

SOCI 1101: Introductory Sociology

Spring Semester 2009

Instructor:	Daniel Buffington, Temporary Instructor of Sociology
Classroom:	Baldwin Hall, 307
Lecture Sessions:	MWF: 2:30-3:20 (period 7)
Instructor's Office:	Baldwin Hall, 417
Instructor's Office Hours:	MWF, 11:10AM-12 PM, 1:30-2:20, or by appointment
Instructor's Contact Information:	email: d buffering@uga.edu (preferred method of contact) office phone number: 542-3252 or 542 2421 mailbox: 114 Baldwin Hall

Course Description and Objectives

Sociology is the scientific study of society and human behavior. The primary purpose of this course is to introduce you to the basic concepts, theoretical approaches, and methods of sociology. In the process, we will discuss perspectives developed by sociologists to help explain important social issues such as inequality, crime, the organization of schools and workplaces, and contemporary trends in marriage and family. Because sociology systematically studies areas of life in which we all participate, a secondary purpose of this course will be to provide you with alternative ways of thinking about and understanding the social world around you, as well as your place in it. Consequently, this course should help you develop speaking, writing, and critical thinking skills necessary for success in academic and other professional settings.

Course Materials and Textbook

Textbook: *Introduction to Sociology*, 6th edition. Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, and Richard Appelbaum. W.W. Norton.

A secondary text designed to give an overview of the field of sociology from three highly respected practitioners. It is available via the university and other bookstores, as well as on the web. Although I will refer to page numbers found in the 6th edition, the 5th addition is very similar and can be used instead.

Readings: available through UGA Main Library Reserve System

I have also chosen a handful of primary texts designed to give students a closer look at key concepts and debates, as well as how sociological knowledge is produced and written. They are available online through the library's e-reserve system at: www.libs.uga.edu. Click on "course reserves," then "search course reserves" and under the "instructor" field select my name. In order to obtain the articles online, the computer you are using must have Adobe Acrobat Reader (for free at adobe.com) and you must enter a password: _____. In addition, physical copies of all readings are available at the main library's reserve desk. The call number for the reserve file is _____.

Course Requirements and Grades

Final grades will be based on your performance in four areas:

(1) Exams (4 total = **280** pts)

This course will have 4 required examinations. The first three will be non-cumulative and be worth 60 points a piece. The fourth will cover the last topic (“Population, Aging, and Environment”) but will also include material covered throughout Unit 2. This final exam will be worth 100 points. Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, matching, and short answer essay questions.

MISSED EXAMS: Make-ups will be given only under circumstances of serious illness or emergency (to be determined by the instructor). *You must contact me in advance of the test time.* Written documentation may be required before a request for a make-up is granted. Exams not made up will receive a zero. I reserve the right to offer a different exam than that offered during the normal test-taking period.

(2) Reading Quizzes & In-Class Assignments (amount to be determined = **90** pts)

Because the success of the course hinges on you not only reading the appropriate materials, but reading them thoroughly, we will have several unannounced quizzes on the assigned readings.

The make-up policy for reading quizzes is the same as that for exams. You must contact me ahead of time so that I may determine if the absence is legitimate (documentation may be required). A summary paper of the article/book chapter must be completed to make up missed quizzes (I will send you instructions via email once the absence has been verified). Failure to work out your absence in advance with ample time to complete the assignment will not be a legitimate reason for a late make up paper. Those who arrive late to class will not be allowed to make up the quiz.

(3) Reviews of Sociological Presentations (2= **30** pts)

Over the course of the semester you will be required to attend two talks sponsored by the Sociology Department and write a critical review. This review will include a summation of the talk, a point raised in the lecture that helped you to understand some aspect of sociology better, and a point critical of the presentation, material, or delivery. I will distribute a handout later in the semester with more detailed guidelines on how to carry out these assignments as well as a list of potential talks.

