

SOC 321: Society and the Individual
Spring 2012

Class Meets: T/TH 12:35-1:50 ASA 118C

Instructor Contact Information:

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Office Hours: Monday 10:00-1:00, Tuesday 2:15-3:45, Thursday, 2:15-3:45, and by appointment

Sociology Main Office (mailbox): Faner 3384

Course Objectives:

This course will introduce you to some of the basic concepts of micro-sociology (the nexus between sociology and psychology). We will examine and learn to apply concepts--such as, definition of the situation, reality construction, identity, social location, stigma and vocabularies of motive--to our "face to face" interactions with others and the patterned social arrangements in which we participate. We will thus be exploring the social processes that influence the acquisition of self, the socialization of selves, and the ongoing interrelationship of selves and societies. That is, we will consider how individuals create and shape the social world which simultaneously shapes and creates individuals. By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Analyze ideas about the relationships between the individual and society
- Identify major thinkers and their views
- Use the concepts to analyze your own observations and experience
- See improvements in your written and oral analytical skills

(Objectives used with permission from Professor Jennifer Dunn, PhD.)

Required Readings:

Cahill, Spencer E. and Kent Sandstrom. 2010. *Inside Social Life: Readings in Sociological Psychology and Microsociology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Johnson, Allan G. 2006. *Privilege, Power, and Difference*. Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

Addition readings will be posted on Yahoo Groups in a file titled Readings.

Grading and Requirements:

Your grade in this class will be determined by the number of points you earn in the following areas:

Weekly Reflections (400 pnts)

Each week, I will expect you to read a series of articles/chapters and respond to them in writing. Your weekly reflections will be due, electronically, every Monday by 9:00 a.m. Some weeks, I will expect you to respond to a prompt. The points you earn for these reflections constitute the largest portion of your grade in the class.

Presentation of Course Material (250 pnts)

For one week of the semester, you must work with me and a group to lead a discussion and activities pertaining to the topic matter of the week. This project is worth 25% of your grade.

Note taking (150 pnts)

Each person will sign up for two days of note taking throughout the semester. The note takers will be responsible for taking notes for the class and submitting them electronically for the class to review. This is worth 15% of your grade.

Attendance (150 pnts)

Attendance is mandatory. 15% of your grade will be determined by your attendance in this class. You are allowed to miss four classes, without an excuse. If you want any of your absences to be excused, you need to email a message to me regarding why you cannot attend class.

Feedback (50 pnts)

Each week, I will expect you to provide me and your peers with feedback about our learning environment. This will help us to improve our class as the semester progresses. You will receive credit for your participation.

Total Points: 1000

**Further details will be provided regarding all grading and requirements.*

Course Schedule and Reading requirements will be posted on Blackboard.

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 and is available on the BERT website at <http://www.bert.siu.edu/>, Department of Public Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu/ (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines 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.