

SOC 108

SYLLABUS INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Rob Benford

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Office Hours: 9:00-11:00 Tues., Wed., & Thurs. or by appointment

453-7610

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the discipline of sociology. Sociology explores some of the ways social scientists explain human behavior. In contrast to psychology, sociology shows how the structure and collective experience of groups influence how people live. Among characteristic questions are: Why are some people wealthy and others poor, and how does this impact their lives and views of one another? How are adult roles developed, and how are children brought up to occupy them? Why do conflicts develop between groups within a society, and how can they be managed? Why do societies designate some behavior as “deviant,” and how are individuals recruited into deviant patterns of behavior? By grappling with these questions, you should develop an appreciation of differences between groups and of the complexities of social life.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

SOC 108 is a University Core Curriculum Course which counts as a Section II 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.

C. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are expected to attend lectures, read the assigned texts, write one brief paper, complete three exams, participate in class discussions, and complete in-class assignments.

1. Required Text: *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World*, Third Edition, by Robert J. Brym and John Lie. 2007. Thompson/Wadsworth.
2. Optional Text: *Study Guide for Your Compass for a New World*, 3E, Judith Pintar.
3. Reading Assignments: The lectures, class exercises, and readings are organized so as to complement and supplement each other. You are therefore expected to remain current with the reading schedule (see p. 3) in order to gain maximum benefit from the lectures.
4. Attendance: Attendance is required. Experience has proven that students who

regularly miss class do poorly on the exams and in the course. Exams, in-class exercises, and other graded activities cannot be made up without a written excuse from a qualified professional or, in the case of absence due to participation in a university-approved activity, a completed and signed Undergraduate Student Absence Form.

5. Exams: There will be three in-class exams during the semester. They will consist of a mixture of multiple choice and true-false questions. The exams will include material from lectures and the assigned readings. Each exam will be equally weighted (worth 100 points each). The third exam will *not* be comprehensive.

6. Writing Assignments: There will be one short (3-4 pages) paper worth 100 points.

E. GRADING AND POLICIES

1. Final Grades: Sixty percent of your final grade in the course (300 points) is based on three equally weighted, in-class examinations. Each exam is worth 100 points. An additional 100 points can be earned from in-class exercises and sustained, quality participation in the class. Finally, up to 100 points can be earned from the writing assignment. Final grades are determined by combining the points earned from exams, the writing assignment, and the in-class activities, and referring to the following scale:

Standardized Scores	Final Grade
450 - 500	A
400 - 449	B
350 - 399	C
300 - 349	D
0 - 299	F

2. Make-Up/Late Policy: Grades on papers and assignments will be reduced by 10% per calendar day you submit them late. Make-up exams and make-up assignments are allowed only if you have a written, excused absence approved by Professor Benford. Make-up exams must be scheduled within two days of the originally scheduled exam. It is your responsibility to arrange a make-up exam in a timely fashion. If you fail to make up the exam, I will record a grade of "0" for that exam. All make-up exams will be essays.

3. Cheating: All SIUC policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be upheld in this course. A grade of "0" will be recorded for all works in which you were found to have been involved in any acts of academic dishonesty. If you are not familiar with the definitions and consequences of cheating or with your rights, refer to your *Student Conduct Code*, see an academic advisor, or ask me.

4. Grade Appeals: Any student who believes that she or he has been graded unfairly may appeal that grade following standard university procedures. Certain procedural rights are guaranteed to all students charged with academic dishonesty who are subject to disciplinary action. These rights are outlined in the *Student Conduct Code*.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>
I. CORE CONCEPTS		
May 15	None!	Alternative Explanations for Human Behavior
" 16	Chs. 1 & 2	The Sociological Perspective & Doing Sociology
" 17	Ch. 3	Culture
" 18	Ch. 4	Socialization
May 19***** FIRST EXAM *****		
II. SOCIAL DIFFERENTIATION AND INEQUALITY		
" 19	None!	Video: TBA
" 22	Ch. 7	Deviance, Crime & Social Control
" 23	Ch. 8	Stratification & Life Chances
" 24	Ch. 9	Poverty & Welfare; <i>Household Budget Exercise (In-Class)</i>
" 25	Ch. 10	Racial & Ethnic Stratification
" 26	Ch. 11	Gender Stratification
May 30***** SECOND EXAM *****		
III. SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS		
May 30	None!	Video: <i>Still Killing Us Softly</i>
" 31	Ch. 15	Marriage Practices & Families; Coupling & Decoupling
June 1	Ch. 14 & 13	Polity & Economy
" 2	None!	War & Peace [Paper Due]
IV. SOCIAL CHANGE		
" 5	None!	<i>Create a Society (In-Class Group Exercise)</i>
" 6	Ch. 20 (pp. 578-589)	Population
" 7	Chs. 22 & 21	Environment & Social Movements
" 8	None!	Terrorism; Course Evaluation
June 9***** THIRD EXAM *****		