

SYLLABUS

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Class: Tu&Th 9:35-10:50a
201 Lawson
Office Hours: M&W 10-11:30a; Tu&Th 11:00a-12:30p;
or by appointment

Course Description: If, as Shakespeare said, the world is a stage and we are merely players, what are the roles we play, and how do we learn our "lines?" Who designed the sets? Can we create our own roles? What are the factors that we knowingly and unknowingly consider as we play our roles?

SOC 108 explores some of the ways social scientists explain human behavior. In contrast to psychology, sociology shows how the structure and collective experience of groups influence how people live. Among characteristic questions are: Why are some people wealthy and others poor, and how does this mold their lives and views of one another? How are adult roles developed, and how are children brought up to occupy them? Why do conflicts develop between groups within a society, and how can they be managed? Why do societies designate some behavior as "deviant," and how are individuals recruited into deviant patterns of behavior? By grappling with these questions, students should develop an appreciation of differences between groups and of the complexities of social life.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: (a) demonstrate knowledge of basic sociological concepts about social processes (e.g., socialization, deviance, social control, and stratification by class, gender, and race) and social institutions (e.g., the family, religion, and the state); (b) summarize theoretical or explanatory arguments in sociology; (c) apply these arguments to contemporary events or personal experience; and (d) display knowledge of cultural, class, religious, and other differences within and between societies.

Instructor's Obligation to Students: I take very seriously my responsibility to the students in my class, and will do every reasonable thing in my power to provide you with the opportunity to succeed in this course. I will be prepared for class and knowledgeable in the materials presented. I will strive to make the course as interesting to you as possible. I will work with you individually, outside of lectures, should you need additional assistance.

A. Required Texts: There is one text required for this class: **Shepard, Jon M. 2005. *Sociology*. 11th Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage.**

B. Course Requirements and Grading: Grades for the course will be based upon total point accumulation over the semester, and points can be earned in a number of ways. Maximum points will be distributed as follows:

Examination One	100 points	Reaction Paper I	25 points
Examination Two	100 points	Reaction Paper II	25 points
Examination Three	100 points	Class Participation	50 points
Examination Four	100 points	(2 Optional Reaction Papers, 5 pts ea.	10 points)

Final course grades will be based on the following point totals:

- A 500 – 450 points
- B 449 – 400 points
- C 399 – 350 points
- D 349 – 300 points

Examinations: There will be four examinations given. Each exam will be weighted equally, and will consist of multiple choice and/or true-false questions. *Make-up exams will not be given, except at the discretion of the instructor and only in the event of officially excused absences.*

Reaction Papers: Students will be required to submit two reaction papers of 3-5 pages each, showing an understanding of materials covered. See attached guidelines for more information.

Participation: *Attendance will be required.* You will be allowed 3 *unexcused* absences over the course of the semester; for each unexcused absence beyond the 3 given, 10 points will be deducted.

Additional points may be earned from two (and only two) optional reaction papers to University events (to be cleared with Instructor prior to event).

An *INC* is assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students *engaged in passing work* are unable to complete all class assignments. An *INC* must be changed to a completed grade within a time period designated by the instructor but not to exceed one year from the close of the term in which the course was taken, *or graduation*, whichever occurs first. Should the student fail to complete the course within the time period designated, not to exceed one year, or graduation, whichever comes first, the incomplete will be converted to a grade of *F* and the grade will be computed in the student's grade point average. Students should not reregister for courses in which an *INC* has been assigned with the intent of changing the *INC* grade. Re-registration will not prevent the *INC* from being changed to an *F*.

C. Classroom Respect: A comfortable atmosphere is very important in providing for a student's opportunity to learn. Knowing that every student comes from a different place, and because some of the topics covered in sociology can be controversial in nature, I require students to RESPECT the opinions of others, regardless of agreement. In addition, out of respect to your fellow classmates, I require that all students exercise a level of "lecture etiquette." This means not coming into class late and disrupting others, not talking to fellow classmates during lecture, turning off cell phones (a personal "pet peeve"), etc. To be respected means you must respect others around you.

D. Cheating/Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty: All work you submit must be your own. This does not mean you should not rely on existing scholarship in completing your papers; in fact, using existing scholarship to support your own arguments is expected. However, you must document the scholarship of others in your work by the use of proper citation of these resources.

All SIUC policies regarding academic dishonesty will be upheld in this course. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any type may lead to zero points for a particular assignment, failure of the course, and/or dismissal from the university, regardless of standing. **By submitting any work in this course, you acknowledge that you are aware of the definitions and consequences of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, and agree to be bound to them. If you are not familiar with these definitions and consequences, refer to your *Student Conduct Code Handbook*, see an academic advisor, or ask me. Be sure before you submit any assignment!**

E. Supplementary Assistance: With the cooperation of SIU's Disability Support Services (DSS), each student who qualifies for reasonable supplementary assistance has the right to receive it. Students requesting supplementary assistance must first register with DSS in Woody Hall B-150, (453-5738) or <http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/>

Notice: If you have any type of special need(s) or disability for which you require accommodations to promote your learning in this class, please contact me as soon as possible. The Office of Disability Support Services (DDS) offers various support services and can help you with special accommodations. You may wish to contact DDS at 453-5738 or go to Room 150 at Woody Hall to verify your eligibility and options for accommodations related to your special need(s) or disability.

