

Introduction to Sociology SOC 108-Section 17  
Jerald Schrimsher  
Lawson 121  
MWF 12-12:50

**Instructor contact information**

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Office Hours:  
Monday 1:30-3:30  
Tuesday 11:30-1:30  
Wednesday 1:30-3:30

**Course Description**

SOC 108 is a University Core Curriculum Course. Following satisfactory completion of this course, you 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. This course is intended to give the student a general understanding of the basic theories, concepts, and principles used in the study of group life, social institutions, and social processes.

**Text**

Sociology Matters 4<sup>th</sup> edition by Richard T. Schaefer.  
Additional readings will be posted periodically on the Blackboard course site.  
(Please make sure you can access Blackboard as soon as possible.)

**Grading**

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

The grading scale is non-negotiable. Grades are achieved through the accumulation of points (see following section). If you do not make the points to receive a B, you will not receive a B. You will receive the grade that corresponds with the number of points you accumulate.

Accumulation of points

5 Tests- 10 points each	50 points
10 Pre-Section quizzes- 1 point each	10 points
10 Post-Section quizzes-2 points each	20 points
<u>4 Written assignments-5 points each</u>	<u>20 points</u>
Total possible	100 points

### Tests

There will be 5 tests given during the semester. Each test will be worth 10 points, or 10% of your final grade. Each test will consist of fill-in-the blank, short answer, and possibly essay questions. There will be no multiple choice questions on the tests in this class. Each test will cover two(2) sections (or book chapters).

There is currently no exam scheduled in this class during finals week, thus no "final" test. If our schedule is pushed back for any reason, we may reschedule the last test to be taken during the final exams time established by the University for this class.

It is very important that you show up for all scheduled tests. However, if you are unable to make it to class on the day we are taking a test; you must contact me within five (5) days of the scheduled test date. If you fail to do so you will not be allowed to make up the exam without significant documentation stating that you were unable to do so during that time.

The Monday following each exam, I will return your exams and review any material that I feel was not well understood on the exam. If you want to see your grade on the exam you need to show up for this review day. If you do not make it for the review day, looking at your exam will be done by special appointment in my office only.

**I do not send grades through email.**

### Pre-Section quizzes

In order to gain the most from any discussion of the material, it is vital that the student has read the information before coming to class. In order to emphasize this we will take a quiz over each section **before** any discussion of the material. These quizzes will be made up of multiple choice or fill in the blank questions.

Pre-section quizzes can be rescheduled **before** the class in which they occur, but can only be rescheduled after they occur with a doctor's excuse. (All University events will give you enough notice to reschedule before the quiz.) Those with University-related excuses (sports, organizations, departmental trips or meetings) are responsible for rescheduling each quiz before it occurs.

### Post-Section quizzes

After the lecture & discussion of each section, we will take a quiz. These quizzes will allow you to gauge your overall understanding of the concepts that were presented in that section before the exam. These quizzes will consist of fill in the blank and possibly short answer questions. These will give you a good idea of the sorts of questions to expect on the test, and which material should stand out as most important for testing purposes.

### Written assignments

Each written assignment (paper/essay) will involve reading an assigned article or articles and answering a series of questions. If you do not understand the article, feel free to contact me regarding it, so that we can make sure you are getting as much out of the reading as you possibly can. These readings will increase your understanding of sociology, demonstrate the ways sociological research is done, and the types of information gathered. Requirements for each article will be handed out and discussed when the assignment is made, and posted on Blackboard. You must use information from the reading to answer the questions, not from the text book, course notes, or the internet. Each assignment will be graded on the following criteria:

Proper English (grammar, sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation, etc.) 1 point

Proper formatting (meets minimum requirements for length, proper font size, margins, paragraph breaks, citations etc.) 1 point

Content-3 points (broken down as follows)

Answers all questions fully and correctly-1.5 points

Shows understanding of assigned material-1.5 points

Written assignments will be penalized ½ point for each **calendar** day they are late. (If an assignment is due on Friday, and I do not get it until Monday, it is 3 days late) I require physical copies of assignments, but I will accept emailed copies if, and only if, you are unable to come to class for a **medical** reason. ***If you come to class, but did not bring your assignment, it will be considered at least one day late.*** If you know you will be unable to come to class in advance, bring your assignment the class session before, or drop it in my mailbox in the Sociology Department office (Faner Hall 3384) before it is due in class.

