

SOC 1010-04

Introduction to Sociology

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:30-12:50
Centrum 227

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Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00-12:30; Thursdays, 8:30-11:00am

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 (e.g., family) and how these provide us with either barriers or opportunities in our individual and group lives. In this course, we will explore how sociologists study the world and what we know about how the individual acts in a world of social structures.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

There are three primary course objectives.

- ✓ First, you will learn factual knowledge about sociology and American society.
- ✓ With this factual knowledge, you will, second, enhance your critical thinking skills.
- ✓ The poet, Michael Ondaatje once wrote, “I don’t know what I love until I write it out.” The third objective of this course is to provide opportunities for you to articulate your thoughts by “writing them out,” which means developing and improving your writing and essay skills.

REQUIRED READING:

Conley, Dalton. 2008. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*. New York: W. W. Norton.

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

ASSIGNMENTS:

Critical Essay #1	15%	Jan. 21
Test 1	20%	Feb. 9
Test 2	20%	March 11
Critical Essay #2	15%	April 8
Final	20%	April 26, 1:00-2:50
Attendance/Participation	10%	
Total:	100%	

TURNITIN.COM: All written assignments must be **uploaded to turnitin.com** by the due date. Turnitin is an online database and software program that assesses written assignments for plagiarism. More details will be provided in class.

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

PART ONE: Using Your Sociological Imagination

Week One: Jan. 5, 7 Sociology, The Sociological Imagination, Research Methods

You May Ask Yourself, Chapters 1 & 2

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: Jan. 12, 14 Socialization and the Social Construction of Reality

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 4

Week Three: Jan. 19, 21 Networks and Organizations Critical Essay #1, Jan. 21

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 5

Week Four: Jan. 26, 28 Culture and the Media

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 3

Week Five: Feb. 2, 4 Social Control and Deviance

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 6

PART TWO: The Institutions of Society

Test #1 Feb. 9

Week Six: Feb. 9, 11 Family

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 7

Week Seven: Feb. 16, 18 Education

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 8

Week Eight: Feb. 23, 25 Religion

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 9

Week Nine: Mar. 2, 4 Capitalism and the Economy

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 10

Week Ten: Mar. 9, 11 Authority

Test #2, March 11

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 11

PART THREE: Social Inequalities

Week Eleven: Mar. 23, 25 Gender

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 12

Week Twelve: Mar. 30, Apr. 1 Race

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 13

Week Thirteen: Apr. 6, 8 Stratification & Poverty

Critical Essay #2, April 8

You May Ask Yourself, Chapters 14 & 15

Week Fourteen: Apr. 13, 15 Health and Society; Environment and Science

You May Ask Yourself, Chapters 16 & 17

Week Fifteen: Apr. 20 Social Movements

You May Ask Yourself, Chapter 18

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.