

SOCIOLOGY 108: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY Spring 2007: Sections 1-8

Lecture:	Tuesday & Thursday; 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.
Lecture location:	Lawson 141
Discussion:	Thursday; (times & locations vary)
Professor:	Derek Christopher Martin
Office:	Faner 3423
Telephone:	(618) 453-7623
Email:	dmartin@siu.edu
Web:	www.siu.edu/~socio/Martin.htm
Office Hours:	T: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., TH: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., and by appointment
TAs:	Tenika Pulley, tspulley@siu.edu ; Margaret Cooper, macooper@siu.edu ; & Mohammed Zanoun, hamhis4@siu.edu

Core Curriculum Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: (1) demonstrate knowledge of basic sociological concepts about social processes (e.g., socialization, deviance, social control, and stratification by class, gender, and race) and institutions (e.g., the family, religion, and the state); (2) summarize theoretical or explanatory arguments in sociology; (3) apply these arguments to contemporary events and/or personal experiences; and (4) 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 (T & Th), 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.

Examinations:

The examinations will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, although I may include one or more essay/short answer questions as needed. The exams will **NOT** be cumulative, although an 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, there are also 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 2/8)
Assignment 3	6 pp. (due 4/12)

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. Late assignments will not be accepted, except in the case of a documented illness or emergency.

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.

Ethical Conduct:

I have a nasty, zero-tolerance attitude toward cheating. All cases of academic dishonesty will be pursued vigorously and punished with the most severe sanctions possible. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes cheating and you must abide by the university's academic honesty policies. If you are in doubt or have questions, please consult with me or refer to the SIU Handbook.

http://www.dce.siu.edu/siuconnected_handbook/academic_honesty.htm

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.

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

Course Materials:

[HEN] = Henslin, James. *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach; Core Concepts* (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Companion website: http://wps.ablongman.com/ab_henslin_coreconcepts_2

CourseCompass: <http://www.coursecompass.com/ccindex.html>

[LIES] = Loewen, James W. 1995. *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

WEEK 1: Introduction

1/16 What is Sociology? What can it do for me?

1/18 The Sociological Perspective

Reading

Chapter 1: "The Sociological Perspective" [HEN, pp. 1-33]

WEEK 2: Doing social research

1/23 Sociological theory

Readings

Introduction: "Something Has Gone Very Wrong" [LIES, pp. 11-17]

"The Promise," from *The Practical Skeptic* [RES #14]

1/25 Sociological methods

Assignment II [DUE 2/8, in section]

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

1/30 More sociological methods

2/1 What is culture?

Readings

Chapter 2: "Culture" [HEN, pp. 34-61]

Chapter 1: "Handicapped by History: the Process of Hero-Making" [LIES, pp. 18-36]

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

2/6 More culture

Reading

"India's Sacred Cow," from *Sociological Footprints* [RES #8]

2/8 Even more culture

Readings

Chapter 2: "1493 – The True Importance of Christopher Columbus" [LIES, pp. 37-74]
"Body Ritual among the Nacirema," from *Society* [RES #3]

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

2/13 **EXAM 1**

2/15 What is human nature?

Readings

Chapter 3: "Socialization" [HEN, pp. 62-93]
Chapter 3: "The Truth about the First Thanksgiving" [LIES, pp. 75-97]

WEEK 6: Socialization and social structure

2/20 Agents of socialization

Readings

"Code of the Streets," from *The Practical Skeptic* [Reserve #4]
"Anybody's Son Will Do," from *Society* [Reserve #2]

2/22 Social structure

Readings

Chapter 4: "Social Structure and Social Interaction" [HEN, pp. 94-123]
Chapter 4: "Red Eyes" [LIES, pp. 98-136]

WEEK 7: Social Interaction

2/27 Social institutions

Reading

"Meanwhile Backstage: Behavior in Public Bathrooms," from *Sociological Odyssey* [RES #11]

3/1 Societies and their transformation

Readings

Chapter 5: "Societies to Social Networks" [HEN, pp. 124-151]
Chapter 5: "Gone with the Wind" [LIES, pp. 137-170]

WEEK 8: Societies to Social Networks

3/6 Group dynamics

Reading

"McDonaldization of Society," from *Sociological Footprints* [Reserve #10]

3/8 **EXAM 2**

3/12 – 3/16 **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS!**

WEEK 9: Deviance and Social Control

3/20 What is deviance?

Reading

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

3/22 Social control

Readings

Chapter 6: "John Brown and Abraham Lincoln" [LIES, pp. 171-199]

"On Being Sane in Insane Places," from *The Practical Skeptic* [RES #13]

WEEK 10: Race and Ethnicity

3/27 What is race? Ethnicity?

Reading

Chapter 9: "Race and Ethnicity" [HEN, pp.260-293]

3/29 Status cues and stereotypes

Readings

Chapter 8: "Watching Big Brother" [LIES, pp. 214-237]

"Racial Formations," from *Sociological Footprints* [RES #14]

"Should We Generalize about People?," from *Ten Questions* [RES #16]

Assignment III [DUE 4/12, in section]

WEEK 11: Sex and Gender

4/3 Issues of sex and gender

Reading

Chapter 8: "Sex and Gender" [HEN, pp. 224-257]

4/5 Gender inequality

Readings

Chapter 9: "Down the Memory Hole" [LIES, pp. 238-253]

"Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture: Why are Some Fraternities More Dangerous Places for Women?," from *The Practical Skeptic* [RES #6]

WEEK 12: Social Stratification

4/10 **EXAM 3**

4/12 What is stratification?

Readings

Chapter 7: "Social Stratification" [HEN, pp. 184-223]

Chapter 7: "The Land of Opportunity" [LIES, pp. 200-237]

WEEK 13: More Social Stratification

4/17 Social class

Reading

“The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All,” from *Society* [RES #17]

4/19 Social mobility

Reading

Chapter 10: “Progress is Our Most Important Product” [LIES, pp. 254-270]

WEEK 14: Marriage and Family

4/24 Love, marriage, and family

Reading

Chapter 10: “Marriage and Family” [HEN, pp. 294-329]

4/26 Family in transition

Readings

Chapter 11: “Why is History Taught like This?” [LIES, pp. 271-297]

“Family in Transition,” from *Sociological Footprints* [RES #5]

WEEK 15: Religion

5/1 What is religion?

Reading

E-chapter: “Religion” [HEN]

5/3 The evolution of faith

Readings

Chapter 12: “What is the Result of Teaching History like This?” [LIES, pp. 298-311]

“Abiding Faith,” from *Sociological Odyssey* [RES #1]

FINAL EXAM – Thursday, May 10th, 10:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.