

Introductory Sociology (SOC1 1101) / Spring Semester 2009



Instructor: Jim Coverdill / Classroom: Zell B. Miller Student Learning Center 148
Class Sessions: 12:30 - 1:45 on Tuesday and Thursday / Office: 214B Baldwin Hall
Instructor's Office Hours: by appointment / Office Phone: 542-3169
E-mail: jimcov@uga.edu / Class Web Page: <http://jimcov.myweb.uga.edu/intro.htm>
Teaching Assistants: Christen Bradley (cbradley@uga.edu) and Matt May (mmay2@uga.edu)

I. Course Description and Texts

Welcome to Sociology 1101. The purpose of this course is to introduce sociology as a discipline and to show how it helps us to understand various social issues such as crime, work and employment, social inequality, and recent trends in marriage and the family. There are two sources of required readings for this class. The first is a relatively inexpensive but excellent textbook titled *Introduction to Sociology* (ninth edition--2007), by Henry L. Tischler. This text provides an overview of basic concepts, methods, and social patterns and serves to supplement the lectures. The second source of readings, what I'll refer to as the "electronic reserve readings," consists of articles and book chapters that provide important insights into social life and sociology. While some of those selections will be incorporated into lecture material directly, most serve to augment lectures on related topics but will not be discussed during class. The textbook is available at the UGA bookstore under the course number (SOC1 1101) and my name. All other readings are available through the main library's electronic reserves. To get to the electronic reserve material, use your internet browser and go to <http://gil.uga.edu>, the main library page. Double click on the "course reserves" button, go to the "instructor" field, pull up my name, and then choose "SOC1101: Introductory Sociology" from the course field. The electronic reserve readings are arranged by reading number (as in Reading 1), not by author name or title (see details later in the syllabus). You'll need to use the password _____ (learn this in class) to access the selections. The files are in Adobe Acrobat format. You will thus need to install the basic version of Adobe Acrobat on your computer in order to view and print the notes and review sheets. Most of the labs on campus have already installed Adobe; it's free and easy to download and install at home (go to <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> and follow the directions).

II. Administrative Issues

Exams & Grades. There will be four in-class exams. Each exam will consist of 40 multiple-choice items and 20 points worth of a mix of short essays, matching, and the like (i.e., not multiple choice). Each exam will be worth 60 points. Exams focus upon material presented in the readings, textbook, and lectures; no exam, including the "final," is cumulative in the traditional sense. It is impossible, however, to avoid concepts and material presented in earlier units as the semester unfolds. There are 240 total points in the course. Grades will be based on the following point intervals: 223-240 = A; 216-222 = A-; 208-215 = B+; 199-207 = B; 192-198 = B-; 184-191 = C+; 175-183 = C; 168-174 = C-; 144-167 = D; and 143 or fewer = F. For sociology majors, a grade of C- or less will NOT count toward major course work. Students in the Franklin College must earn a grade of "C" or better in major required course. *I make NO exceptions to these grade intervals; you will receive the grade you earn in the class by virtue of your performance.* Trust that I won't offer a break to someone else that I won't offer to you--everyone must, and will be, held to the same standard.

Take-Home Projects. There will be four take-home writing projects, one for each of the four exam units. The projects will consist of four-page (or so) responses to one or more questions. *Everyone must do one project.* The one required project will be graded pass/fail. A passing grade on that project will not add to your point total; a failure to submit a pass-worthy project before the end of the term will result in a 10 point deduction from your final grade. You are welcome to submit responses to all four projects. Projects in excess of the one required project will be assessed on a 5-point scale, with 5 representing a "high

pass" and 0 representing "it's a stinker." *Once you have submitted the one required project, subsequent projects produce bonus points which are added to your final point total.* Each project will have a deadline by which it must be submitted. Projects can only be submitted in person and in class; no email attachments, friend-delivered papers, and the like will be accepted. There will be no time extensions for the projects (and no exceptions to that rule).

Make-Up Exams. Make-ups are uncommon and should not be expected. Unless it is impossible for you to do so (e.g., you are in the hospital from a car wreck), you must contact me in advance of the test or you will receive a zero. I reserve the right to refuse to offer a make-up exam even if you contact me in advance. All make-up exams will be administered in class during our final class period (Tuesday, April 28) and, if necessary, in my office on the morning of "Reading Day" (Friday, May 1), the day after classes end for the term. I reserve the right to offer a different exam than that offered during the normal test-taking period. Please understand that offering a false rationale for a make-up exam is an act of academic dishonesty and amounts to cheating on an exam.

