

# SOCIOLOGY 108: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

## Spring 2007

**INSTRUCTOR: Catherine Field**

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SECTION 11

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T & Th, 9:35-10:50, Faner 1326

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**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** Henry L. Tischler, *Introduction to Sociology*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition

**Course Format:** Lecture and discussion. The methods of presentation will include lecture and discussion, and may include videos, chalkboard or overhead projection, and guest lectures

**Course Objectives:** Students will be able to: (a) identify some of the founders of sociology, briefly explain the development of the discipline, and show appreciation for the scientific method; (b) demonstrate knowledge of such basic sociological concepts as *social processes* (e.g., socialization, interaction, status acquisition, acculturation, deviance, social control, and stratification) and *social institutions* (e.g., the family, religion, education, the economy, and the state); (c) summarize three major theoretical perspectives and use them to help explain or predict contemporary social events or personal experience; and (d) display knowledge of cultural, class, religious, and other differences within American society, and begin to make cross-cultural comparisons.

**Course Description:** Sociology 108 explores some of the ways social scientists explain human behavior. Sociology shows how group structure and collective experience influences the way individuals think, feel, and act. Some typical sociological questions to be addressed are: Why are some people wealthy and others poor, and how does this mold their lives and views of one another? How are adult roles developed, and how are children brought up to occupy them? Are race and gender real? Why do conflicts develop between groups within a society, and what happens when they do? In what ways do societies designate some behavior as "deviant," and how do individuals come to fill deviant roles? In grappling with questions such as these, students should develop an appreciation for individual choices, differences between groups, and the complexities of social life.

**Course Requirements:** There will be three exams, of which any may be objective (multiple choice, for example) or subjective (essay) or both. Exams may include material from the textbook as well as from the lecture. There will be no makeup exams except at the discretion of the instructor, and any makeup must be completed within one calendar week of the test date. Additionally, there will be two short papers, due on specific dates, on topics to be assigned.

**Grading:** Each exam will be worth 100 points, each paper will be worth 50 points, attendance and participation will be worth 100 points, for a total of 500 points. The grading scale will be as follows: A=450+, B=400+, C=300+, D=250+.

**Plagiarism:** It is expected that all work submitted by the student (whether papers or tests) is her or his original work. Careful attention must be paid to documenting sources that reflect the writings and ideas of other people. A good style manual such as the *Little Brown Handbook* can help, as can the English Department's Writing Center, which provides free help in developing college writing skills.

Plagiarism of any sort may lead to a zero for a particular grade, or may even result in the failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

1/16	Introduction, Chapter 1: The Sociological Perspective
1/18	Chapter 1 continued
1/23	Chapter 2: Doing Sociology: Research Methods
1/25	Chapter 3: Culture
1/30	Chapter 3 continued
2/1	Chapter 4: Socialization and Development
2/6	Chapter 5: Society and Social Interaction
2/8	<b>Paper 1 due.</b> Chapter 5 continued
2/13	Chapter 6: Social Groups and Organizations
2/15	Chapter 6 continued.
2/20	<b>Exam 1</b>
2/22	Chapter 7: Deviant Behavior and Social Control
2/27	Chapter 7 continued
3/1	Chapter 8: Social Class in the United States
3/6	Chapter 8 continued
3/8	Chapter 10: Racial and Ethnic Minorities
3/20	Chapter 10 continued
3/22	<b>Paper 2 due.</b> Chapter 11: Gender Stratification
3/27	Chapter 11 continued
3/29	<b>Exam 2</b>
4/3	Chapter 12: Marriage & Alternative Family Arrangements
4/5	Chapter 12 continued
4/10	Chapter 13: Religion
4/12	Chapter 13 continued
4/17	Chapter 14: Education
4/19	Chapter 14 continued
4/24	Chapter 15: Political & Economic Systems
4/26	Chapter 15 continued
5/1	Chapter 18: Collective Behavior, Social Movements & Social Change
5/3	TBA

The final exam will follow the university's exam schedule.  
The instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus if the need should arise.  
These changes will be announced in lecture.