

Introduction to Sociology  
Sociology 108: Section 001  
Spring 2008

Instructor: Marcie Sheumaker  
MWF 9:00 – 9:50  
Parkinson 124

Office: Faner 3435  
E-mail: [marciej@siu.edu](mailto:marciej@siu.edu)  
(618) 457-7632  
Office Hours:  
M: 10-12 & 1-2  
W: 10-12

**Introduction:** In this class, you will learn the basics of sociology including how sociologists look at social behavior from gender, race, and class to political and organizational behavior. My goal is that we create an environment together where you can learn how to see the world through sociological goggles by reading assigned readings, engaging in meaningful discussions about sociological concepts and, applying those concepts to “real life”.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

SOC 108 is a University Core Curriculum Course which counts as a Section II course. Following satisfactory completion of this course, you 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 ORGANIZATION**

You are expected to attend class, read the assigned texts, write two brief papers, complete four exams, and complete assignments.

Reading Assignments: The lectures, discussion sessions, and readings are organized so as to complement and supplement each other. You are therefore

expected to remain current with the reading schedule in order to gain maximum benefit from the lectures, discussions, and activities.

### **Attendance:**

Attendance in the lectures is required. Experience has proven that students who regularly miss class do poorly on the exams and in the course. Exams, in-class exercises, and other in-class activities cannot be made up without a written excuse from a qualified professional.

### **Exams:**

There will be four in-class exams during the semester. They will consist of a mixture of multiple choice and true-false questions. The exams will include material from the text, the reader AND the lectures. Each exam will be equally weighted (worth 100 points each). The fourth exam will *not* be comprehensive. The fourth exam will be given only during finals week according to the University Exam schedule. This means you will be required to take your final exam at announced time and with the class in which you are officially registered. Please do not request to take it at a time other than that at which it is scheduled. All make-up examinations will be essay format.

### **Writing Assignments:**

Each student will write two Reflection Papers (3-4 pages) based upon two of our readings this semester. Each Reflection paper is worth 50 points. Additionally, you will write two short papers (2-3 pages) as detailed below. Each of these is worth 20 points.

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

The Following Texts are required for this course:

1. *Sociology in Our Times* (Seventh Edition) by Diana Kendall
2. *Mapping The Social Landscape* (Fifth Edition) Edited by Susan Ferguson

3. The companion website for this course is as follows:

<http://www.thomsonedu.com/sociology/kendall>

On this website you will find helpful materials such as quizzes and other study aids that will help you to remember concepts and perform well on the exams.

4. Finally, The Writing Center on the SIUC campus is a wonderful, free service for students. It is to your advantage to go there if you are not performing as well on written assignments as you would like.

## GRADING AND POLICIES

1. **Final Grades:** Two-thirds of your final grade in the course (400 points) is based on four equally weighted, in-class examinations. Each exam is worth 100 points. An additional 200 points can be earned from your writing assignments (2 papers worth 50 points each), and your class attendance and other smaller assignments I will give throughout the semester. Final scores will be assigned a letter grade using the following scale.

Standardized Scores	Final Grade
540 - 600	A
480 - 539	B
420 - 479	C
360 - 419	D
0 - 359	F

2. **Make-Up/Late Policy:** I will reduce assignment and paper grades 10% per day late. I will allow you to take make-up exams and/or turn-in make-up assignments only with written, excused absence approved ahead of time. I expect you to schedule make-up exams and assignments within one week of the originally scheduled exam or assignment due date. It is important that you take responsibility for your learning by scheduling and showing up for your make-up exams and turning-in your make-up assignments. Students who do not make-up the exams and assignments within the given time will earn a grade of zero on that particular assignment or exam. I will give make-up exams in essay form.

**Requirements:** Participation and just showing up will go a long way toward helping you succeed in this course. You must read assigned chapters and readings and come to class prepared to discuss the material. Those students who participate will receive additional points. Other requirements include writing assignments, in-class assignments, pop quizzes, exams and regular attendance.