#### Extra Credit

In the spirit of generosity, and the understanding that some students do not do well on tests and quizzes, I allow you to earn extra credit to be applied to your test grades. To earn this extra credit, I require you to read a book, and write a paper. Each paper will add either 5 or 10 points to your test grade, up to 100. The paper must be 5-7 pages long; it must show me that you have read and understood the book, and that you can make an informed summary of the book. The grades for the paper will be: 10 points for an excellent paper ( A paper with no major grammatical mistakes, and a good summary that hits all the major points of the book), and 5 points for a good paper (a paper that hits all the major points, but has some grammatical problems that are obvious, or a grammatically well-done paper that misses some major point in the summary) will be worth five points. A paper with gross grammatical errors and little understanding of the material will be worth no points. The books are assigned according to the test you will be adding the point to. The papers are due on or before the day we take the next exam. I will not accept any extra credit assignments after the date they are due, for any reason.

Test 1-*The Sociological Imagination* by C. Wright Mills

Test 2-*The Social Construction of Reality* by Peter Berger & Thomas Luckmann

Test 3-*Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World*

by Stephen Cornell & Douglas Hartmann

Test 4- *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James Loewen

#### Additional Requirements

##### Attendance

Sociology is a discipline with a wide range of subject areas. We have a short time for you to gain some exposure to this information. It is important for your success in this class that you make it to class every day. We have a significant number of quizzes that can only be made up in special circumstances, and the lecture and discussion sessions of the class are important in your understanding of the material. If you miss class without reason, it will be difficult for you to pass this class. On days when turnout is especially low, traditionally around long weekends or holiday breaks, I have a tendency to give out a small amount of extra credit for attendance. These points are for attendance and cannot be made up on another day.

##### Classroom conduct

Certain behavior is not allowed in my classroom (or any that I know of). You are not allowed to have conversations among yourselves during the lecture and discussion. This also applies to cell phone usage,

including text messaging. If you need to talk to someone, leave, and take care of that outside of class. It is not only disrespectful to me but also to your fellow students. I understand that there will be times when you forget to turn a cell phone off, I might also. Please do not make a habit of it. If there is a possibility that you may get a call that you would have to take immediately, let me know before class and sit near the door so that you can leave the room in order to take your call. However, in my experience as a student and an instructor people will try to get away with things (talking, texting, and even attempting phone calls during class) this is unacceptable to me, and against University policy. If you do this, you will be asked to leave for the day. I thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this matter.

### **Academic Honesty**

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale is dedicated not only to learning, research, and the advancement of knowledge, but also to the development of ethically sensitive and responsible persons. The university seeks to achieve these goals through sound educational programs and policies governing individual conduct that encourage independence and maturity. By accepting membership in this university, an individual joins a community characterized by free expression, free inquiry, honesty, respect for others, and participation in constructive change. All rights and responsibilities exercised within this academic environment shall be compatible with these principles. Acts of Academic Dishonesty is a breach of the student conduct code. Dishonesty includes: 1. Plagiarism, representing the work of another as one's own work; 2. Preparing work for another that is to be used as that person's own work; 3. Cheating by any method or means; 4. Knowingly and willfully falsifying or manufacturing scientific or educational data and representing the same to be the result of scientific or scholarly experiment or research; 5. Knowingly furnishing false information to a university official relative to academic matters; 6. Soliciting, aiding, abetting, concealing, or attempting conduct in violation of this code. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

Any incident in which cheating or plagiarism is suspected, you may be asked to redo, under close scrutiny. If you refuse, I will assign a grade of zero for the assignment/quiz/exam; appeals are handled through the University Judicial Board. Please, do not cheat. I dislike the entire process.

### **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](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. 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.

### **Final note**

Any and all sections of this syllabus are subject to change. All changes will be at the Instructors discretion and will be based on the needs of the Students and/or Instructor. All changes will be announced in class as soon as they are made final.