

SOCIOLOGY 108: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Fall 2008: Sections 1-8

Lecture:	Monday & Wednesday; 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.
Lecture location:	Lawson 141
Discussion:	Friday; (times & locations vary)
Professor:	Dr. Derek Christopher Martin
Office:	Faner 3424
Telephone:	(618) 453-7627
Email:	dmartin@siu.edu
Web:	www.siu.edu/~socio/Martin.htm
Office Hours:	M: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. W: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., and by appointment
TAs:	Duretta Johnson, djohns73@siu.edu ; Luke Norris, lukes76@siu.edu ; & Mehrad Sayyar, bsayyar@siu.edu

Core Curriculum Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students 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.

Course Content and Requirements:

This course is designed to accomplish the above four objectives, and to help you understand how society is created, sustained, and changed. Ideally, you will also learn to see the interconnections between individuals and society, and to think logically and critically about the world around you. There will be three meetings each week, two lectures (M & W), plus one discussion section (F). You are expected to attend all scheduled meetings (lectures & discussions), and you are expected to read all course materials.

Grading Criteria:

Your final course grade will be determined based on the following criteria:

Examination 1	16%
Examination 2	18%
Examination 3	18%
Final Examination	18%
Discussion Section	30%

Students who earn 90% or more of the points will earn an “A.”

Students who earn 80% to 89% of the points will earn a “B.”

Students who earn 70% to 79% of the points will earn a “C.”

Students who earn 62% to 69% of the points will earn a “D.”
Students who fail to earn at least 62% of the points will earn an “F.”
I do not believe in giving extra credit, so do not even bother to ask.

In the event that it becomes necessary to implement a “curved” grading system, the following percentages will be utilized:

Students in the top 15% of the class will earn an “A.”
The next 21% of the class will earn a “B.”
The next 28% of the class will earn a “C.”
The next 21% of the class will earn a “D.”
The bottom 15% of the class will earn an “F.”

Examinations:

The examinations will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The exams will **NOT** be cumulative, although the continued understanding of certain key concepts will be necessary throughout the semester. Exams **MUST** be taken on the scheduled day; there will be **NO** make-up exams.

Discussion Sections:

Discussion sections are an important part of this course and attendance is mandatory. Beyond simply attending, however, you are also expected to participate in discussions. Class participation includes reading the course materials (**before class begins!**) and asking questions or making comments. When relevant, students are encouraged to enrich class discussions by bringing in current events, accounts from personal experiences, or other appropriate material from outside the class. Additionally, students are required to attend **ONE** approved campus event during the semester. The days, times, and topics of such events (public talks, forums, or lectures) will be announced as they are scheduled. Finally, you must complete three (3) written assignments which will count as part of your discussion grade:

Assignment 1	2-3 pp. (due t.b.a)
Assignment 2	2-3 pp. (due 9/12)
Assignment 3	6 pp. (due 10/31)

Assignments will be graded on both their content and their form, therefore you should incorporate applicable subject matter from the course **AND** your writing should be clear, coherent, logical, and free of grammatical mistakes. All assignments should be typed, double-spaced, and proofread thoroughly. Assignments will be turned in during discussion sections, but students also **MUST** submit an electronic copy to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com). Late assignments will not be accepted, except in the case of a documented illness or emergency.

Note for History-Education Students:

Your work will be assessed as part of the accreditation review for the National Council for the Social Sciences. This course will explore and analyze a number of issues you will impart to your future high school students, including: how role, status, and social class impact interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions; the form, function, and evolution of institutions, their relationships, and how they influence people, events, and culture; how groups and institutions aim to meet individual needs and promote the common good, but create tensions between social conformity and expressions of individuality; how behavioral sciences can be applied to the examination of social problems.

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 and is available on the BERT website at www.siu.edu/emergency/bert.html, Department of Public Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu/ (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines 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.

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Statement:

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of this course are encouraged to bring this to the attention of your TA as soon as possible. Written documentation of the disability should be submitted during the first week of the semester along with a request for special accommodations. Contact the SIU Disability Support Services (DSS) to facilitate requests:

Woody Hall B-150, Carbondale, IL 62901, Mail Code: 4705

DSSsiu@siu.edu Ph: (618) 453-5738 Fax: (618) 453-5700 TTY: (618) 453-2293

Acknowledging Differences:

During the semester students will have the opportunity to share thoughts, opinions, and beliefs about their life experiences. The differences in these perspectives that each student brings to the discussion will add to the richness of this course. Students should communicate in ways that acknowledge and respect such differences. While it is natural and expected that many of us will have differing opinions, we must always respect our fellow students in the class and the opinions they hold. I expect and **encourage** students to be critical of each other's ideas, but it is **UNACCEPTABLE** to be dismissive of and/or combative with other students in the class.

Classroom Decorum:

I have an obligation to maintain a classroom environment that allows each student to learn to the best of his or her capabilities. While I encourage students to ask questions and make comments in class, I will not tolerate or permit behavior that is disruptive, distracting, or demeaning. Actions that violate these norms will be treated seriously— after one warning you will be asked to leave. Also, if your cell phone must be on for medical, child care, or other reasons, please set it to silent or vibrate.

Ethical 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 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. Dishonesty 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. If you are in doubt or have questions regarding behavior that may constitute academic dishonesty, please consult with me or refer to the SIU Handbook. <http://www.siu.edu/~policies/policies/conduct.html>

Course Materials:

[HEN] = Henslin, James. *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach; Core Concepts* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.

