

# Introduction to Sociology

**Course:** SOC 108 **Section:** 201

**Session:** Summer 2006

**Place:** Lawson 221

**Time:** Monday thru Friday 9:50 AM to 10:50 AM

**Instructor:** *Tim Clark*

**Office:** 3431 Faner Hall

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday 11AM to 1 PM; Tuesday and Friday 11AM to Noon; or by appointment.

**Office Phone:** (618) 453-7628

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Please stop by my office hours or set up another time to come talk. I enjoy talking with students. My best days to meet are Mondays and Wednesdays but I am also available on Tuesdays or Thursdays when my research does not take me off campus.

## Required Texts:

- James M. Henslin's 2006. *Core Concepts: Sociology, A Down-to-Earth Approach*. Allyn & Bacon. ISBN: 0-205-45762-2
- James M. Henslin's 2006. *Society: Readings to Accompany Core Concepts: Sociology, A Down-to-Earth Approach*. Allyn & Bacon. ISBN: 0-205-46844
- *One non-scholarly book of your choice* that takes place in another society (This may be science fiction, fantasy fiction, a historical novel; a romance novel, horror, or mystery taking place in another land, etc. From this you will develop your *Summer Reading Sociological Analysis Paper*. You should start reading this early in the semester as it will serve as a point of discussion throughout the course.

I have arranged for these textbooks are available for purchase at the University Bookstore in the student union, and at most local bookstores that sell textbooks. The recent publish date insures you that latest insights in our society.

## Course Description

Sociology 108 explores some of the ways in which social scientists explain human behavior. In contrast to psychology, for example, sociology shows how social processes and structures and the collective experience of groups shape how people live, think, and believe. In contrast to journalism, to give another example, sociology uses the methods of science to ask and answer questions about the nature of social life. Among some of the characteristic questions to be answered are: What makes some people wealthy and some poor, and how does this mold peoples' lives and views of one another? How are adult roles developed, and how are children brought up to occupy them? In what way do conflicts develop between societies or groups within a society and in what ways are these conflicts managed? How do societies come to designate some behavior as "deviant," and what are the consequences of these deviant designations? By grappling with questions such as these, students should develop an appreciation for the differences between groups and an appreciation for the complexities of social life.

### **Course Objectives**

The objectives of this course are to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of basic sociological concepts about social processes and social institutions
2. understand theoretical or explanatory arguments in sociology
3. apply these arguments to contemporary events or personal experience
4. display knowledge of cultural, class, religious, and other difference within and between societies.

### **Course Format**

The class will be based primarily on a guided discussion of the assigned readings and working through a variety of assignments on your own time. Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate in the discussion; therefore, it is very important that you keep up with your readings in a timely manner. As your exams are based partly on your readings, it is to your disadvantage to consider the readings optional. Also, at times, students will be expected to participate in small group or class activities that focus on reading, or other impromptu activities.

#### **Grading:**

<i>Exam I</i>	20 percent
<i>Exam II</i>	25 percent
<i>Exam III</i>	25 percent
<i>Participation</i>	10 percent
<i>Quizzes (6 quizzes worth 2 points each: drop lowest score)</i>	10 percent
<i>Summer Reading Sociological Analysis Paper</i>	10 percent
Total	<hr/> 100 percent

#### **Grade Distribution:**

90%-100% = A  
80%-89.9% = B  
70%-79.9% = C  
60%-69.9% = D  
less than 60% = F

**Attendance:**

While no formal attendance will be taken in the course during the course of the semester, your attendance is required and will be monitored through the course participation requirement. You will not be allowed to be absent on days of exams (see makeup exams section below). No excuses are necessary or accepted. For authorized university activities (i.e., official field trips, representing this university in athletic and collegiate events), it is necessary to provide the instructor with a copy of official university correspondence as far before the event as possible. The instructor will not be able to provide you with material covered on the days you were absent. No makeup quizzes are possible.

**Participation:**

One of the keys to understanding race relation in the United States is to open up dialogue about our experiences and thoughts on difference in our society and to go beyond both bigotry and political correctness. In order to begin this process you are required to actively participate in discussion in this course. Throughout the course, you are required to participate at least fifteen times (.75 each time). You may only receive points for participation once in a class period, but you are encouraged to speak up well beyond this (but remember to give others a chance to speak).

You can get credit for participation in two ways:

- 1) First, you can make a verbal comment to the class about a topic under discussion. You receive credit for this by placing your name on a piece of paper and placing it into the green bucket.
- 2) A second way that you can receive credit is by turning in one typed or neatly printed note without your name on it to the instructor that asks a question or makes a comment to the class about the readings. At the same time, place your name on a piece of paper and place it into the green bucket. The instructor may read the question during the sometime during the discussion in order to facilitate discussion.

**Quizzes:**

In order to further motivate you to keep up with the assigned readings, there will be a series of (six) quizzes to test reading comprehension. The lowest quiz scores will be dropped. If you miss a quiz, you will receive a score of zero for that quiz. These quizzes will be in a short answer format and test understanding of materials, plot lines, and concepts introduced in the text. Questions for these quizzes will be draw from the class' or the previous class's required readings. No makeup quizzes are possible.

