

Introduction to Sociology
SOC 108, Spring 2012

Instructor: Nishanth Visagaratnam

Office: Faner 3435

Office hours:

- Tuesday 2:30pm – 5:30pm
- Thursday 2:30pm – 5:30pm
- By appointment on Wednesdays (after 1pm)

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Office number: 618-453-2494

Class Location: Lawson 221

Class Time: T, Th 12:35pm – 1:50pm

Best way to contact me is by email at nvisagar@siu.edu

Overview:

In this mixed format class involving lectures, videos, small group work, and discussions, students will be introduced to the major concepts and ideas that sociologists use as they study the social world. By the end of the term, students will be able to:

- a) demonstrate knowledge of basic sociological concepts about social processes (e.g., socialization, deviance, social control, and stratifications by class, gender, and race) and social institutions (e.g., the family, religion, education, and the state)
- b) be familiar with the four sociological perspective (conflict, symbolic interactionist, feminist, functionalist)
- c) summarize theoretical and explanatory arguments in sociology
- d) apply these arguments to contemporary events or personal experiences
- e) display knowledge of cultural, class, religious, and other differences within and between societies
- f) develop an understanding of the methods that sociologists use to answer their research questions and how to conduct basic analyses of data

Students will gain their knowledge from lectures and through course readings, writing, group work, practical applications using real data, and critical discussions. Furthermore, students will develop key skills that they can apply and use outside of the class, become critical thinkers by learning to think outside the box, and become self-directed learners.

Required Material:

Schaefer, R. *Sociology Matters*, 5th edition. McGraw Hill.

Course and University Policies:

Make up examinations may consist of all essay questions or an alternate set of multiple-choice questions. The make-up exam will be given only to students with university approved excused absences and who notify the instructor prior to the examination. Attend all classes; “in class activity” points, extra credit for an assignment, and quizzes may not be made up for unexcused absence. Missing extra credit due to absence cannot be made up without a university approved excuse and appropriate documentation.

Student Code of Conduct:

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 encourages 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 a student code and will NOT be tolerated in this class. Dishonesty includes, but is not exclusive to: 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. Please consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic dishonesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. *SIUC Student Conduct Code*: <http://policies.siu.edu/policies/conduct.html>

Classroom Behavior:

- Be on time to class
- Do not use cell phones or laptops/computers
 - turn off cell phones (unless you are on call then you must inform the instructor first)
 - The instructor will ask students to leave the classroom if a student uses it/them during class time
- Students may NOT use the calculators on the cell phones or watches for class related activities or examinations
- Students may NOT engage in distracting and disrespectful behavior such as chatting, sleeping, leaving early, newspaper reading, texting, using cell phones, using laptops/computer devices and working on other course work.
- If the student is late coming to class, it is the responsibility of the student to make sure that he/she obtains any homework assignments after class and class notes from his/her peers; however, in class assignments may NOT be made up without a university approved excuse (e.g., doctor's appointment/school related activity- students must show proof prior to making up the missed work).
- Respect your peers in the class. No name-calling, no fighting of any sort, no disrespectful gestures (such as giving the finger, making rude face gestures, etc).
- The instructor reserves the right to report and remove students who continually engage in disruptive and disrespectful behaviors.
- If you have any concern about the class (i.e., class material, issues with students in the classroom, etc.), contact the Instructor as soon as possible.

Statement on Inclusive Excellence – SIUC contains people from all walks of life, from many different cultures and sub-cultures, and representing all strata of society, nationalities, ethnicities, lifestyles, and affiliations. Learning from and working with people who differ from you is an important part of your education in this class, as well an essential preparation for any career.

Supplementary Assistance: Reasonable accommodations will be available to students with disabilities. With the cooperation of SIUC’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.siuc.edu/>

SIUC email policy:

Official SIUC Student Email Policy visit <http://policies.siuc.edu/policies/email.htm>

Become familiar with the policies for university use of email, establishment of student email, expectations about student use of email, authentication for confidential information, privacy, and educational uses of email. For questions, contact University Communications, MC 6819, 618-453-2276.

Saluki Cares: The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIUC will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. To make a referral to Saluki Cares click, call, or send: www.salukicare.siuc.edu; (618) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu.

Class discussions should take place within a context of academic inquiry (you are here to learn) and in the spirit of understanding diverse perspectives and experiences. Students should not make negative comments about fellow classmates; demean, devalue, or put down people for their differing experiences, backgrounds, viewpoints, and statements; show general signs of disrespect for the course, instructors, professors or other students. If any student feels attacked, harassed, or otherwise disrespected, for any reason, that student is encouraged to set up a confidential meeting with the instructor (e.g., send an email to set up an appointment, speak to the professor during office hours or after class).

Grading of the exam is purely objective. Grading of the homework and special activities will involve both objective and subjective assessments. All work will be evaluated in terms of accuracy (if relevant), effort, sophistication, clarity, and completeness.

Total available points:

90% or more = A

80% - 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

59% or less = F

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*.

The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus. Only opportunities for extra credit will be offered in class; there are NO other opportunities for extra credit unless otherwise stated by the Instructor.

Blackboard:

Grades, assignments, and other class related materials will be posted on Blackboard. If there are class cancellations (due to weather, conference, sickness, etc), the announcement will be made on Blackboard. You may access the Blackboard by going to *mycourses.siu.edu* and type in your Dawg Tag and your password. Students should check Blackboard on a weekly basis.

Emergency Procedures:

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, on BERT's website at *www.bert.siu.edu*, Department of Safety's website *www.dps.siu.edu*, and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

The instructor 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 BERT will assist your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Student Responsibilities and Requirements:

Students: If you are going to be involved in school activities, such as athletic events, please provide proof of event so you may make up the exams, in-class assignments, and homework.