[LIES] = Loewen, James W. 2007. *Lies My Teacher Told Me (Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong)*. New York, NY: Touchstone.

[RES] = Articles available through the library's on-line reserve system

TOPICS & READINGS

WEEK 1: Introduction

8/18 What is Sociology? What can it do for me?

8/20 The Sociological Perspective

Readings

Chapter 1: "The Sociological Perspective" [HEN, pp. 2-35]

"Introduction: Something Has Gone Very Wrong" [LIES, pp. 1-9]

WEEK 2: Doing social research

8/25 Sociological methods

Readings

"The Promise," from *The Practical Skeptic* [RES]

Chapter 1: "Handicapped by History: the Process of Hero-Making" [LIES, pp. 11-30]

8/27 More sociological methods

Assignment II [DUE 9/12, in section]

WEEK 3: Eeeewww! That is so . . . nasty, gross, disgusting, weird, and/or stupid!

9/1 **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY! [NO CLASS]**

9/3 What is culture?

Readings

Chapter 2: "Culture" [HEN, pp. 36-63]

Chapter 2: "1493 – The True Importance of Christopher Columbus" [LIES, pp. 31-69]

WEEK 4: Not nasty, gross, disgusting, weird, and/or stupid . . . just different

9/8 More culture

Reading

Chapter 3: "The Truth about the First Thanksgiving" [LIES, pp. 70-92]

9/10 Even more culture

Readings

"Body Ritual among the Nacirema," from *Society* [RES]

"India's Sacred Cow," from *Sociological Footprints* [RES]

WEEK 5: Socialization . . . the 5th most powerful force in the world

9/15 **EXAM 1**

9/17 What is human nature?

Readings

Chapter 3: "Socialization" [HEN, pp. 64-95]

Chapter 4: "Red Eyes" [LIES, pp. 93-134]

WEEK 6: Socialization and social structure

9/22 Agents of socialization

Readings

"Code of the Streets," from *The Practical Skeptic* [RES]

"Anybody's Son Will Do," from *Society* [RES]

9/24 Social structure

Readings

Chapter 4: "Social Structure and Social Interaction" [HEN, pp. 96-125]

Chapter 5: "Gone with the Wind" [LIES, pp. 135-171]

WEEK 7: Social Interaction

9/29 Social institutions

Reading

"Meanwhile Backstage: Behavior in Public Bathrooms," from *Sociological Odyssey* [RES]

10/1 Societies and their transformation

Readings

Chapter 5: "Societies to Social Networks" [HEN, pp. 126-151]

Chapter 6: "John Brown and Abraham Lincoln" [LIES, pp. 172-203]

WEEK 8: Societies to Social Networks

10/6 Group dynamics

Reading

"McDonaldization of Society," from *Sociological Footprints* [RES]

10/8 **EXAM 2**

WEEK 9: Race and Ethnicity

10/13 What is race? What is ethnicity?

Readings

Chapter 9: "Race and Ethnicity" [HEN, pp. 260-297]

"Racial Formations," from *Sociological Footprints* [RES]

10/15 Status cues and stereotypes

Readings

Chapter 8: "Watching Big Brother" [LIES, pp. 219-243]

"Should We Generalize about People?," from *Ten Questions* [RES]

Assignment III [DUE 11/31, in section]

WEEK 10: Sex and Gender

10/20 Issues of sex and gender

Reading

Chapter 8: "Sex and Gender" [HEN, pp. 226-259]

10/22 Gender inequality

Readings

Chapter 9: "See No Evil" [LIES, pp. 244-258]

"Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture: Why are Some Fraternities More Dangerous Places for Women?," from *The Practical Skeptic* [RES]

WEEK 11: Deviance and Social Control

10/27 What is deviance?

Reading

Chapter 6: "Deviance and Social Control" [HEN, pp. 152-183]

10/29 Social control

Readings

"On Being Sane in Insane Places," from *The Practical Skeptic* [RES]

Chapter 10: "Down the Memory Hole" [LIES, pp. 259-279]

WEEK 12: Social Stratification

11/3 **EXAM 3**

11/5 What is stratification?

Readings

Chapter 7: "Social Stratification" [HEN, pp. 184-225]

Chapter 7: "The Land of Opportunity" [LIES, pp. 204-218]

WEEK 13: More Social Stratification

11/10 Social class

Reading

“The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All,” from *Society* [RES]

11/12 Social mobility

Reading

Chapter 11: “Progress is Our Most Important Product” [LIES, pp. 280-300]

WEEK 14: Marriage and Family

11/17 Love, marriage, and family

Reading

Chapter 10: “Marriage and Family” [HEN, pp. 298-335]

11/19 Family in transition

Readings

Chapter 12: “Why is History Taught like This?” [LIES, pp. 301-339]

“Family in Transition,” from *Sociological Footprints* [RES]

11/22 – 11/30 THANKSGIVING BREAK! [NO CLASS]

WEEK 15: Religion

12/1 What is religion?

Reading

E-chapter: “Religion” [HEN]

12/3 The Evolution of Faith

Readings

Chapter 13: “The Result of Teaching History like This?” & “Afterword” [LIES, pp. 340-362]

“Abiding Faith,” from *Sociological Odyssey* [RES]

FINAL EXAM – Wednesday, December 10th, 7:50 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.