

SOC 1010-02

Introduction to Sociology

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:30-12:50am
Room: PEB 101

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Office Hours: Mondays: 10:00-12:30pm
 Tuesdays: 1:30-4:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Broadly conceived, sociology is the study of the relationships between extra-individual processes and individual/collective agency. Traditionally, this has meant that sociologists have examined social structures (e.g., patriarchy) and social institutions (the e.g., family) and how these provide us with either barriers or opportunities in our individual and group lives. In this course, we will learn about traditional and contemporary sociology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Beyond a general survey of sociology, this course aims to help enhance your critical thinking and writing skills. You will learn the nature of sociological thought and research, but also how the sociological imagination can be applied and appreciated in our everyday/everynight lives.

I often present an analogy to my students. Utilizing the sociological imagination in everyday life is like using one's knowledge of the earth sciences, botany, and biology during a hike in the mountains. Understanding how the natural environment is formed and changed, and how animals and plants evolve and interact, intensifies the experience of a hike by allowing one to be intellectually active rather than passive in relation to the immediate environment. The same goes for social life: developing the sociological imagination makes life more engaging and interesting.

I believe that all students benefit when they develop or enhance their sociological imaginations. In my classes, students learn how to understand their lives in relation to broader social, political, economic, cultural, and historical contexts. In so doing, they will understand more critically historic and contemporary inequality, and will better understand – and better empathize with – those whose life courses may be different from their own.

REQUIRED READING:

Brym, Robert J. and John Lie. 2007. *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World*, Brief Edition, 2nd Edition.

Brym, Robert J. 2009. *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*. Wadsworth Cengage.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Critical Essay #1	15%	September 10 th
Test 1	20%	September 24 th
Test 2	20%	October 29 th
Critical Essay #2	15%	November 19 th
Final	20%	December 8 th , 1:00-2:50
Attendance/Participation	10%	
Total:	100%	

Tests: There are three (3) tests required for this course. Each will be comprised of multiple choice questions. I will hand out a study guide to help you prepare. A SCANTRON card is also needed.

Critical Essays: In a short, 4-5 page, double-spaced essay you will critically evaluate a chapter from Brym's *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*. You may choose from chapters 2, 3, or 4. You will be required to write on two chapters in total (2 essays) and must choose 2 different chapters.

Attendance: Throughout the course, I will have "spot" attendance checks. If you are not in class during one of these checks, you may provide documentation (e.g., doctor's note) explaining your nonattendance. The only way to get full points is by being in class!

Participation: You are required to participate in all class and small group discussions to the best of your ability. You will be evaluated according to the usefulness of your contribution as well as on how diplomatically you treat your fellow students (and me). Moreover, if you submit shoddy work, you will not be deemed to be participating to the best of your ability.

NOTE: If you miss more than one attendance check, you will receive 0/10 for attendance.

NOTE: If you do not complete all course work you will receive 0/10 on your attendance score.

Grading:

100-93	=	A
90-92	=	A-
87-89	=	B+
83-86	=	B
80-82	=	B-
77-79	=	C+
73-76	=	C
70-72	=	C-
67-69	=	D+
63-66	=	D
60-62	=	D-
59-below	=	F

Assignments: All assignments must be typed; handwritten assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

Make Up Tests, Late Assignments, and Extensions: Upon receipt of valid documentation, a make up test will be held for those students who were unable to write a test. Late papers are only accepted upon receipt of valid documentation (e.g. illness = medical note from a physician).

All documentation must be submitted within one week of the missed exam/assignment, unless this is impossible.

Since all due dates of assignments are known well in advance, I expect each student to organize her/his time to complete the assignments when due. If you are experiencing difficulties in the class, please see me in advance of the due date for an extension on an assignment.

Email communication: Please do not send multiple emails within a 24 hour period. I will answer emails as quickly as possible, but in some instances you may have to wait a day or so. When sending an email, please ensure that all your questions or concerns are addressed in a single message.

Office Hours: Any student who needs to speak with me in person must make every reasonable effort to attend my office hours. Office hours are not be used to gather information about missed lectures. If you miss a lecture, please speak with students who were in attendance about course content.

STUDENT DISABILITY NOTICE

Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), in Room 205C of the Sharwan Smith Center or phone (435) 865-8022. SSD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Week One: Aug 25, 27

Chapter One: A Sociological Compass
From *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*:
Chapter One: "Sociology as a Life or Death Issue"
Chapter Five: "Sociology as a Vocation"

Week Two: Sept 1, 3

Chapter Three: Socialization

Week Three: Sept 8, 10

Chapter Four: Social Interaction
Chapter Two: Culture
Critical Essay #1 Due September 10th

Week Four: Sept 15, 17

Chapter Five: Networks, Groups, and Organizations

Week Five: Sept 22, 24

Chapter Eleven: Families
Test #1 September 24th

Week Six: Sept 29, Oct 1

Chapter Six: Deviance & Crime

Week Seven: Oct 6, 8

Chapter Seven: Social Stratification

Week Eight: Oct 13, 15

Chapter Eight: Globalization, Inequality, and Development

Week Nine: Oct 20, 22

Chapter Ten: Sexuality & Gender

Week Ten: Oct 27, 29

Chapter Nine: Race & Ethnicity
Test #2 October 29th

Week Eleven: Nov 3, 5

Chapter Thirteen: Politics, Work, and the Economy

Week Twelve: Nov 10, 12

Chapter Twelve: Religion & Education

Week Thirteen: Nov 17, 19

Chapter Fifteen: Collective Action & Social Movements

Critical Essay #2: November 19th

Week Fourteen Nov 24

Chapter Fourteen: Health, Medicine, Disability, Aging

Week Fifteen: Dec 1, 3

Chapter Sixteen: Population, Urbanization, and the Environment

DISCLAIMER:

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.