Three exams: Total 300 points

Exam 1 (100 points)

Exam 2 (100 points)

Exam 3 (100 points)

Homework exercises: Total 90 points

3 exam reviews 20 points each

3 assignments 10 points each

Further instructions will be distributed in class.

In-class activity: Total points will be determined at the end of the semester.

Students must complete **unannounced** in-class activities (if you are absent or late, the work may NOT be made up without a university approved excuse).

If you complete an in-class assignment/quiz/extra credit and then leave early or “skip out” on class that same day, you will NOT receive any credit for the in-class assignment, quiz, or extra credit.

Details:

Exams: There will be three exams (300 points total). Examination questions are multiple choices, true/false, short answers, and/or matching. Some material will require simple memorization from the material presented in class as well as from the text and readings from e-reserve. Some questions will require application of the learned material and critical thinking. The three exams are not cumulative, but to understand the material in the latter part of the term you will need to have a sufficient understanding of the material presented earlier in the term. All material (textbook readings, in-class readings, lectures, media, e-reserve readings, anything class related) are fair game for the examination.

Homework exercises: Students must complete six homework exercises (90 points total). Instructions will be provided in class for each exercise and the homework may be found on Blackboard. There will be three exam review homework worth 20 points each and three assignments worth 10 points each. Exercises will be marked late and penalized if not turned in at the *beginning* of class when requested by the instructor. If for some reason you cannot make it to class on the day the assignment is due, it is your responsibility to get the assignment to me prior to or at the start of the class on which they are due.

In-class activity: Students must complete unannounced in-class activities provided throughout the semester. You will turn in the in-class activities by the end of class, and it may be in the form of group activities, individual work, quiz, discussion questions, response paper (about 1-2 paragraphs), and other activities as deemed necessary by the instructor. The points for the in-class activities will vary. In-class activities may NOT be made up without an instructor approved excuse.

Attendance: Students are highly advised to attend all classes and participant in class and group discussions. **Students who have 5 or more unexcused absences (not approved by the instructor based on university attendance policies) will automatically fail the class.** Remember to sign in on the attendance sheet before you leave class; if you fail to do so it will count as an unexcused absence. Additionally, students who sign the attendance sheet but leave class early will be counted absent and will receive a zero for any class activities, quizzes, extra credit, etc. for that day. If you have any questions, interest, problems with the course material, come to office hours or make an appointment with the instructor. It is highly advised that students ask for help as soon as possible instead of waiting until closer to exams. Check Blackboard for any updates on the class, assignments, changes, class cancellations, and track your performance, etc.

Tentative schedule

Week 1 [Jan 17; Jan 19]: Introduction to sociology; *The Sociological View* (Ch.1)

Week 2 [Jan 24; Jan 26]: *The Sociological View* (Ch.1)

Jan 29, 2012: Last day to drop a course to be eligible for a credit/refund; last day to change credit/audit status. Last day to withdraw from the University with a full refund. See the following website for further information: <http://registrar.siuc.edu/calendars/registration12sp.html>

Week 3 [Jan 31; Feb 2]: *Culture & Socialization* (Ch.2)

Week 4 [Feb 7; Feb 9]: *Social Interactions, Groups, & Social Structure* (Ch.3)

Week 5 [Feb 14; Feb 16]: *Deviance & Social Control* (Ch. 4)

Week 6 [Feb 21; Feb 23]: *Deviance & Social Control* (Ch. 4)

Exam I Review

Exam I review homework due (Feb 23)

Week 7 [Feb 28; March 1]: **Exam I (Feb 28)**

Stratification in the United States & Global Inequality (Ch. 5)

Week 8 [March 6; March 8]: *Stratification in the United States & Global Inequality* (Ch. 5)

Week 9: **Spring Vacation Saturday, March 10, 12:00 Noon through Sunday, March 18.** (All Breaks begin officially at 10:00 p.m. the night before and end at 7:30 a.m. the morning after the respective beginning and ending dates listed, unless otherwise noted.)

March 16, 2012: Last day to submit paperwork to the Registration office related to the last day to drop or withdrawal (CRF's and withdrawal forms). See the following website for further information:<http://registrar.siuc.edu/calendars/registration12sp.html>

*March 18, 2012: Last day to drop a course online using Salukinet (for students). See the following website for further information:
<http://registrar.siuc.edu/calendars/registration12sp.html>*

Week 10 [March 20; March 22]: *Inequality by Race & Ethnicity* (Ch.6)

Week 11 [March 27; March 29]: *Inequality by Gender* (Ch. 7)

Week 12 [April 3; April 5]: *Inequality by Gender* (Ch. 7); Feminist perspective (gender, crime, & substance use)

Week 13 [April 10; April 12]: *Social Institutions: Family & Religion* (Ch. 8)
Exam II Review; Exam II review homework due (April 12)

Week 14 [April 17; April 19]: **Exam II (April 17)**; *Social Institutions: Education, Government, & the Economy* (Ch.9)

Week 15 [April 24; April 26]: *Social Institutions: Education, Government, & the Economy* (Ch.9)

Week 16 [May 1; May 3]: *Population, Community, Health, & the Environment* (Ch.10)

Week 17 [May 8; May 10]: *Social Movements, Social Change, & Technology* (Ch. 11)
Review for final exam
Final exam review homework due (May 10)

Week 18: **Final Exam Thursday, May 10, 2011 from 10:10a.m. to 12:10p.m. Meet in Lawson Room 221.** *Note: The final examination time, date, and location may change; it is the student's responsibility to check on the date, time, and location of the final exam the week prior to finals week. SIUC Final Exam Calendar Website: <http://registrar.siuc.edu/pdf/examspring12.pdf>*