F. Emergency Procedures: Southern Illinois University, Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, the Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlets. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE (subject to change!):

Part One: Sociological Perspectives

Aug. 21 - Syllabus Day

Aug. 23, 28 - Chapter 1. The Sociological Perspective.

Aug. 28, 30 - Chapter 2. Social Research.

EXAM 1 – Tuesday, Sept. 4

Part Two: The Foundations of Social Structure

Sep. 06, 11 - Chapter 3. Culture.

Sep. 11, 13 - Chapter 4. Socialization.

Sep. 13, 18 - Chapter 5. Social Structure & Society.

Sep. 18, 23 - Chapter 6. Groups & Organizations.

Sep. 23, 25 - Chapter 7. Deviance & Social Control.

PART TWO REACTION PAPERS DUE – Thursday, Sep. 27

EXAM 2 – Thursday, Sep. 27

Part Three: Social Inequality

Oct. 02, 04 - Chapter 8. Social Stratification.

Oct. 09 - NO CLASS

Oct. 11, 16 - Chapter 9. Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity.

Oct. 16, 18 - Chapter 10. Inequalities of Gender

PART 3 REACTION PAPERS DUE – Tuesday, Oct. 23

EXAM 3 – Tuesday, Oct. 23

Part Four: Social Institutions

Oct. 25, 30 - Chapter 11. Family.

Oct. 30, Nov. 01 - Chapter 12. Education.

Nov. 01, 06 - Chapter 13. Political & Economic Institutions.

Nov. 06, 08 - Chapter 14. Religion.

Nov. 08, 13 - Chapter 15. Health Care and Aging.

Nov. 13, 15 - Chapter 16. Sport.

PART 4 REACTION PAPERS DUE – Thursday, Nov. 15

Nov. 20 - "Review Session"

Nov. 22 - NO CLASS

Part Five: Social Change

Nov. 27, 29 - Chapter 17. Population & Urbanization.

Nov. 29, Dec. 04 - Chapter 18. Social Change & Collective Behavior.

Dec. 06 - Course Wrap Up & Course Evaluations

PART 5 REACTION PAPERS DUE – Thursday, Dec. 6

EXAM 4 – Thursday, Dec. 13, 10:10a-12:10p

REACTION PAPER GUIDELINES

Excluding Part I, students will select one sociological concept covered in the material, twice, from different Parts of the course. You will describe the concept and then apply this concept to empirical examples. To gain other perspectives of the social phenomenon you are analyzing, you will be assigned “research partner(s)” with whom you will work on these projects. Thus, the final product should equally represent the views and perspectives of *all* members of each research team.

Using clear and specific subheadings, divide your paper into the following three sections (in addition to the standard introduction and conclusion):

I. Description

Generally, the first portion of the paper will be devoted to a demonstration that you understand the concept that is being discussed. Thus, this portion of the paper will be somewhat descriptive, generally no more than a page should be devoted to this section.

II. Example(s)

Then, in the second portion of the paper, using your “sociological imaginations,” you will apply this concept empirically. This means that you will be addressing this concept in real life situations; because this is more interesting, sociologically, you should plan to devote more time and space to this portion of your paper than you did in the first. If there are differing examples from different research partners, make sure all are examined. These empirical examples need not be autobiographical in nature, but should display evidence that the concept is meaningful to students in their lived experiences.

III. Analysis

The final portion of the paper will be a comparison of the different perspectives of each research partner, and therefore more abstract in nature. How were perspectives similar and how were they different? Were these perspectives as you thought they might be, or were you surprised? What social forces are responsible?

Papers will be evaluated on form as well as content. By this, I mean that papers will be evaluated not only by what is said, but how it is said. Incomplete sentences, incorrect grammar, etc., will count against you. I encourage you to take papers to one the Writing Centers on campus for assistance. In addition, I am willing to read through a preliminary draft with you so you know in advance what I expect. I strongly encourage students to prepare this preliminary draft for my feedback well ahead of the deadline so any revisions may be completed before the due date of the final draft.

The review papers must be between 3 and 5 pages in length (not including title page), using standard font sizes and 1 inch margins (Don't play around – just do it right!) Title pages must include the following information:

- ✓ Title of Your Paper
- ✓ Authors' Names
- ✓ Your E-mail Addresses*
- ✓ Date of Submission (not due date)

*In accordance with *Official SIU Student Email Policy*: <http://policies.siu.edu/policies/email.htm>

A note about DUE DATES:

Final drafts will be due at the beginning of class on the last day of each section, as detailed previously. Obviously, since this will likely fall on the day of an examination, it *will not* be in your best interest to try to complete the paper *and* study for the exam. Thus, I strongly encourage you to begin working on papers early. Before you ask, know that the possibility of being granted a deadline extension is extremely unlikely, even with the best excuse.

Because these reaction papers are to be written in “research teams,” it is important that you keep in contact over the course of the semester. Should your research partners disappear (as some students will do...), I will reassign you into another group. Individual submissions will not be accepted... it's a group assignment!