

Soc 108: Introduction to Sociology
Spring 2007

Class Information
Lawson 121
MWF: 8:00-8:50

Instructor Information
Nadia Amin
Office: Faner 3428
Phone: (618) 453-7625
Email: namin@siu.edu
Office hours: W 11:00am-3:00pm
TH 11:00am-2:00pm

Required Texts:

Shepard, J.M. (2005). Sociology (9th edition). Thompson: Wadsworth.

Howard,E.L. (2001). Classic Readings in Sociology (4th edition). Thompson Wadsworth.

Course Objectives: The objectives of this course are to:

- a) Demonstrate knowledge of basic sociological concepts about social processes and social institutions
- b) understand theoretical or explanatory arguments in sociology
- c) apply these arguments to contemporary events or personal experience
- d) display knowledge of cultural, class, religious, and other differences within and between societies.

Course Description: In this course, we will see how sociologists explain human behavior and how it is different from other disciplines. We will also see what makes sociology a science and why is it important to look at the world around us sociologically. We will take a look at pioneering works of sociologists and will address various issues like discrimination, poverty, crime, and racial and gender stereotypes. Together we will see how sociology debunks various myths surrounding these issues.

Course Requirements

Attendance: Since lectures will incorporate material from the textbooks and other external resources, your attendance in this class is required. I will take 5 random attendances throughout this semester. Students' participation in the class makes it more exciting not only for instructor but also for other fellow students. I would not want you to lose attendance points either!

Exams: There will be three exams, consisting of multiple choice and true/false questions. Exams may include material from the textbook as well as from the lecture. The exams will NOT be cumulative, although an understanding of certain key concepts will be required throughout the semester. 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.

Assignments: You will be required to do two assignments for this course during this semester. These papers must be between 4-6 typed pages. You will receive descriptions of all that is required well in advance. You may turn papers in early, however if you CHOOSE to fail to complete your paper assignments by the given due date, you will lose 10 points each day I do not receive it.

NOTE: I will **NOT** grade any assignment sent to me via email. If you have trouble turning in a hard copy please talk to me before hand.

Reading Memos: Additionally, there will be 5 short memos based on the readings from Classic Readings in Sociology by Howard. You will have an opportunity to choose to write on any 5 out of 7 readings from this book. See course schedule for the readings. The due dates for memos are in the course schedule too.

You are expected to highlight the main point of the article and its relevance to the terms and concepts discussed in class lecture and the other textbook (Sociology by Shepard). Reading memos should be 1-2 pages.

Quizzes: Throughout the semester quizzes covering both the readings and lecture material will be administered. These quizzes are designed to familiarize you with the format and material that will be covered on upcoming exams. The quizzes will also help you assess your grasp on relevant sociological concepts/terms for each exam.

Grading Criteria:

3 Exams	100 points each	300
2 Paper	50 points each	100
5 Assignments	5 points each	25
5 quizzes	10 points each	50
Attendance		25 (these will be taken randomly)

The grading scale will be as follows: A=90% and above, B=80% and above, C=70% and above, D= 60% and above

Plagiarism: You are not allowed to copy or use someone else's work without giving them credit for it. Please see SIUC student code of conduct for details. I will also discuss the proper citation style in class. Plagiarized work WILL result in a grade of -0- for the assignment.

Class Discussion Rule: Keep in mind that we will engage in discussions on some interesting but controversial topics in this course. Therefore respect to others and their opinion is expected. Any disruption, disregard and lack of concern for others' opinion will not be tolerated.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Jan 17-19) Chapter 1: The Sociological Perspective (Shepard)

Week 2 (Jan 22-26) Chapter 2 Social Research

Jan 24 Memo: The Promise of Sociology p. 1 (Howard)

Week 3 (Jan 29- Feb 2) Chapter 3 Culture (Shepard)

Distribute Assignment # 1

Week 4 (Feb 5-9) Chapter # 4 Socialization (Shepard)

Feb 7 Memo: Body ritual Among Nacirema p. 18 (Howard)

Week 5 (Feb 12-16) Chapter # 4 Socialization (continued)

Feb 16 Exam Review Quiz #1

Exam 1 Feb 19

Week 6 (Feb 21-23) Chapter 9 Race and Ethnicity (Shepard)

Feb 23 Memo: The Souls of Black Folk p. 54 (Howard)

Week 7(Feb 26-March 2)

Feb 26 Assignment 1 DUE

Week 8 (March 5-9) Chapter 10 continued

March 7 Memo: Women and Economics p. 59 (Howard)

March 9 Quiz # 2

Week 9 (March 12-16) Spring Break No Class

Week 10 (March 19-23) Chapter 8 Social Stratification (Shepard)

March 21 Memo: The Uses of Poverty: The poor pay all p. 49 (Howard)

Handout Assignment 2

Week 11 (March 26-30) Chapter 8 (continued)

Week 12 (April 2-6) Discussing Intersectionalities race, class and gender

April 6 Quiz # 3 and Exam Review

Exam 2 April 9

Week 13 (April 11-13) Chapter 7 Deviance and Social control (Shepard)

April 13 Memo: On Being Sane in Insane Places p. 41 (Howard)

Week 14 (April 16-20) Chapter 14 Political and Economic institutions

April 16 Paper 2 due

April 20 Memo The Power Elite p. 71 (Howard) Quiz # 4

Week 15 (April 23-27) Chapter 14 (continued) & Chapter 12 Families (Shepard)

Week16 (April 30-May 4) Chapter 13 Education (Shepard)

May 4 Exam Review and Quiz # 5

Final Exam Date to be announced

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus if the need should arise. These changes will be announced in lecture.

