

Introduction to Sociology
SOC 108, Spring 2009, Section 05

Instructor: Nishanth Visagaratnam
Office: Faner 3429
E-mail: nvisagar@siu.edu
Office phone: 618-453-7621

Class Location: Lawson 121
Schedule: M,W,F 12 PM – 12:50PM
Office hrs: M, T 9 AM – 12 PM
and by appointment

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, the sociology department expects 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, and the state)
- b) summarize theoretical and explanatory arguments in sociology
- c) apply these arguments to contemporary events or personal experience
- d) display knowledge of cultural, class, religious, and other differences within and between societies
- e) develop an understanding of the methods that sociologies 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*, 4rd edition. McGraw Hill.
This book is concise, affordable, and the basics of sociology are covered as well. 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. Annual Editions. *Sociology 08/09*. McGraw Hill.
3. Readings on E-reserve
4. Calculator (one that can do simple addition, subtraction, percentage, 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 me prior to the examination. Attend all classes; absence will make it hard to earn “in class activity” points.

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: Please be on time, turn off cell phones (unless you are on call then change setting to vibrate), and do not engage in distracting and disrespectful behavior such as chatting, sleeping, leaving early, newspaper reading, and 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; however, exercises in class may NOT be made up. The instructor reserves the right to report and remove students who continually engage in such behaviors.

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, and statements; show general signs of disrespect for the course, professor 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. 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: 380
90% or more (341 – 380) = A
80% - 89% (303 – 340) = B
70% - 79% (266 – 302) = C
60% - 69% (227 – 265) = D
59% or less (226 or less) = F

7) The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus if necessary (e.g., due to cancellation of class). There are no opportunities for extra credit.

8) Blackboard:

Grades, assignments, and other class related materials will be posted on Blackboard. You may access the Blackboard by going to mycourses.siu.edu and type in your campus network ID and the 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 so you may make up either exams and homeworks.

Three exams:

- Exam 1 (100 points) covering weeks 1 – 6
- Exam 2 (90 points) covering weeks 7 – 11
- Exam 3 (90 points) covering weeks 12 – 16

Homework exercises:

Instructions will be distributed in class. Students must complete four homework exercises for a maximum of 40 points.

In class activity:

Students must complete 6 out of 7 unannounced in-class activities for a total of 60 points (if you are absent or late, the work may NOT be made up).

Details:

Exams: There will be three exams (280 points total that is about 73.7% of the total grade). Majority of the examination questions will be multiple choice with 2 – 4 short answers and/or essay type questions. 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 as well as 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.

Homework exercises: Students must complete four homework exercises (40 points total that is about 10.5% of the total grade). 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: Students must complete six out of seven unannounced in-class activities provided throughout the semester for 60 total points (about 15.8% of the total grade). 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.

Students must attend all classes and participant in class and group discussions. If you have any questions, interest, problems with the course material, come to the office hours or make an appointment with the instructor. Check blackboard for any updates on the class, assignments, changes, and track your performance, etc.

In-class activities may not be made up, homework may be turned in late with penalty points. If you are going to miss class due to school related event, you must let the instructor know ahead of time so that exams and homework may be made up.

Tentative schedule:

Instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as needed

Week 1: *The Sociological View*

01/12: no reading, syllabus, introduction to sociology

01/14: Text: Ch.1 pg. 1 – 8

01/16: Text: Ch. 1 pg 8 – 14

Week 2: *The Sociological View & Culture and Socialization*

01/19: MLK, Jr.'s HOLIDAY

01/21: Text: Ch. 1 pg 14 – 19

01/23: Text: Ch. 1 pg 19 – 26

Week 3:

01/26: Text: Ch. 1 pg 26 – end of Ch. 1

E-reserve: Miner- Body Ritual among the Nacirema

HW1 due

01/28: Text: Ch. 2 pg 35 – 51

01/30: Text: Ch. 2 pg 51 – 61

Week 4:

02/02: Text: Ch. 2 pg 61 – end of Ch. 2

02/04: Text: Ch. 3 pg 71 – 82

02/06: Text: Ch. 3 pg 82 – end of Ch. 3

Week 5:

02/09: Video

02/11: Text: Ch. 4 pg 96 - 114

02/13: Text: Ch. 4 pg 114 – end of Ch. 4

Read from Annual Editions: pg. 37 – 41

Week 6:

02/16: Discussion of Annual Editions Reading

02/18: Continuation of the sociological perspectives on deviance, Video,

HW2 due

02/20: President's Day, Text: Ch. 5 pg 124 – 135, Review for Exam 1

Week 7:

02/23: EXAM 1 (covers weeks 1 – 6)

02/25: Text: Ch. 5 pg 135 – 147

02/27: Text: Ch. 5 pg 148 – end of Ch. 5

Week 8:

03/02: Text: Text: Ch. 6 pg 159 – 168

03/04: Ch. 6 pg 169 – end of Ch. 6

03/06: Text: Ch. 7 pg 183 – 192

Week 9: 03/07/09 – 03/15/09

SPRING VACATION

Week 10:

03/16: Text: Ch. 7 pg 193 – end of Ch. 7

03/18: TBA, Video, **HW 3 due**

03/20: Text: Ch. 8 pg 203 – 211

Week 11:

03/23: Text: Ch. 8 pg 212 – 214, Video

03/25: Text: Ch. 8 pg 215 – 225

03/27: To be announced, Review for Exam 2

Week 12:

03/30: EXAM 2 (covers Weeks 7 – 11)

Read: Annual Editions pg 50 – 71

04/01: Text: Ch. 9 pg 227 – 233, Video, Discuss Annual Editions reading

04/03: Text: Ch. 9 pg 234 – 245

Week 13:

04/06: Text: Ch. 9 pg 246 – end of Ch. 9

04/08: Text: Ch. 10 pg 257 – 264

04/10: Text: Ch. 10 pg 266 – 269

Week 14:

04/13: Text Ch. 10 pg 270 – 274

04/15: Text Ch. 10 pg 276 – 280, **HW4 due**

04/17: Text Ch. 10 pg 281 – end of Ch. 10

Week 15:

04/20: Text Ch. 11 pg 292 – 302

04/22: Continuation of Theories of Social Change

04/24: Video

Week 16:

04/27: Text: Ch. 11 pg 303 – end of Ch. 11, **HW5 due**

Read Annual Editions pg 201 – 218, 222 – 230

04/29: Video, Discussion of Annual Editions reading

05/01: To be announced & Review for Exam 3

Week 17: Final Exam (covers Weeks 12 – 16)

**Exam 3 during finals week: Friday, May 8, 2009 from 10:10 AM – 12:10 PM
in Lawson 121.**