

Introduction to Sociology
SOC 108-201, Summer 2010 (June 14 – August 6)

Instructor: Nishanth Visagaratnam
Office: Faner 3429
E-mail: nvisagar@siu.edu

Class Location: Lawson 101
Schedule: MTWThrF 9:50 – 10:50AM
Office hrs: TW 11am-2pm and by appointments only

Sociology Main Office: Faner 3384
Sociology Main Office #: 618-453-2494

The best way to contact the Instructor is by email: nvisagar@siu.edu

Overview:

In this mixed format class involving lectures, videos, 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 perspectives (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:

1. Schaefer, R. *Sociology Matters*, 4th edition. McGraw Hill.
This book is concise, affordable, and the basics of sociology are covered. In addition, the publisher of this book offers great online resources for students to check their knowledge of sociology, and it is interactive (games and crossword puzzles).
2. Calculator (one that can do simple addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication, such as a TI-30X)

Course and University Policies:

1. Make up examinations may consist of all essay questions or an alternate set of multiple-choice questions. The exam will be given only to students with excused absences and who notifies the Instructor prior to the examination. Attend all classes; “in class activity” points may not be made up for unexcused absence.

2. 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.

3) Classroom Behavior:

- **The Instructor reserves the right to report and remove students who engage in disruptive and disrespectful behaviors.**
- Be on time to class
- NO USE OF CELL PHONES OR LAPTOPS/COMPUTERS
 - turn off cell phones (unless you are on call then you must inform the Instructor first)
 - You may NOT use laptops or other forms of computer(s) to take notes in class
 - The Instructor holds the right to take away cell phones or laptops/computer devices if a student uses it/them during lecture or examination period
- 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 an excused reason (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).
- Respect the Instructor/professor. If you disagree with how the class is run, speak to the Instructor/Professor one-on-one.

4) Reasonable accommodations will be available to students with disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must contact the SIU Disability Support Services (DSS) and then submit to me written documentation of the disability and necessary accommodations by the second week of the semester.

5) 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 professor (e.g., send an email to set up an appointment, speak to the professor during office hours or after class).

6) Grading of the exam is purely objective. Exams usually consists of multiple choice, true/false, or matching but this format may change per the Instructor. Grading of 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.

Grade scale:

90% or more = A

80% - 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

59% or less = F

The total possible points for this class are 500; however, the total points may change depending on the number of exams, homework, and assignments completed during the semester.

7) 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.

8) 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 campus Dawg Tag (siu123456789) and your password.

9) 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 PRIOR to the events so you may make up the exams, in-class assignments, and homework. Final exam may not be made up.

Class attendance

Class attendance is required! Excused absences require documentation of personal illness, family emergency, or other unforeseen circumstance, and is left up to the discretion of the Instructor. If a student is absent due to school events (athletics, band, conference), it is the responsibility of the student to inform and provide proper documentation ahead of the event. If you have an excused absence on an exam day or a day when an assignment is due, contact the Instructor via email (nvisagar@siu.edu) for make-up assignment or exam. It is best to always let the Instructor know ahead of time when you will be absent

and provide documentation for an excused absence. Furthermore, it is the student's responsibility to sign in on the attendance sheet. Students who have signed in on the attendance sheet but leave early without the Instructor's consent will get an unexcused absence for that day.

Three exams:

- Exam 1 (100 points)
- Exam 2 (100 points)
- Exam 3 (100 points) – Final Exam

Homework exercises:

Instructions will be distributed in class. Students must complete three homework exercises for a maximum of 30 points.

In class activity:

There are three - six **unannounced** in-class activities for a total of 60 points (if you are absent or late, the work may NOT be made up without an approved excuse). If you complete an in-class assignment and then "skip" out on class that same day (fail to stay for the entire class period), you will NOT receive any credit for the in-class assignment.

Details

Exams: There will be three exams (300 points total). Examination questions are multiple choices, true/false, 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 four 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 four homework exercises (30 points total). Instructions will be provided in class for each exercise and the homework may be found on Blackboard. 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: There may be three-six **unannounced** in-class activities provided throughout the semester for 60 total points. 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. In-class activities may NOT be made up without an Instructor-approved excuse.

Students are advised to attend all classes and participant in class and group discussions. If you have any questions, interest, problems with the course material or the class, come to the 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 the last minute. Check blackboard for any updates on the class, assignments, changes, class cancellations, and track your performance, etc.

Tentative Schedule

*Instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as needed
Homework and in-class assignments will be announced in class*

Week 1: *The Sociological View*

Syllabus (10 points)

Introduction to sociology & Chapter 1

What is sociology?

The development of sociology

Introduction to major theoretical perspectives

The Sociological View & Culture

Chapter 1:

Major theoretical perspectives

What is the scientific method?

Major research design

Ethics of research

Applied and clinical sociology

Week 2: *Culture and Socialization*

Chapter 2:

Development of culture around the world

Elements of culture

Cultural variations

Social Interaction, Groups, & Social Structure

Role of socialization

Self and socialization

Agents of socialization

Chapter 3:

Elements of social structure

Social structure in global perspective

Understanding organizations

Exam I Review

Week 3: *Deviant and Social Control*

EXAM I

Chapter 4:

Social control

What is deviance?

Explaining deviance via sociological perspectives

Crime and deviance

Week 4: *Stratification in the United States and Global Inequality [02/22 – 02/26]*

Chapter 5:

What is stratification?

Stratification by social class

Social mobility

Global inequality

Chapter 6:

Social construction of race and ethnicity

Explaining race and ethnicity via sociological perspectives

Immigration and new ethnic groups

Prejudice and discrimination

Week 5: *Inequality by Gender*

Chapter 7:

Social construction of gender
Explaining gender via sociological perspectives
Sexism, sex discrimination, sexual harassment
Women in the workforce (United States)

Social Institutions- Family and Religion

Chapter 8:

Social Institutions
Understanding social institutions via sociological perspectives
Sociological perspectives
Religion as an institutions and components of religion

Exam II Review

Week 6: *Social Institutions: Education, Government, & the Economy*

EXAM II TEST

Chapter 9:

Education as an institution
Sociological perspectives on education
Schools as formal organizations
Government: authority & power
Types of economic systems

Population, Community, Health, and the Environment

Chapter 10:

Elements of demography
How did communities originate?
Urbanization and its consequences
Social epidemiology
Human ecology & environmental issues
Exam III Review

Week 7: *Social Movements, Social Change, & Technology*

Chapter 11:

Social movements
Theories of social change
Resistance to social change
Technology
Brief intro to feminist literature
Brief intro to feminist methods

Week 8: *Create a society*

Biological & biochemical theories
Globalization
Human trafficking
Review for Final Exam (EXAM III)
Exam III: Thursday, August 5, 2010, from 12PM – 1:50PM in Lawson 101.

The time, date, and location may change; so, it is the student's responsibility to check on the date, time, and location of the final exam the week of finals (exam) week. SIUC Final Exam Calendar

Website: <http://registrar.siu.edu/records/exam.htm>

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I, _____ (print your first and last name), have carefully read through the syllabus and I understand the rules and terms of this class (Introduction to Sociology- Summer 2010 at SIUC; Instructor: Nishanth Visagaratnam).

Student's Signature

/ /2010
Date