**Grading:** In addition to the 400 potential points to be earned from exams, you may earn an additional 200 points through in-class activities and through your performance on writing assignments. The breakdown is as follows:

50 pts	Reflection paper # 1
50 pts	Reflection paper # 2
40 pts	Assignments (See below)
60 pts	Class participation & attendance

**Assignments:** I will assign two short exercises throughout the course of the semester. These will involve a variety of activities followed by a two to three page write-up. These activities are designed to get you thinking about sociology in the world around you. I will

give out a detailed description of the assignment closer to the due date. Each is worth a potential 20 points. The following is a tentative list of the assignments and due dates:

1. **Observation in the Field:** I will ask you to observe people interacting in a public place and take notes, making sociological observations from the material you have learned in class thus far. (Due: 1/23/08)
2. **Breaking a Norm:** I will ask you to break a social norm and record the reactions of others, applying sociological observations along the way. (Due: 2/4/08)

**Reflection Papers:** Throughout the course of the semester, I will ask you to read several excerpts from your reader, *Mapping the Social Landscape*. You will each choose two of the assigned readings (whichever ones you wish) and write a three to four page reflection paper on what you read. I will be handing out detailed instructions on writing these papers before the due date. Each Paper is worth 50 points.

Reflection Paper # 1 Due: 3/5/08

Reflection Paper # 2 Due: 4/25/08

**Office Hours:** I will be available in my office at the hours specified above. Please feel free to stop by if you have questions or need additional assistance.

**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, available on the BERT'S website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Public Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://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:**

I encourage all persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of this course to bring this to my attention 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](mailto:DSSsiu@siu.edu) Ph: (618) 453-5738 Fax: (618) 453-5700 TTY: (618)  
453-2293

**Classroom Behavior:** In the classroom, students should comport themselves with dignity and respect. An open, hospitable environment is necessary for the free exchange of ideas. I expect you to show respect for people and their ideas. You don't have to agree with everything a fellow student or instructor says, but I expect you to be respectful. Please turn off cell phones or set to "vibrate" if you are expecting an emergency call. Do not disrupt the class by texting, listening to your music, etc. Those not adhering to this policy will be asked to leave. I will not tolerate cheating of any kind. If you are unsure what constitutes cheating, please consult me or refer to the SIU Handbook.  
[http://www.dce.siu.edu/siuconnected\\_handbook/academic\\_honesty.htm](http://www.dce.siu.edu/siuconnected_handbook/academic_honesty.htm)

**Week 1**

M 1/14/08 Getting to know you in-class assignment. Pass out & go over syllabus.