Attendance Policy. Attendance is required. Each day, sign-in sheets will be available at the front of the room before class; sheets will also circulate as class begins. Sign in once and only for yourself: signing in for another student is an act of academic dishonesty and will be treated as such. It is your responsibility to sign in if you are present; if you do not sign an attendance sheet, then you will be considered absent. If UGA is in session, and hence we meet for class, then you are expected to be in class. *There are no excused absences.* The way to approach attendance in this and the rest of your classes is to make it a priority and a habit. Points will be added to or subtracted from your final point total in the following way:

Number of absences	Points Added to (+) or Subtracted from (-) Final Point Total
0	+5
1	+4
2	+3
3	+2
4	+1
5 - 8	0
9 - 10	-5
11 - 12	-10
13 or more	-15

If you elect to miss sessions, then please do not expect me or the TAs to provide reruns of lectures or films during office hours. Most typically, those who attend the lectures learn more and do better on the exams. It is in your own interest to attend lectures. The carrot-and-stick approach adopted here aims to encourage attendance.

Class Webpage. I will post lecture notes and review questions for the electronic reserve readings and the textbook on the class webpage (see the top of the syllabus for the web address). You will need to install the basic version of Adobe Acrobat on your computer in order to view and print the notes and review sheets. This software is free and easy to download and install (go to <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> and follow the directions). Most of the labs on campus have already installed Adobe; ask the lab assistants for help if you experience problems reading or printing the notes. Given that the posted lecture notes are simply an outline of issues that are described, explained, and discussed in class, it is a mistake to imagine that you can print the notes off the webpage, skip the lecture sessions, and get everything you need to do well on the exams. Note that Adobe Acrobat must be installed on your computer to print selections from the reader that have been posted on the library's reserve room page.

Teaching Assistants. Two of our most talented graduate students will serve as teaching assistants. They will attend lectures, stay abreast of the readings, help me to prepare and assess the exams and writing projects, and make themselves available to

review and discuss exam and project results and study strategies individually with any and all students who wish to do so. Please make the teaching assistants a primary point of contact if you have questions about lectures, readings, or exams. Contact information and office hours for the two TAs will be announced in class and posted to the website. Note that our class does NOT have discussion sections that meet at a separate time and place from our lecture sessions.

Academic Honesty. All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. A few examples of academic dishonesty are copying answers from another student during an exam, giving a false excuse for failing to show up for an exam, signing in for another student on an attendance sheet, making use of old exams from this course, or taking a copy of an exam from our classroom. Students who assist other students in academically dishonest acts are in violation of the policy of academic honesty. A full version of the UGA policy regarding academic honesty, "A Culture of Honesty," can be found at <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/ACOH%20May%20'07.pdf>. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

Withdrawals. Students who withdraw from the class *on or before the withdrawal deadline* (March 24) will be assigned a grade of "W". While grades of "W" do not influence your GPA, they can be consequential for financial aid, athletic eligibility, and veteran's benefits (to name just a few). There are now severe limitations on how many withdrawals you can amass in your time here at UGA (see the policy at https://uc.reg.uga.edu/pdf/2008-10-9_Course_Withdrawal_Policy.pdf). You should contact the appropriate office (Student Financial Aid, Athletic Department, and so on) if you have questions concerning the possible impact of withdrawing from the course. Students who withdraw after the mid-point can avoid a grade of "WF" (which counts as an F for purposes of grade-point averages) only if (a) the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs (542-3564) grants what is called a Hardship Withdrawal from all of your courses and (b) I agree that the situation warrants such consideration. Contact that office for details and procedures. After the midpoint, I do not have the authority to submit a non-grade of "W" without intervention and support from those higher up the administrative ladder.

Classroom Etiquette. The success of a class depends upon cooperation and consideration. I expect you to arrive and be seated by the time class is set to begin. The class will be excused no later than 1:45. Four other behaviors which are discourteous and distracting to me and your fellow students are reading the newspaper, talking, goofing around with laptops (e.g., sending emails in class, viewing webpages, and the like), and cell-phone interruptions (please set your phone so that it does not ring in class). *I reserve the right to (a) withdraw students from the class (with either a grade of W or WF) who I determine to be disruptive, (b) limit or prohibit laptop use (using laptops in class is a privilege, not a right), and (c) record you as absent for the day if you are late or if you leave early.* I want you to have a good experience in this class. If there is something on your mind that you would like me to address, then please let me know about it. Remember that I can only respond to the information and feedback that you provide.

Email. Email is a reasonable way to communicate with me should you have questions or concerns. I will strive to respond to email within two business days (weekends and holidays are not business days). A drawback to email is that there are times when messages are not received. Please assume that if you don't get a response within two days that your email was not received. In addition, it is imperative that you print out or otherwise store copies of replies to important correspondence. For example, if you email me to ask for some sort of special consideration (like permission to take a make-up exam), I will reply to your note. Keep a copy of that reply, as it is your only proof that the exchange took place. Always protect yourself, in this and other classes, by keeping copies of important emails, as those copies will quickly resolve any disputes that may arise. When an instructor deals with many students, as most of us do, it is easy to forget the occasional detail. Copies of messages jog memories and smooth out misunderstandings.