**Summer Reading Sociological Analysis Paper:**

A short (4 to 6) page paper is due by the end of the seventh week. For this paper you analyze another society as found in the non-scholarly book that you have chosen to do as your summer read. For this analysis you will apply four sociological concepts or theories and provide detailed examples of each in the form of direct quotes from the book you have chosen to read.

**Exams:**

You will be tested on material from class lecture, discussion, and reading through four examinations. These exams will consist of short answer and multiple choice questions. You will receive a score of zero on any missed exam. You may also choose to take an exam in an essay format. Arrangements should be made with the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled exam.

**Makeup Exams:**

Only under extraordinary circumstances will makeup exams be allowed (e.g., documented serious illness, documented family emergency, or death). It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor within 24 hours of a missed exam to schedule a makeup exam. Otherwise, a score of zero will be earned on the exam. All makeup exams will be in an essay format.

**Extra Credit:**

No extra credit will be given in this course. Spend your energy attending class, readings, and working hard on the class assignments. Don't waste your time thinking about extra credit.

**Incompletes:**

No incompletes will be given for this course except under extreme circumstances (i.e., documented chronic illness).

**Course Schedule:**

	<u>Class Title</u>	<u>Read for this Day &amp; Assignments Due</u>
<b><u>Week 1:</u></b>		
Monday, June 12	Introduction to Course	-----
Tuesday, June 13	The Sociological Perspective	<i>Invitation to Sociology</i>
Wednesday, June 14	The Science of Sociology	Chapter 1
Thursday, June 15	Sociological Methods	<i>The Lives of Homeless Women</i>
Friday, June 16	Culture	<i>The Fierce People;</i>
<b><u>Week 2:</u></b>		
Monday, June 19	Culture	Chapter 2 Turn –in Title of Your Non-Scholarly Book
Tuesday, June 20	Culture	<i>Body Ritual of the Nacirema</i>
Wednesday, June 21	Socialization	<i>Extreme Isolation</i>
Thursday, June 22	Socialization into Total Institutions	<i>Anybody's Son Will Do</i>
Friday, June 23	Analyzing <u>Full Metal Jacket</u>	
<b><u>Week 3:</u></b>		
Monday, June 26	Socialization	Chapter 3
Tuesday, June 27	Socialization	-----
Wednesday, June 28	Exam I	(Chapters 1-3 & Articles 1-6).
Thursday, June 29	Social Interaction	<i>Streetwise</i>
Friday, June 30	Rituals	<i>The Great American Football Ritual</i>

	<u>Class Title</u>	<u>Read for this Day &amp; Assignments Due</u>
<b><u>Week 4:</u></b>		
Monday, July 3	Reading Day	Have at Least 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> of your Non-Scholarly Book Read.
Tuesday, July 4	NO CLASS <i>Independence Day!</i>	-----
Wednesday, July 5	Social Structure	Chapter 4
Thursday, July 6	Social Structure	-----
Friday, July 7	Societies	<i>Hanging Tongues: A Sociological Encounter with the Assembly Line.</i>
<b><u>Week 5:</u></b>		
Monday, July 10	Societies	Chapter 5
Tuesday, July 11	Social Networks	-----
		Wednesday, July 12
		Criminal Networks
Thursday, July 13	Norms	<i>Just Another Routine Emergency</i>
Friday, July 14		Have 2/3rds of Non-scholarly Book Read.
<b><u>Week 6:</u></b>		
Monday, June 17	Deviance	Chapter 6
Tuesday, July 18	Social Control	<i>Outlaw Motorcyclists</i>
Wednesday, July 19	Deviance & Social Control	<i>Becoming a Prostitute</i>
Thursday, July 20	Exam II	(Chapters 4-6: Articles 7-9)
Friday, July 21	Workshopping your Class Writing Assignment	Have Your Non-Scholarly Book Read by Today.
		<i>The U.S. Upper Class.</i>
<b><u>Week 7:</u></b>		
Monday, July 24	Social Stratification	Chapter 7
Tuesday, July 25	Social Stratification	<i>The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All</i>
Wednesday, July 26	Sex & Gender	<i>'But What Do You Mean?'</i> <i>Women and Men in Conversation</i>
Thursday, July 27	Sex & Gender	Chapter 8
Friday, July 28	Sex & Gender	<i>Summer Reading Sociological Analysis Paper Due Today!</i>

	<u>Class Title</u>	<u>Read for this Day &amp; Assignments Due</u>
<b><u>Week 8:</u></b>		
Monday, July 31	Race & Ethnicity	Chapter 9
Tuesday, August 1	Race & Ethnicity	<i>Invisible Man; Good People and Dirty Work.</i>
Wednesday, August 2	The Family	<i>When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work; The Transformation of Family Life</i>
Thursday, August 3	The Family	Chapter 10
Friday, August 4	FINAL EXAM	(Chapters 7-10, Articles 10-20)