

SOCI 108: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Spring 2008: Sections 5

Time: MWF 12:00- 12:50
Location: Lawson 121
Instructor: Mohammed Zanoun
Office: Faner 3425
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Office Hours: M W: 1:00- 2:2:20, 11:00- 11:50 or by appointment

Course Objectives:

By the end 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. Students will also learn to see the relationships between individuals and society, and to think logically and critically about the world around them.

Examinations and Assignments:

Besides the final exam, there are three exams. The exams will be strictly objective and consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The exams are **NOT** cumulative, although the continued understanding of certain key concepts will be necessary throughout the semester. Exams **MUST** be taken on the scheduled day.

You have to write two assignments. The first one is a report on a public talk. After your attend an approved public talk, you have to write 3-4 pages about the main ideas and how you can use sociology to describe the subject of the talk. You can submit this assignment any time during the semester up to two weeks before the end of classes.

The second assignment is a review of a sociological research article. You have e to choose any sociological research article and write no more than 5 pages about the theory, method, and analysis used in this article.

Grades:

Your final course grade will be determined based on the following criteria:

Exam1	50 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Final Exam	150 points
Assignment 1	30 points
Assignment 2	70 points

Total	500 points
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Students who earn 450 or more points will get an "A."

Students who earn 400 to 449 points will get a "B."

Students who earn 350 to 399 points will get a "C."

Students who earn 300 to 349 points will get a "D."

Students who fail to earn at least 300 of the points will get an “F.”

Ethical Conduct:

All cases of academic dishonesty will be punished. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes cheating and they must abide by the university's academic honesty policies. The SIU Handbook provides you more information. You can find it at:

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

During the semester you will have the opportunity to share thoughts, opinions, and beliefs. We are going to talk about some conversational issues like political issues, homosexuality, religion, war, race ethnicity, deviance and crime. These issues essentially cause differences among people. So, students should communicate in ways that acknowledge and respect such differences. 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.

I have an obligation to maintain a classroom environment that encourages students to learn and to present their opinion about any subject we discuss inside the 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.

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 the teacher during the first week of the semester and provide the teacher with the written documentations of the disability besides 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

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, it is important for students to be 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, the BERT'S website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet.

I will provide guidance and direction to the 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.

Course Materials:

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

2- Loewen, James W. 1995. *Lies My Teacher Told Me (Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong)*. New York, NY: Touchstone.

3- 11 Articles available through the blackboard

WEEK 1: 1/14

Introduction and Sociological Perspective

What is Sociology? What is Sociological Perspective?

Readings:

Chapter 1: “The Sociological Perspective” (Henslin, pp. 1-33)

“The Promise,” from *The Practical Skeptic* (Article 1)

WEEK 2: 1/21

Monday 1/21 Martin Luther King Day.... No Class

Sociological theory

Doing social research

Readings

Continue.. Chapter 1: “The Sociological Perspective” (Henslin, pp. 1-33)

Introduction: “Something Has Gone Very Wrong” (Loewen, pp. 11-17)

WEEK 3: 1/28

Culture

What is culture?

Components of symbolic Culture

Readings

Chapter 2: “Culture” (Henslin, pp. 34-61)

Chapter 1: “Handicapped by History: the Process of Hero-Making” (Loewen, pp. 18-36)

WEEK 4: 2/4

Continue **culture**

Many cultural Worlds

Values in the U.S Society

Readings

Chapter 2: “1493 – The True Importance of Christopher Columbus” (Loewen, pp. 37-7)

“India’s Sacred Cow,” from *Sociological Footprints* (Article 2)

(Friday 2/8 Exam 1)

WEEK 5: 2/11

Socialization

What is human nature?

Learning Personality, Morality, and Emotions

Readings

Chapter 3: “Socialization” (Henslin, pp. 62-93)

Chapter 3: “The Truth about the First Thanksgiving” (Loewen, pp. 75-97)

WEEK 6: 2/18

Continue... **Socialization**

Agents of socialization

Readings

“Code of the Streets,” from *The Practical Skeptic* (Article 3)

“Anybody’s Son Will Do,” from *Society* (Article 4)

Social structure and Social Interaction

Readings

Chapter 4: “Social Structure and Social Interaction” (Henslin, pp. 94-123)

Chapter 4: “Red Eyes” (Loewen, pp. 98-136)

(Assignment 2 Due Friday 2/22)

WEEK 7: 2/25

Social Interaction

Social institutions

Reading

“Meanwhile Backstage: Behavior in Public Bathrooms,” from *Sociological Odyssey* (Article 5)

Societies and their transformation

Readings

Chapter 5: “Societies to Social Networks” (Henslin, pp. 124-151)

(Friday 2/29 Exam 2)

WEEK 8: 3/3

Societies to Social Networks

Group dynamics

Readings

Chapter 5: *Gone with the Wind* (Loewen, pp.137-170)

(March 8th –16th Spring Break)

WEEK 9: 3/17

Race and Ethnicity

What is race? Ethnicity?

Readings

Chapter 9: “Race and Ethnicity” (Henslin, pp.260-293)

“Racial Formations,” from *Sociological Footprints* (article 6)

Status cues and stereotypes

Readings

Chapter 8: “Watching Big Brother” (Loewen, pp. 214-237)

“Should We Generalize about People?” from *Ten Questions* (Article 7)

WEEK 10: 3/24

Sex and Gender

Issues of sex and gender

Readings

Chapter 8: “Sex and Gender” (Henslin, pp. 224-257)

Gender inequality

Readings

Chapter 9: “Down the Memory Hole” (Henslin, pp. 238-253)

“Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture: Why are Some Fraternities More Dangerous Places for Women?” from *The Practical Skeptic* (article 8)

WEEK 11: 4/7

Deviance and Social Control

What is deviance?

Reading

Chapter 6: “Deviance and Social Control” (Henslin, pp. 152-183)

Social control

Readings

Chapter 6: “John Brown and Abraham Lincoln” (Loewen, pp. 171-199)

(Wednesday 4/9 Exam 3)

What is stratification?

Readings

Chapter 7: “Social Stratification” [Henslin, pp. 184-223]

Chapter 7: “The Land of Opportunity” (Loewen, pp. 200-23)

WEEK 13: 4/14

Continue... **Social Stratification**

Social class

Readings

“The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All,” from *Society* (article 9)

Social mobility

Readings

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

(Friday 4/ 18 the last day to submit Assignment 1)

WEEK 14: 4/21:

Marriage and Family

Love, marriage, and family

Readings

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

Family in transition

Readings

Chapter 11: “Why is History Taught like This?” (Loewen, pp. 271-297)

“Family in Transition,” from *Sociological Footprints* (article 10)

WEEK 15: 4/28

Religion

What is religion?

Readings

Chapter 12: "Religion" (Henslin)

The evolution of faith

Readings

Chapter 12: "What is the Result of Teaching History like This?" (Loewen, pp. 298-311)
"Abiding Faith," from *Sociological Odyssey* (article 11)

(FINAL EXAM – Monday, May 5th, 12:50 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.)