III. Course Outline

Topic 1. The Sociological Perspective. Readings: Textbook (pp. 3-24); Electronic Reserve Reading 1 (Mirowsky, John, and Catherine E. Ross. Excerpts from their book *Social Causes of Psychological Distress*)

Topic 2. Methods of Sociology. Readings: Textbook (pp. 31-50); Electronic Reserve Reading 2 (Schuman, Howard. "Sense and Nonsense about Surveys") and 3 (Adler, Patricia. "Researching Dealers and Smugglers")

Topic 3. Culture and Social Structure. Readings: Textbook (pp. 55-75 and pp. 120-127); Electronic Reserve Reading 4 (Best, Joel, and Gerald Horiuchi. "The Razor Blade in the Apple: The Social Construction of Urban Legends"), 5 (Fox, Kathryn. "Real Punks and Pretenders: The Social Organization of a Counterculture"), and 6 (Erickson, Bonnie. "Social Networks: The Value of Diversity")

Exam # 1: Tuesday, February 3 (covers lectures and readings for Topics 1 - 3)

Topic 4. Socialization. Readings: Textbook (pp. 81-105); Electronic Reserve Reading 7 (Adler, Peter, and Patricia A. Adler. "Role Conflict and Identity Salience: College Athletics and the Academic Role") and 8 (Dyer, Gwynne. "Anybody's Son Will Do")

Topic 5. Social Groups and Organizations. Readings: Textbook (pp. 135-148); Electronic Reserve Reading 9 (Chambliss, Daniel. "Just Another Routine Emergency")

Topic 6. Crime and Deviance. Readings: Textbook (153-185); Electronic Reserve Reading 10 (Chambliss, William J. "Policing the Ghetto Underclass: The Politics of Law and Law Enforcement"), 11 (McLorg, Penelope A., and Diane E. Taub. "Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia"), and 12 (Western, Bruce, and Becky Pettit. "Beyond Crime and Punishment: Prisons and Inequality")

Exam # 2: Thursday, February 26 (covers lectures and readings for Topics 4 - 6)

Topic 7. Social Class and Global Stratification. Readings: Textbook (pp. 191-213 and pp. 219-235); Electronic Reserve Reading 13 (Lareau, Annette. "Social Class and Childrearing") and 14 (Rank, Mark R. "As American as Apple Pie: Poverty and Welfare")

Topic 8. Racial and Ethnic Minorities. Readings: Textbook (pp. 240-271); Electronic Reserve Reading 15 (May, Reuben A. Buford. "Race Talk and Local Collective Memory among African American Men in a Neighborhood Tavern") and 16 (Waters, Mary C. "Social Psychological and Character Traits")

Topic 9. Gender Stratification. Readings: Textbook (pp. 279-297); Electronic Reserve Reading 17 (Nelson, Adie. "The Pink Dragon is Female: Halloween Costumes and Gender Markers") and 18 (Williams, Christine. "The Glass Escalator: Hidden Advantages for Men in the 'Female' Professions")

Exam # 3: Tuesday, March 31 (covers lectures and readings for Topics 7 - 9)

Topic 10. Marriage and Family. Readings: Textbook (pp. 303-331); Electronic Reserve Reading 19 (Schwartz, Pepper. "Peer Marriage") and 20 (McLanahan, Sara, and Dona Schwartz. "Life Without Father: What Happens to the Children?")

Topic 11. Education and Work. Readings: Textbook (pp. 366-387); Electronic Reserve Reading Reading 21 (Ferguson, Ann Arnett. "Bad Boys: Public Schools in the Making of Black Masculinity") and 22 (Smith, Allen C., and Sherryll Kleinman. "Managing Emotions in Medical School: Students' Contacts with the Living and the Dead")

Topic 12. Social Change, Collective Behavior, and Social Movements. Readings: Textbook (pp. 478-497); Electronic Reserve Reading 23 (Ritzer, George. "An Introduction to McDonaldization") and 24 (Schwalbe, Michael. "The Search for *Communitas* in the Men's Movement")

Exam # 4: Thursday, April 23 (covers lectures and readings for Topics 10 - 12)

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 students 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); and (3) either SOCI 3600 (Logic and Practice of Sociological Research) *or* SOCI 3590 (Qualitative Research Methods); and (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 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.

To minor in sociology, you must take: (a) one prerequisite course, SOCI 1101 (Introductory Sociology); and (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.)

More information about the undergraduate program can be obtained at <http://uga.edu/soc/undergraduate>