89 C 70-79 D 60-69 F<60

REQUIRED READINGS:

Macionis, John. 2005. Sociology (10th edition). New Jersey: Simon & Schuster.

Henslin, James. 2005. Down to Earth Sociology: Introductory Readings. (13th edition).
New York: The Free Press.

Ngugi, Wa Thiongo. 1965. The River Between. London: Heinemann

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Reading Assignment
Aug. 30	Introduction and welcome
Sept. 01	Sociological Perspective. Macionis. "The Sociological Perspective" Chapter 1, pp. 1-12. Henslin. <u>Down to Earth Sociology</u> . Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-27.
Sept. 06 & Sept. 08	Culture Macionis. "Culture." Chapter 3:56-87. Horace Miner. "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" Chapter 7:77-89 in Henslin.
Sept. 13	Social Interaction Macionis. Chapter 6:139-159. Philip G. Zimbardo. "The Pathology on Imprisonment." Chapter 26:297-303 in Henslin.
Sept. 15	Theoretical Perspectives Macionis. "Sociological Theory." Excerpt from Chapter 1:13-23
Sept. 20	TEST 1
Sept. 22	Sociological Research Macionis. "Sociological Investigation." Chapter 2:26-53. James M. Henslin. "How Sociologists Do Research." Chapter. 4:35-47 in Henslin.

Sept. 27 & 29	Socialization Macionis. 'Socialization' Chapter 5:115-135. Movie "Genie"
Oct. 4 & 11	Groups and Organizations Macionis. "Groups and Organizations." Chapter 7:163-186. Movie on Self Directed Teams
Oct. 6	Fall Break
Oct. 13	Social Stratification Macionis. "Social Stratification." Chapter 10:247-267 Movie on Caste System.
Oct. 18	Social Class Macionis. "Social Class in the United States." Chapter 11: 271-295. Herbert J. Gans. "The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All." Chapter 32:358-364 in Henslin.
Oct. 20	TEST 2
Oct. 25 & 27	Sex and Gender Macionis. "Gender Stratification." Chapter 13:325-349. Barrie Thorne and Zella Luria. "Sexuality and Gender in Children's Daily Worlds." Chapter 15:162-173 in Henslin. Patricia Y. Martin and Robert A. Hummer. "Fraternities and Rape on Campus." Chapter 29:331-341 in Henslin. Movie on Gender Discrimination.
Nov. 1	Race and Ethnicity Macionis. "Race and Ethnicity." Chapter 14:353-379.
Nov. 3	Aging and the Elderly Macionis. "Aging and the Elderly." Chapter 15:383-403
Nov. 8	TEST 3
Nov. 10 & 15	The Economy and Work Macionis. "The Economy and Work." Chapter 16: 407-431.
Nov. 17	The Family Macionis . "Family". Chapter 18:461-487.
Nov. 22	Education Macionis. "Education." Chapter 20:517-539. Harry L. Gracey "Kindergarten as Academic Boot Camp." Chapter 38: 432-446 in Henslin.
Nov. 24	Thanks Giving Break
Nov. 29	TEST 4
Dec. 1	HEALTH Macionis. "Health and Medicine", Chapter 21:541-564 Robbie E. Davis-Floyd. "Giving Birth the American Way." Chapter 37:418-431 in Henslin. Start reading "The River Between"
Dec. 6	Population, Urbanization and Environment Macionis. "Population, Urbanization and Environment." Chapter 22:569-597

Dec.8	Social Change Macionis. "Social Change: Traditional, Modern, and Post-Modern Societies." Chapter. 24:625-649. Jerry Sevalls. "Social Change Among the Amish." Chapter 43:486-495 in Henslin. Discuss Ngugi Wa Thiongo's, " <u>The River Between</u> "
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FINAL EXAM: Thursday, Dec. 15, 10:30-12:30pm.