

**SOCIOLOGY 108:
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
SYLLABUS Spring 2008**

SOC 108, Sections 3 Three Semester Hours
Lecture MWF 10-10:50 pm., Ag 102;

Instructor: Stephen P. Hagan
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Office Hours:
M,W,R 1-3 pm
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Required Text: Sociology Matters (3rd edition) written by Richard T. Schaefer

Course Format: Lecture and discussion. Students will attend three lectures per week, on MWF in Ag 102. The methods of presentation, in addition to lecture and discussion, may include videos, overhead projection, and/or guest lectures. It is extremely important for you to note that material will be covered that is above and beyond the text book. This material will only be available from lecture therefore it is extremely important for you to be in lecture.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester, students will be able to (a) demonstrate knowledge of basic sociological concepts about social processes (e.g., socialization, deviance, social control, stratification, etc.) and social institutions (e.g., the family, religion, the state, etc.); (b) be able to apply several basic theoretical approaches to social phenomena; (c) apply these concepts and theories to contemporary events or personal experience; and (d) demonstrate on examinations and in writing assignments a knowledge of cultural, class, religious, and other differences within and between societies, as well as scientifically-grounded ways to account for these differences.

Course Description: Sociology 108 explores some of the ways in which social scientists explain human behavior. In contrast to psychology, sociology shows how social processes and structures and the collective experience of groups shape the way that 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 ways do conflicts develop between groups or subgroups, 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 Requirements: There will be two exams and one final exam given, each covering about a third of the assigned chapters. The exams may be objective (multiple choice and true/false, for example) or subjective (essay) or both. Exams may include material from either the textbook or the lecture or both. The final exam will be weighted the same as the three previous exams, which means there will be three exam grades worth 100 point each, out of a possible 500 points total. There will be no makeup exams except at the discretion of the instructor. If a makeup is permitted, it will be an essay exam scheduled at my convenience, but must be completed within one calendar week of the test date. Additionally, there will be three papers assigned each worth 50pts, and two pop quizzes worth 25pts each for a total of 500pts

Grading: The grading scale will be as follows A = 450+ points, B = 400+ points, C = 350+ points, D = 300+ points, out of a possible total of 500 points.

Tests 100 x3 = 300
Papers x3 = 150
Pop Quizzes = 50

These papers are toughly graded and should be taken seriously.

Papers: The papers will be between 4-6 pages in length each. Exact criteria for each paper will be handed out 2 weeks before the paper is due. Late papers will not be accepted without a university level excuse. All papers will be typed, double spaced, use 1 inch margins, and use 12pt times new roman font. Other format issues will be discussed when the first paper is assigned.

Attendance: Attendance will not be taken. Students are asked neither to arrive late to lecture, nor to leave early. You know when class is, do not schedule rides home or doctors appointments during this time. Because I am not taking attendance and am letting YOU decide whether or not to attend class, then you need to know that it is also your responsibility to gets notes and assignments from your classmates. Since the schedule and syllabus can change throughout the semester as needed, it is also your responsibility to keep up to date on those. It is highly suggested that you come to class, if you are not in class it will be difficult to pass the class, and even more difficult to get above a C. A lot of the material we cover is not in the book.

Plagiarism: It is expected that all work submitted by the student is his or her own original work. Careful attention must be paid to documenting sources that reflect the writings and ideas of other people. If you do not understand what plagiarism consists of, or have any doubts or questions at all you should see one of the following:

- 1) Me
- 2) The Writing Center
- 3) The student conduct code
- 4) Your academic advisor

Plagiarized work **WILL** result in a grade of **-0-** for the assignment, and consideration on a case by case basis will be given for possible referral to the administration for expulsion.

Other Rules and Minutia:

If you have to leave early or miss class, please let me know in advance either in person or via e-mail. Please try to be on time and stay for the duration of the class.

Please do not bring children, pets, or visitors to class. If you find it necessary to do so, let me know ahead of time.

I do not give notes to students. If you miss a day, please arrange to copy notes from a classmate. Feel free to see me if you need clarification on any of the points in lecture you missed.

Turn your cellular phones and pagers off before entering the classroom! This is a must. If for some reason you feel you must interrupt my class with your cellular phone you will be asked to leave.

If you need course adaptations, or if you have emergency medical information, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible.

If you are having a hard time with the course, please see me as soon as possible.

Do not sleep during class, I will wake you up, loudly and in front of everyone. If you are tired stay home, do not waste your time or mine.

It is doubtful that there will be extra credit, if there is extra credit you are only eligible to receive it if you are present the day it is assigned. This is part of the bonus for class attendance.

Buy the book. You will need it.

Again you know when this class is, it is the same day every day for the semester. Do not schedule rides home or appointments during this class time.

This syllabus is subject to change.

Schedule:

Week 1 (Jan 14, 17, 19)

**Introduction to the Class, Getting to know you, Getting to know Sociology. What I expect from you!,
Begin Chapter 1**

Readings: Chapter 1

Handouts: Syllabus

Week 2 (23 and 25)

Finish Chapter 1: How we do sociology

Readings: Chapter 1

Week 3 (Jan 28, 30, and Feb 1)

Culture Club: What is it, how do we learn it.

Readings: Chapter 2

Hand out Paper Assignment 1: September 7th

Week 4 (Feb 4, 6, 8)

Structure and Groups

Readings: Chapter 3

Week 5 (Feb 11, 13, 15)

Test 1 and Begin chapter 4... Lets be Deviants!

TEST 1 on Feb 11th

Readings: Chapter 4

Hand in Paper Assignment 1: Feb 15th

Week 6 (Feb 18, 20, 23)

More Chapter 4 begin Chapter 5 maybe

Readings: Chapter 4

Handout Paper Assignment 2: Feb 20th

Week 7 (Feb 25 NO CLASS on Feb 27. 29)

Begin Stratification for sure: Poor people, rich people.

Readings: Chapter 5

Week 8 (NO CLASS March 3, CLASS: March 5, 7)

Finish Chapter 5.

Readings: Chapter 5

Hand in Paper Assignment 2: March 5

Week 9 (NO CLASS SPRING BREAK)

Week 10 (March 17, 19, 21)

Chapter 6 Race and Ethnicity: Pigment and History

Test 2 on March 21

Week 11 (March 24, 26, 28)

Women from Venus? Men from Mars? Is that really all there is? Gender!

Readings: Chapter 7

Week 12 (March 31, April 2, 4)

What sometimes doesn't mix? Family and Religion!

Readings: Chapter 8

Assign Paper 3: April 4

Week13 (April 7, 9, 11)

Learning about money? Education, Government, and Economy

Readings: Chapter 9

Week 14 (April 14, 16, 18)

Too many people? Save the trees? Population, Community, Health, and the Environment

Readings: Chapter 10

Hand in Paper Assignment 3: April 18th

Week 15 (April 21, 23, 25)

War! Huh! What is good for more? Social Movements, Change, and Technology

Readings: Chapter 11

Week 16 (April 28, 30, May 2)

This is an extra day for overflow of previous chapters were I might have inserted films etc

Week 17: FINAL Date to be announced.