

SOCIOLOGY 1010-090, Spring 2013

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Bruce Rigby

Class Meetings: This is an Online Course

Office Hours: “Virtual” Office Hours or on campus by appointment

Office: 311 BEHS Phone: 581-5842 or 581-6153 (message)

E-Mail: bruce.rigby@soc.utah.edu or through the Blackboard Vista mail feature.

Required Text:

Anderson and Taylor, Sociology: Understanding a Diverse Society, Wadsworth, 2008, ISBN 978-0-495-00742-5

System Requirements: This is an online class that can be “attended” from anywhere there is an internet connection. Assignments and discussions will be submitted electronically. There is a “Check Browser” tab on the Blackboard Vista homepage. I would highly suggest you utilize that utility to ensure your system will operate efficiently within this course. The recommended browsers are Firefox and Safari (Safari 4 has had some issues, we would recommend you NOT upgrade while taking this course). You must also be able to view PowerPoint presentations, as well as have a Media Browser on your system. Students must be able to use an internet browser, send attached files via e-mail, and create text messages.

1. Objectives

The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with the sociological perspective. The student will be introduced to several key sociological theories, and learn to apply them to a wide range of specific sociological topics. Research methodology will also be discussed to familiarize the student with many of the methods used, as well as ethical issues in social science research. The student will be asked to become familiar with sociological issues, and how they appear in nearly every aspect of daily life.



2. Grading Procedures

The final course grade will be determined by your performance on 3 equally weighted objective type exams, 3 electronic discussion boards, and 9 brief outside class assignments. There is no comprehensive final exam in this course. The exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions.

Each exam is worth 100 points. The discussions are worth 10 points total, and the assignments are worth 10 points each for a total of 90 points.

The following schedule will be used to determine grades:

Course Grade	Total Points	Percentages	Course Grade	Total Points	Percentages
A	372-400	93-100%	C	292-307	73-76%
A-	360-371	90-92%	C-	280-291	70-72%
B+	348-359	87-89%	D+	268-279	67-69%
B	332-347	83-86%	D	252-267	63-66%
B-	320-331	80-82%	D-	240-251	60-62%
C+	308-319	77-79%	E	0-239	0-59%

3. Important Dates:

Exam #1 Week 4, Thursday, January 31st (Chapters 1-6)

Exam #2 Week 11, Thursday, March 21st (Chapters 7-15)

Exam #3 Week 16, Wednesday, April 24th (Chapters 16-23)

Exams will cover the assigned readings, Power Points, and any other material from the learning modules. If you miss an exam, an essay type make-up must be scheduled with the instructor within one week of the regular exam. Make-up exams will only be allowed in the case of hospitalization or a death in the immediate family. **THERE IS NO MAKE-UP FOR EXAM #3.**

4. Assignments

Assignments will be due on Thursday's beginning week #3. There is a complete listing of the assignments under the "Assignment" icon on the home page for this course. These assignments are similar if not identical to the assignments for the other sections of Sociology 1010. Assignments not turned in on time will NOT be graded. This means on time on the due date.

5. Discussions

There will be 3 discussion boards for students to post comments to during the semester. They will be on various sociological topics that your instructor feels are relevant to this course.

6. Testing

Exams in this course will be taken electronically. Exams will be available for a 24 hour period. Students will have 45 minutes to complete a 50 question multiple-choice exam. Exams may NOT be retaken.

7. Student Code: All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, and in all electronic interactions according to the student code, spelled out in the student handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the code. The code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the code carefully and know they are responsible for the content.

According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the responsibility of the faculty to enforce responsible classroom behaviors. Violations of the student code may result in a written warning, dismissal from the class, a failing grade, or dismissal from the university. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavioral Committee.

ADA NOTICE: University guidelines for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require the following to be included in all syllabi:

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 alternate format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Course Outline for Sociology 1010-090

This is a basic outline of the Chapters or Topics covered by week in the course. Please note that there will not be lectures in class on all chapters or topics in the text. It is the student's responsibility to read the textbook as outlined.

****Detailed instructions for completing the assignments are outlined in the assignment section of this syllabus****

Week 1, January 7 - 12: Introduction to the course and Chapter 1: The sociological perspective and sociological theories

Week 2, January 14 - 19: Chapter 2, Doing sociological research, and Chapter 3, Culture.

Week 3, January 21 - 26: Chapter 4, Socialization and Chapter 5, Social Structure.

Assignment #1, Survey is Due Thursday, January 24th

Week 4, January 28 - February 2: Chapter 6, Groups and Organizations. Review for exam #1.

*****Exam #1 is Thursday January 31st*****

Week 5, February 4 – 9: Chapters 7 and 8, Deviance and Crime in a sociological perspective.

*****Assignment #2, Ethnographic Study, Due Thursday, February 7th*****

Week 6, February 11 - 16: Chapter 9, Social Class and Stratification.

*****Assignment #3, Breaching Experiment, Due Thursday, February 14th*****

Week 7, February 18 - 23: Chapter 10, Global Stratification and Chapter 11, Race and Ethnicity.

*****Assignment #4, Lord of the Flies Video, Due Thursday, February 21st*****

Week 8, February 25 - March 2: Chapters 12 and 13, Gender and Sexuality.

Week 9, March 4 - 9: Chapter 14, Age and Aging and Chapter 15, Families.

*****Assignment #5, Lecture Attendance, Due Thursday, March 7th*****

Week 10, March 11 - 16: [SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES](#)

Week 11, March 18 – 23, Review and Exam #2 is Thursday, March 21st.... Also Assignment #6, Mississippi Burning is due Thursday, March 21st. Please feel free to submit the assignment early.