1st review – due in class MON, FEB 16th

2nd review – due in class FRI, April 17th

Papers must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due dates listed below. *Late papers will receive a letter grade demotion for each 24-hour period it is late.*

(4) Participation

Your participation is expected and required, as seen in the following incentive structure:

Enthusiastic Participation	+2pts
Strong Participation	+1pt
Average Participation	no points
Irregular or substandard participation	-1pts
Negative or uncooperative participation	-2pts

Your grade will be determined by the amount and quality of participation on the WebCT discussion boards, the in-class discussion of the readings, and group work. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to seek out notes and handouts from fellow students or to view films on your own time.

<u>Summary of course point totals:</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>	
4 exams:	280 points	A: 372.5-400	C+: 308- 319.5
Reading Quizzes & Activities:	90 points	A-: 360-371.5	C: 292-307.5
Presentation Reviews	30 points	B+: 348.5-359.5	C-: 280-291.5
		B: 332-348	D: 240-279.5
Total points possible	400 points	B-: 320-331.5	F: 239.5 and below

***No rounding will take place

COURSE POLICIES

Withdrawals: Students who withdraw from the class before the official withdrawal deadline (Thursday, March 24th) will be given a “W” regardless of their grade. These grades do have an impact on financial aid, athletic eligibility, and some scholarships. In addition, recent policy changes by the university mean they now have more severe implications in the long term. Please contact the appropriate advisor if you have questions about the specific impact. Withdrawals after the midpoint are automatically assigned a “WF,” which can only be avoided by contacting the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs (542-3564) and being granted a “Hardship withdrawal.”

Disabilities: Students with disabilities or health-related issues who need classroom accommodations should see me after class, during office hours, or make an appointment. I take these requests very seriously and will make every attempt to accommodate reasonable requests.

Academic Honesty: All academic work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty*. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Ignorance of these rules and regulations is not an acceptable defense of academic dishonesty. You may read the rules and regulations online at: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

Attendance: In previous years I have not had a formal attendance policy, but in recent semesters professors across departments, including myself, have noted declining attendance levels. Therefore I will be instituting a formal attendance policy for this course. ***Those who fall above the following threshold will be withdrawn from class with a “WF”:***

- More than 1 absence before Exam 1 [2/11]
- More than 3 absences before Exam 2 [3/30]
- More than 4 absences before the last day of class [4/30]

Those who show up late or leave early will not be given credit for that day. Those who have an emergency or other extenuating circumstances [to be determined by instructor] may be granted immunity. Please contact me as soon as possible, preferably before class.

Classroom etiquette: The success of this class depends on having a productive classroom environment. Arriving late, leaving early, talking to friends, reading the newspaper, doing crossword puzzles, eating, and sleeping are all behaviors that distract me and other students.

Cellphones & PDAs are never allowed at anytime during class. **Laptops** may only be used with prior approval by me. Note that I will ask you to send me your typed notes as proof of legitimate laptop use. *I reserve the right to withdraw students from the class (with a W or WF) who are repetitively disruptive.*

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

The course outline is a general plan for the course; deviation announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. The date in **bold** to the left of each reading is the day for which that particular reading has been assigned. If changes to this schedule are necessary, they will be announced in class and updated on the course’s WebCT calendar.

*****UNIT 1/ Introducing the Sociological Perspective*******

Topic 1: The Sociological Perspective, Methods, and Theory

1/12	Textbook: Chapter 1
1/16	Textbook: Chapter 2

Topic 2: Culture

1/23	Textbook: Chapter 3 (stop at p 74 “disappearing world” section)
1/28	<u>Reading</u> : Caplow, Theodore “The rules for giving Christmas gifts”
2/2	<u>Reading</u> : Glassner, Barry, selection from <u>Culture of Fear</u>

Topic 3: Socialization and Groups

2/9	Textbook: Chapter 4 and 6 (just read pp 139-147; stop at “Networks”)
2/11	<u>Reading</u> : Zurcher, L.A. “The Naval Recruit Training Center”

Topic 4: Conformity, Deviance, and Crime

2/13	Textbook: Chapter 7
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EXAM 1 scheduled for FRIDAY, February 20th

