

Introduction to Sociology SOC 108-Section 1
Jerald Schrimsher
Parkinson 124
MWF 9-9:50

Instructor contact information

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Office Hours: MWF 10-12 and by appointment.

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 4th 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.)

Course Requirements

Attendance (5 points) Attendance is very important. This is designed as a lecture/discussion class, and without being here you do not have either part. It is very important that you be here as much as possible. It is important that you contact me if you will not be attending class for an extended period, so that we can make alternate plans for you to receive the material. One point will be deducted from your final grade for every two classes you miss throughout the semester, up to five points.

It is also important that you arrive on time to class. Coming in late is disruptive to me and to others in the class. You may also miss important information by coming in late. You have five minutes after the start of class time to get into the room, and arrange yourself appropriately to start listening, taking notes, etc. If there is a pattern of tardiness, I will consider marking frequently late students absent for the day. If there is a valid reason you will regularly be late, make sure you tell me before it becomes a problem for either of us. Make sure you have the appropriate materials available to you (pens, pencils, paper, or anything else you need) when you come to class, and use them.

Testing (75 points) There will be five tests given during the semester. Tests are designed to demonstrate your understanding of the material presented in class and in assigned readings. Tests will consist of fill in the blank questions and occasional short answer questions.

If you know in advance that you cannot be here on the day of the test, please let me know ahead of time, and we can arrange for you to take it early. If you miss a test, make ups should be arranged and taken within three days. Makeup exams are allowed only if you have a written, excused absence approved by me. Any test not taken will result in a grade of zero. **There is no comprehensive final.** (You are welcome.)

Assignments (10 points) There will be four assignments over the course of the semester. Each will involve reading a selected article and writing a two page summary of the information presented in the article, which should demonstrate your understanding of these concepts. 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, and will demonstrate the ways sociological research is done, and the types of information gathered. Each assignment will be due on the day of the test. No late papers will be accepted, if you cannot make it in to take the test, you can email the assignment. If you have an excused absence from the University, you will be allowed to turn in the assignment the day you return. These written assignments must be typed, using standard fonts and margins. Any paper not conforming to these guidelines will be reduced by .5 points

Software compatibility note: I only have the capability to open MS Word (.doc or .docx), MS Works (.wps) files, RTF files (.rtf), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) or plain text (.txt). I prefer physical copies of assignments. I will accept emailed copies in the previous formats. Any files sent in other formats will be sent back to you. If you are sending an assignment that is due soon, please make sure you are sending a file I can open. I have not received your work until I have received a file I can open. You must be in class to take a quiz, if you have a University excused absence you must make arrangements to take the quiz before the quiz is given.

Quizzes (10 points) There will be ten quizzes throughout the semester. If there is not an exam given that week, there will be a quiz or some other in-class assignment to take the place of the quiz. These are designed to assess your understanding of the material before the test, to show both of us if there may be a need to go over information again, either individually or as a class.

Grading (100 points possible)

Test 1- 10 points

Test 2- 15 points

Test 3- 15 points

Test 4- 15 points

Test 5- 20 points

Quizzes- 10 points (1 each)

Assignment 1- 2 points

Assignment 2- 2.5 points

Assignment 3- 2.5 points

Assignment 4- 3 points

Attendance- 5 points

Participation This class is intended to provide time for students to ask questions, and discuss the topics that come up in the class. However, if students do not talk, I will. Anything I talk about is testable.

Discussion topics should be related (at least in the beginning) to ideas we are studying in class.

While discussion can involve sensitive topics, everyone should be respectful of the opinions of others in the class, even if they are the opposite of your own. While these topics can be controversial, I do not intend to offend anyone with anything I say. If I do, please tell me as soon as possible.

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, but 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, and it will be considered an unexcused absence. 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. Dishonest 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. If you refuse, the matter will be reported to the Judicial Board for further examination. 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, Department of Safety's website 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 based on the needs of the Students or the Instructor. All changes will be announced in class as soon as they are made final.