Week 12, March 25 – 30: Chapter 16, Education, Chapter 17, Religion and Chapter 18, The Economy and Work.

*****Assignment #7, Lecture Attendance, Due Thursday March 28th*****

Week 13, April 1 - 6: Chapter 19, Government and Politics and Chapter 20, Healthcare.

Week 14, April 8 - 13: Chapter 21, Population and Urbanization and Chapter 22, Social Movements.

*****Assignment #8, Book or Video Summary, Due Thursday April 11th*****

Week 15, April 15 - 20: Chapter 23, Social Change in a Global Perspective, and review of course.

*****Assignment #9, Biography, Due Thursday April 18th*****

Week 16: April 23 - 25: Exam review and Exam #3, Wednesday, April 24th.

*****Please note there is NO comprehensive Final Exam in this course*****

Course Assignments for Sociology 1010-090

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, fun, and enlightening.

The addition of these exercises in all sections of introduction to sociology reflect the University of Utah requirements to increase the class from a three credit hour class to a four credit hour class.

Your written assignment should be 1-2 pages in length. Assignments are due on the dates indicated below. **Late assignments will NOT be graded.** Each assignment is worth 10 points towards your course grade. **Assignments should be submitted electronically to the Assignment Drop Box.**

Week Three (1/24) Assignment #1: Conduct a brief survey of at least 30 people regarding an issue or topic of your choice. In a brief summary paper include the survey, summarize your findings, and draw conclusions regarding your research. Refer to Chapter 2, Doing Sociological Research.

Week Five (2/7) 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 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, simply write down your observations, note any patterns you observe, or point out any observations or patterns that particularly surprise you. Refer to Chapter 1, The Sociological Perspective, and Chapter 3, Culture.

Week Six (2/14) Assignment #3: 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 people's reactions to your behavior. Refer to Chapter 1, The Sociological Perspective, and Chapter 5,

Social Interaction and Structure.

Week Seven (2/21) Assignment #4: Watch and review the assigned video Lord of the Flies. In writing the brief paper, do not address the plot in detail, but rather interpret the movie in terms of sociological concepts, phenomena, and research addressed in the text and/or in class. Refer to Chapter 1, The Sociological Perspective, Chapter 5, Social Interaction and Structure, and Chapter 6, Groups and Organizations.

Week Nine (3/7) Assignment #5: Any time during the first 9 weeks of class, attend a lecture on any subject or topic that you feel is relevant to sociology. These can be attended on campus, or off, and many will be announced in class. In no more than two pages, summarize the presentation and its relevance to any topic covered in this class. This assignment would include any material from the text or lecture from a sociological perspective.

Week Ten (3/21) Assignment #6: Watch the assigned video Mississippi Burning. Again, summarize the movie in terms of sociological concepts, phenomena, or research addressed in the class. Refer to Chapter 8, Crime and Criminal Justice, and Chapter 11, Race and Ethnicity.

Week Twelve (3/28) Assignment #7: Any time during the first 12 weeks of class, attend a lecture on campus or off that has relevance to sociology. In 2 pages or less, summarize your reaction and understanding of the material.

Week Thirteen (4/11) Assignment #8: Evaluate a book or video from the suggested books/videos list. Please summarize your interpretation of the material from a sociological perspective. This assignment will allow the student to choose a topic of interest and analyze that topic using various concepts from the course.

Week Fifteen (4/18) Assignment #9: Write a short (2 pages) biography wherein you highlight the sociological factors that have influenced your life. Those could include social class, religion, race/ethnicity, or any other topics

Suggested Books and Videos

Suggested Books and Videos for Assignment #8:

The Acorn People (disabilities, illness, stigma)
Cannery Row, John Steinbeck (culture, human nature, social criticism)
Democracy for the Few, Michael Parenti (elitism, class conflict)
The Lemming Condition, Alan Arkin (family, deviance, labeling)
Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck (stratification, social organization, poverty)

On Civil Disobedience, Henry David Thoreau (morality and society, social dissent)
The McDonalidization of Society, George Ritzer (modernization, globalization, organizations)
Race Matters, Cornel West (racism)
The Sociological Imagination, C. Wright Mills (sociology, social meaning, and morality)
Theory of the Leisure Class, Thorsten Veblin (stratification, class conflict)
Under the Banner of Heaven, John Krakauer (religion, deviance, faith based violence)
Who Rules America, G. William Domhoff (power elite model, social class, politics, stratification)

Videos

“Boys in the Hood” (race/class/poverty)
“Crash” (alienation, racism, class)
“The Gods Must be Crazy” (culture, modernization, globalization)
“Hotel Rwanda” (racism, genocide)
“An Inconvenient Truth” (global warming)
“Inherit the Wind” (religion, education, Evolution versus Creationism)
“Modern Times”, Chaplin (industrialization and modernization)
“Pleasantville” (norms, culture, socialization, prejudice and discrimination)
“Roger and Me” (capitalism, exploitation, class conflict)
“Sicko” (healthcare)
“Taxi Driver” (anomie, powerlessness, alienation)
“The Village” (culture, norms and values, modernization)
“Capitalism: A Love Story” (economy, culture, inequality)

*****Other books/videos may be used for this assignment with prior approval by your instructor or graduate teaching assistants*****

*****THIS IS A PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS, SOME MINOR CHANGES MAY BE MADE PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF CLASSES ON JANUARY 7, 2013*****