

Moravian College

SOC 115A – Introduction to Sociology

PPHAC 335 on M & W from 2:20 – 3:30 PM

Dr. Joel Nathan Rosen, Assistant Professor in Sociology

PPHAC 317

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Office Hours: T/W 3:30–4:30pm; Th 4-6pm; By Appointment

****Check Black Board (Bb) Site Daily****

Required Text:

- Russell, James W. *Societies and Social Life: An Introduction to Sociology*. Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY: Sloan Publishing, 2006.
- Supplemental readings to be announced throughout the quarter.

Course Objectives:

- To introduce sociology as an academic and practical discipline
- To provide discussion of contemporary social issues using a variety of sociological perspectives
- To think and write using a sociological imagination

Course Requirements:

Students will be required to take two midterm exams, write a 4-5 page paper, take a final exam, which will be cumulative, and perform other tasks, including writing article reviews, unannounced quizzes, etc., as befitting this type of course. The midterms will be spaced at approximately one-third of the way through the course—fair warning will precede any exam. The final exam **must** be taken at the assigned period as outlined in the college schedule.

The breakdown of final grades is as follows:

Misc. Work, Reviews, Quizzes, Participation, etc.	20%
Midterm Exam Grade	20%
Group Project (combined paper and presentation)	20%
Adopt-a-Theorist Paper [Due Date <i>TBD</i>]	20%
Final Exam Grade	20%

The grade scale is as follows:

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

Please Note: For the reviews/critiques, I will be using a letter grade system in which the above letters will correspond to numbers ranging from 13 (A+) through 1 (F but different from a zero). Your final tally for these works will be drawn from the high end of each letter grade, i.e. a C+ will be marked as 79 pts, C as 76, C- as 72, etc. I will be happy to explain this more completely upon request.

Classroom Decorum and Expectations:

- **Attendance** – Class attendance is mandatory and vitally important to your success. Failure to attend on a regular basis not only puts your grade in jeopardy but will also be met with significant grade reductions. The limits are as follows:
 - Following your fourth absence, each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by one letter.
 - This penalty will continue to accrue per each successive absence from that point on.

****Remember – there are no excused absences. If you have a legitimate emergency, it is your responsibility to bring it to the attention of your instructor at the earliest possible opportunity convenience. Communication (and hard work) are ultimately the keys to success at this level (forgive the fortune cookie tone!). Also, leaving early without prior notice or the courtesy of a notice may indeed fall under the heading of an absence.**

- **Tardiness** – Tardiness to class is not only detrimental to the learning process but quite disruptive and unfair to those who make it to class on time regularly. Recurring tardiness shows a lack of respect for the classroom, the instructor, and one's fellow students and will not be tolerated. Therefore, once the door has been shut, you will not be permitted to enter the classroom.
- **Deadlines** – Assignment deadlines are exactly that. Students are expected to comply with deadlines in accordance with all rules, guidelines, and expectations of each assignment proffered. Failure to do so will result in a tendering of no-grade for work not done to expectation or submitted on time. The policy for late papers is as follows:
 - On minor assignments, you will be allowed to turn in one late assignment as long as it is within twenty-four hours for a ten point deduction. After your one exception, you will no longer enjoy this luxury.
 - On major assignments, there will be no grace period. Failure to contact the

instructor prior to a deadline (or missed exam) will result in a zero.

- Submitting work via email is something you must arrange in advance. Do not assume that it will keep you from missing a deadline.
- **Participation** – Classroom discussions are a big part of the learning process and will be factored into your final grade (see above). In the best tradition of many West African communities, your participation is not requested—it is required. Failure to contribute regularly is both in bad taste and could conceivably be detrimental to your ability to learn effectively (see above for participation value).
- **Disruptions** – Disruptive behavior, including talking, unengaged behavior, i.e. reading a book, magazine, or newspaper, sleeping, chronic tardiness alongside loud entrances, and any other unfortunate breach will not, and should not, be tolerated. Learning is an active process, and failure to actively engage not only threatens the individual's ability to learn but also affects those around him or her.
- **Academic Honesty** – You are all responsible for knowing and adhering to the code of academic honesty as established here at Moravian College. For those of you unfamiliar with this code, it can be found in its entirety on pages 52 through 57 on your student handbook.

Please note: It is your responsibility to see to it that these expectations and guidelines are met satisfactorily and consistently. I take the classroom quite seriously, and I expect all of you to do the same.

On Writing and Note-Taking – In the finest tradition of the liberal arts education, this instructor is particularly given to writing assignments and will spend a great deal of time evaluating them over the course of a semester. Please try to check your ego and spend as much time pouring over my commentary as you do in the actual writing process.

Also, be advised that note-taking is a skill that requires honing and shaping. As this is an introductory level course, I recommend that you use this experience as a means to help you foment a reasonable and workable level of expertise, one that will be quite helpful as you continue along your academic path.

Film Night – date and film *TBD*

“Philosophers only interpret the world.
The point is to change it.”
K. Marx

Course Sketch Outline (STC):

****All Readings to be Announced throughout the Semester****

Unit I: The Foundations of Sociology & Society, *aka* Discovering a Common Language

Topics to Be Covered:

- Perspectives & Theories
- The Modernization of the Social Order
- On Science and Research Methodologies
- Technology and Change
- Culture
- The Life Span
- Interaction & Group Life
- Deviance

**Midterm
Group Presentations**

Unit II: Inequality & Institutions

Topics to Be Covered:

- Stratification & Its Many Critics
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Politics and the Economy: A Connection?
- Family
- Religion
- Education
- Health & Medicine
- Demography
- The Modern World

**Papers Due Penultimate Day of the Semester
Cumulative Final Exam (see exam schedule)**