Sociology 1010-002
Introduction to Sociology
Fall Semester 2011
Time: MWF 9:40-10:30 am
Location: SBEH S AUD

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Geist
Email: claudia.geist@soc.utah.edu
Office Location: 431 Beh S
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30-2:30 pm and by appointment
Graduate Teaching Assistant(s): TBA
Email: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Required Materials (available at the campus bookstore):

Book:
⇒ You can also buy this book as Ebook

Turningpoint Clicker

Course Summary
This course is designed to provide a broad overview and introduction to the discipline of sociology. Sociology involves the study of human society – its structure, patterns and problems. In this class we will examine aspects of contemporary society and daily life that are often taken for granted. We will explore a broad array of topics, including culture, the economy, deviance, family, religion, education, gender, race, and inequality. This course approaches sociology not simply as a concrete body of knowledge, but also as a perspective that can be used to understand human behavior and social life, even outside of academia.

Course Objectives
At the end of this course, you will be able to use a sociological perspective on everyday life. You will be able to identify the key institutions in society and understand some of the key social problems facing these institutions and society in general. You will be able to describe the major social divisions in contemporary society both in the United States and globally.
Course Requirements and Grading
Your grade is based on:

- **THE BEST 3 out of 4 MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAMS (60%)**: the exam with the lowest score will be dropped.
- **6 ONLINE DISCUSSIONS (10%)**: The exams and discussions will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, class discussions, and in-class films.
- **6 SHORT WRITTEN OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (20%)**: The assignments are explained in detail below the course schedule and are designed to allow you to “do” sociology on topics of your choice.
- **ATTENDANCE: Measured through the clicker technology. (10%)**: I will take attendance each class period, sometimes there will be to clicker points per class. You are allowed to miss 10 clicker points without any effect on your final grade. You **cannot** make up clicker points for missed classes and you **will not** receive attendance credit if you forgot your clicker. **However if you will miss class for university sanctioned travel AND you notify me in advance (in writing) you will receive the clicker points you missed.**

Grading Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams (best of 4)</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>(60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online discussions</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-Class Assignments</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For final letter grades, convert your accumulated points into a percentage and use the following breakdown:

- A: 93-100%
- A-: 90-92%
- B+: 87-89%
- B: 83-86%
- B-: 80-82%
- C+: 77-79%
- C: 73-76%
- C-: 70-72%
- D+: 67-69%
- D: 63-66%
- D-: 60-62%
- F: 0-59%

**Deadlines and special circumstances:**

Make-up exams will only be allowed for extraordinary, documented emergencies, documented illness or injury. If you miss an exam for athletic or university related travel you have to notify me at least ONE WEEK before the exam to schedule an alternative date. Failure to do so means that you cannot make up the exam. I cannot
Late assignments will be penalized (except for documented cases of hospitalization). Travel, technical problems, or other circumstances (including illness) cannot be used as an excuse for missed deadlines. Late penalties will be imposed for assignments submitted after the deadline. *This includes weekends, holidays, and school breaks.*

- Up to 24 hours after the deadline: 3 point deduction
- 24-less than 48 hours: 8 point deduction
- 48-less than 72 hours: 15 point deduction
- More than 72 hours: 20 point deduction=no credit.

**Guidelines for Class Participation**
Due to the size of the class, this is primarily a lecture-oriented course, but participation DOES matter. We will have in-class flash surveys (using the clicker technology) which will serve as a basis for in class discussion and will measure your attendance. I expect you to come to class ready to participate and engage with the subject matter. To ensure a respectful and productive environment in the classroom, my expectations for you are:

- To arrive to class on time, and for all class meetings. It will be difficult to do well in this class without attending regularly.
- Bring your clicker. Forgetting your clicker is not an excuse.
- To complete the assigned readings *before* their corresponding date.
- To complete the required written assignments on time.
- To prevent disruption of the learning environment (no usage of cell phones!).
- To follow University of Utah code for student conduct (see below).

**Instructor Responsibilities**
My goal is to maintain a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to thinking and learning. I will do my best to get you excited about the material and support you in your learning. I will be available to students outside of the classroom during office hours and through email.