*****UNIT 2/Contemporary Social Life and Related Issues*******

Topic 5: Contemporary Human Societies/ Globalization and Social Change

2/20	Textbook: Chapter 3 (pp 74-86; start at “Disappearing World” section)
2/23	Textbook: Chapter 20

Topic 6: Stratification, Social Class, and Global Inequality

2/27	Textbook: Chapter 8& 9
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EXAM 2 scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th

Topic 7: Race, Ethnicity, and Education

3/23	Textbook: Chapter 11 <u>Reading</u> : American Anthropological Association “Statement on Race”
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3/27	Textbook: Chapter 16 (pp 505-20; stop at “Communication and Mass Media”)
3/30	<u>Reading</u> : Kozol, Jonathan, selections from <u>Savage Inequalities</u>

Topic 8: Gender, Work, and Family

4/3	Textbook: Chapter 10
4/8	Textbook: Chapters 14
4/13	Textbook: Chapters 15
4/15	<u>Reading</u> : Hochschild, Arlie “The Second Shift: Employed women are putting in another day of work at home”

EXAM 3 scheduled for MONDAY, April 20th

Topic 9: Population, Aging, and the Environment

4/22	Textbook: Chapter 12 (pp 367-371, 386-7)
4/27	Textbook: Chapter 19 (pp 611-625, 631-646)

**EXAM 4 scheduled for final exam period:
Monday, May 4th: 3:30-6:30PM, rm 307**

Important Dates (Mark your calendar!)

1 st Sociological Presentation review due:	Monday, February 16 th
Exam 1:	Wednesday, February 18 th
Exam 2:	Friday, March 20 th
Deadline for Withdrawal:	Tuesday, March 24 th
2 nd Sociological Presentation review due:	Friday, April 17 th
Exam 3:	Monday, April 20 th
Exam 4:	Monday, May 4 th 3:30-6:30PM (during final exam period)

Human Rights Statement

All students should know that the Department of Sociology has a Human Rights Committee for the resolution of student grievances. Any student registered for a sociology course at the University of Georgia who feels that he or she has not been treated in a fair or professional manner by an instructor is advised to follow these procedures:

- (1) The student should discuss his or her problems with the instructor of the course, unless extenuating circumstances prohibit this.
- (2) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance, the student should then discuss the problem with the Head of the Department of Sociology.
- (3) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the student, the student may request the activation of the Human Rights Committee by submitting a letter to the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia.

The Human Rights Committee will have the responsibility of investigating all charges in accordance with procedures on file in the Sociology office, copies of which are available to students. The Committee will also have the responsibility of making recommendations in writing to the Head, copies of which will be made available to the student complainant and the instructor involved. The Department Head will review the recommendations and make a decision in writing, with copies to the student complainant and the instructor or staff member involved. Any appeal of that decision must be to the Dean of the college of Arts and Sciences.

Thinking about Minor or Majoring in Sociology?

To major in sociology, you must take:

- (a) one prerequisite course, SOCI 1101 (Introductory Sociology)
- (b) three required courses:
 - (1) STAT 2000 (Elementary Statistics)
 - (2) SOCI 3220 (Development of Sociological Theory)
 - (3) either SOCI 3600 (Logic and Practice of Sociological Research) *or* SOCI 3590 (Qualitative Research Methods)
- (c) six sociology electives, five of which must be 3000-level or higher. The sixth elective must be a 2000-level or higher class.

Note that STAT 2000 is a prerequisite for SOCI 3600. The Department of Sociology strongly recommends that majors take SOCI 3590 or SOCI 3600 as soon as the major is declared. Those courses provide knowledge and skills that will be useful in all your sociology courses. SOCI 1101 serves as the prerequisite for most other courses in the department.

To minor in sociology, you must take:

- (a) one prerequisite course, SOCI 1101 (Introductory Sociology)
- (b) four sociology electives, one which has to be at the 2000-level or higher and three of which have to be at the 3000-level or higher. (Note that if you use SOCI 1101 to satisfy the Core Area E requirement, then you must take a fifth elective at the 2000-level or higher.)