W 1/16/08

**Section 1: Studying Society and Social Life**

**Read** Chapter 1: Kendall: The Sociological Perspective &

**Read** "The Promise" by C. Wright Mills in Ferguson Reader, p.7

F 1/18/08

Sociological Perspective, continued &

**Handout:** Assignment # 1: Sociological Observation in the Field

**Week 2**

M 1/21/08

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No Classes

W 1/23/08

**Read** Chapter 2: Kendall: Sociological Research Methods

**Due:** Assignment # 1: Sociological Observation

F 1/25/08

Sociological Research Methods, Continued

**Week 3**

M 1/28/08

**Read** Chapter 3: Kendall: Culture

W 1/30/08

Culture, continued &

**Read** "The New Tattoo Subculture" by Velliquette and Murray in Ferguson reader p. 70

**Assignment # 2:** Norm Break handed out

F 2/1/08

**Read:** Chapter 4: Kendall: Socialization

**Week 4**

M 2/4/08

Socialization, continued

**Due:** Assignment # 2: Breaking a Norm

W 2/6/08

**Review for Exam # 1:** Chapters 1-4

F 2/8/08

**Exam #1**

**Week 5**

M 2/11/08

**Section 2: Social Groups and Social Control**

**Read** Chapter 5: Society, Social Structure, and Interaction

W 2/13/08

Society Continued &

**Read** “Media Magic: Making Class Invisible” by Mantsios, p.450 in Ferguson reader

F 2/15/08

**Read** Chapter 7, Kendall: Deviance and Crime

**Week 6**

M 2/18/08

Deviance and Crime, continued &

**Read** “Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture” by Boswell and Spade in Ferguson reader, p. 242

**Guest Speaker Panel**

W 2/20/08

**Section 3: Social Inequality**

**Read** Kendall: Chapter 8: Class and Stratification in the United States

**Handout:** Instructions for Reflection paper #1

F 2/22/08

Class and Stratification, continued

**Week 7**

M 2/25/08

**Read** Kendall: Chapter 10: Race and Ethnicity &

**Read** “‘New Racism,’ Color-Blind Racism and The Future of Whiteness in America” by Bonilla-Silva in Ferguson reader, p.359

W 2/27/08

Race, continued

F 2/29/08

**Read** Kendall: Chapter 11: Sex and Gender

**Week 8**

M 3/3/08

Sex and Gender, continued &

**Read** “Working at Bazooms: The Intersection of Power, Gender, and Sexuality” by Loe in Ferguson reader, p.342

W 3/5/08

Sex and Gender: “Killing Me Softly II” & (See following page)

**Due:** Reflection Paper #1

F 3/7/08                      **Recap & Exam # 2 Review: Chapters 5, 7, 8, 10, & 11**

**3/10/08 to 3/16/08 Spring Vacation**

**Week 9**

M 3/17/08                      **Exam # 2**

W 3/19/08                      **Section 4: Social Institutions:**  
**Read** Kendall: Chapter 13: The Economy and Work in Global Perspective

F 3/21/08                      Economy & Work, continued  
**Read** “The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work” by Hochschild in Ferguson reader, p.494

**Week 10**

M 3/24/08                      **TBA**

W 3/26/08                      **Read** Kendall: Chapter 14: Politics and Government in Global Perspective

F 3/28/08                      Politics & Government, continued &  
**Read** “The Power Elite” except from Mills in Ferguson reader, p. 407

**Week 11**

M 3/31/08                      **Movie: TBA on The Modern American Family**

W 4/2/08                      **Read** Kendall: Chapter 15: Families and Intimate Relationships

F 4/4/08                      Families, continued

**Week 12**

M 4/7/08                      **Read** Kendall, Chapter 16: Education

W 4/9/08                      Education, continued &  
**Read** “Still Separate, Still Unequal: America’s Educational Apartheid” by Kozol in Ferguson reader, p.578

F 4/11/08                      **Read** Kendall: Chapter 17: Religion & (See following page)  
**Handout:** Instructions for Reflection Paper #2

**Week 13**

M 4/14/08                      Religion, continued

W 4/16/08                      **Read** Kendall: Chapter 18: Health, Health Care and Disability &  
**Read** “Dying Alone: The Social Production of Urban Isolation” by

Klinenberg in Ferguson reader, p.540

F 4/18/08 Chapter 18, continued & Recap and Review for exam #3: Chapters 13-18

**Week 14**

M 4/21/08 **Exam # 3**

W 4/23/08 **Section 5: Social Dynamics and Social Change**  
**Read** Kendall: Chapter 19: Population and Urbanization

F 4/25/08 Population and Urbanization, continued

**Due:** Reflection Paper # 2

**Week 15**

M 4/28/08 **Read** Kendall: Chapter 20: Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change

W 4/30/08 Collective Behavior and Social Change, continued &  
**Read** “What Can We Do? Becoming Part of the Solution” by Johnson in Ferguson reader, p. 697

F 5/2/08 Recap & Review for final

**Final Exam Week: May 5-11; Final date and time TBA**

\*\*\*I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as I deem necessary. I will announce any changes in class.