Following the Student Code, I adopt a zero tolerance policy for academic misconduct. “Academic misconduct,” according to the University of Utah student code, “includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...it also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.” For detailed definitions and possible academic sanctions please see: [http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html](http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html)

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
Course Schedule
Please note that this outline is tentative and subject to change at any time. Any changes will be announced in class and on WebCT. Please have the assigned readings read at the beginning of the week and be prepared to discuss them in class.

***Part I: Using Your Sociological Imagination***

August 22 and 24
Syllabus introduction; Sociological Imagination: An Introduction (chapter 1)

August 26, 29
Methods (chapter 2)

September 2,
Culture and Media (chapter 3)

September 5
Labor Day! (no class)

September 7,
Culture and Media (chapter 3)

**Assignment 1 due September 9 11pm**

September 9, 12,
Socialization and the Construction of Reality (chapter 4)

September 14
Review

September 16,
Exam 1

September 19, 21
Groups and Networks (chapter 5)

**Assignment 2 due September 23 11pm**

September 23, 26,
Social Control and Deviance (chapter 6)

***Part II: Fault Lines…Social Division and Inequality***

September 28, 30
Stratification (chapter 7)
**Assignment 3 due October 7, 11pm**

October 3, 5, 7  
Gender (chapter 8)

October 10, 12, 14  
**Fall Break!**

October 17, 19  
Race (chapter 9)

October 21  
Exam 2

October 24, 26  
Poverty (chapter 10)

**Assignment 4 due October 28, 11pm**

October 28, 31  
Health and Society (chapter 11)

***Part III: Building Blocks: Institutions of Society***

November 2, 4  
Family (chapter 12)

November 7, 9  
Education (chapter 13)

**Assignment 5 due November 11, 11pm**

November 11, 14  
Capitalism and the Economy (chapter 14)

November 16, 18  
Authority and the State (chapter 15)

November 21  
Exam 3

November 23  
Religion (chapter 16)

November 26  
**Thanksgiving break!**
November 28,
Religion (chapter 16)

**Assignment 6 due December 2, 11 pm**

November 30, December 2
Science, the Environment, and Society (chapter 17)

December 5, 7
Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change (chapter 18)

Exam4: Monday Dec 12, 8 AM!!!

Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments require the student to define/utilize/and apply many relevant sociological concepts presented in the class. These activities are intended to be interesting and enlightening. The addition of these exercises in all sections of introduction to sociology reflects the University of Utah requirements to increase the class from a three credit hour class to a four credit hour class.

Each written assignment should be about 1.5-2 pages in length (1 inch margins, 12 font, double spaced). Assignments are due on the dates indicated below. Late assignments will be penalized as outlined above. Assignments are to be submitted online.

Assignment #1: Pick 3 of the topics covered in the class (just look at the chapter titles) and describe for each of those 3 areas what you think the biggest issues are facing people at the local, national, and global level. You don’t need to study the chapters, just think through what you think is important.

Assignment #2: Conduct a brief participant observation or ethnographic study wherein you study and/or participate in a particular group event or social organization. Samples of events could include city council meeting, an Indian powwow, visit a religious group other than the one you usually attend, hang out at a greasy spoon cafe or coffee shop, attend a sporting event, or any volunteer organization. To complete the assignment, write down your observations, highlight any patterns you observe, and point out any observations or patterns that surprise you.

Assignment #3: In a group, construct a survey where each group member includes 2 or 3 questions of their choice. Each group member should administer the survey to at least 20 people. Group members work together collecting and entering the data, but each group member is responsible for writing a brief paper summarizing the findings on his or her questions, and drawing conclusions regarding their research.
Assignment #4: Conduct a non-intrusive breaching experiment, wherein you attempt to validate the existence of a particular norm. This may include singing on the bus, singing in an elevator, not talking to anyone for a day, or any other unusual activity. In writing describe your experiment, and report peoples’ reactions to your behavior.

Assignment #5: Pick an issue of a magazine (examples listed in the detailed assignment instructions) or a video game and discuss the representation of gender, race, and class in it.

Assignment #6: Write a short biography wherein you highlight the sociological factors that have influenced your life. Those could include social class, religion, race/ethnicity, or any other topics.