

Introductory Sociology
Soc 115 A
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:20 – 11:30; Memorial 302

Professor Daniel Jasper

PPHAC 316

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 8:30-9:30 & 1:00-2:00; Fridays 8:30-9:30; Other times by appointment

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Course Overview: This course is designed to provide an introduction to the academic discipline of sociology. Students will, therefore, be introduced to the theoretical principles, empirical methods, and historical development of the sociological perspective. Students will also be introduced to the ways of sociological observation and analysis. We will begin by looking at the historical development of Sociology and the central concepts of the discipline. We will then look at how Sociology makes sense of both the structuring principles and dynamic processes of modern societies.

Course Goals: By the end of the summer students will:

- understand sociology's intellectual origins and its current underpinnings
- understand the basic ideas and perspectives of sociology
- understand the types of questions that can be answered with a sociological analysis
- understand how to apply the three main theoretical perspectives of sociology
- understand the role of social structure in our everyday lives

Course Requirements and Expectations: It is expected that all students conduct themselves as professional scholars in this course. This means that students will arrive for class on time, prepared to participate in the collective work of the course. Students will have all necessary materials with them—including the texts under discussion, and leave unnecessary distractions (such as cell phones) behind.

It is expected that all students will have thoroughly and thoughtfully completed the weekly readings, and be prepared to discuss these, by our first meeting of each week. Students are expected to regularly contribute to in-class discussions with reactions and responses that deal directly with the issues and texts being considered. Towards this end, all students will be responsible for preparing a weekly reading note due on the first course meeting of each week. Reading notes will be further discussed the first week of class. **Periodic and unannounced quizzes** will be counted towards the participation component of the final grade.

Students must abide by the conventions of scholarly work, most importantly, the conventions of citation. All students should read and be familiar with the college policy on Academic Honesty included in the student handbook. All written work must include full and proper citations. There are no exceptions, including ignorance. Cheating and plagiarism will result in failing this course.

Students who wish to submit their writing assignments through electronic mail may send it to my email address only as an attached Word document. Assignments submitted in this way must be received by 10:00pm the evening **before** the due date. No late reading notes will be accepted, other late assignments will be penalized 10 % per day.

Grading:

Two Tests	20% (10% each)
Final Exam (Cumulative)	20%
Journal Review Essay	20%
Book Review Essay	20%
Weekly Reading Notes	10%
Class Preparation and Participation	10%

Required Texts:

All required texts are available for purchase through the Moravian College Bookstore.

- Witt, John. *The Big Picture: A Sociology Primer*. (McGraw-Hill, 2007)
- Kivisto, Peter. *Key Ideas in Sociology*, 2E. (Pine Forge, 2004)
- Haenfler, Ross. *Straight Edge: Clean-Living Youth, Hardcore Punk, and Social Change*. (Rutgers, 2006)

Additional texts will be accessible through Reeves Library.

Course Schedule

Please note, the outline below is merely a guide. Changes are possible as the semester progresses.

Week 1 (January 16 & 18) Course Introduction

Kivisto: Preface, Timeline, Ch. 1

Week 2 (January 23 & 25) What is Sociology?

Witt: Chs. 1-3

Week 3 (January 30 & February 1) Foundations of Sociological Thought

Witt: Chs. 4-6

Week 4 (February 6 & 8) Industrial Society

Kivisto. Ch. 2

Week 5 (February 13 & 15) Political Sociology and Democracy

Kivisto Ch. 3

Test 1: February 15

Week 6 (February 20 & 22) Self and Society

Kivisto: Ch. 4

Week 7 (February 27 & March 1) **Culture**
Witt: Chs. 7-9

Journal Review Essay Due February 27

Spring Break (March 6 & 8) No Class

Week 8 (March 13 & 15) **Stratification**
Witt: Chs. 12-14

Week 9 (March 20 & 22) **Straight Edge: A Case Study – Background and Basics**
Haenfler: Chs. 1-4

Week 10 (March 27 & 29) **Straight Edge: A Case Study – Structures and Processes**
Haenfler: Chs. 5-9

Book Review Essay Due March 27

Week 11 (April 3 & 5) **Social Institutions**
Witt: Chs. 9-11

Week 12 (April 10 & 12) **The Changing Demographics of the US**
Readings: TBA

Test 2: April 12

Week 13 (April 17 & 19) **Sociology and a changing World**
Witt: Ch. 15
Kivisto: Chs. 5-6

Week 14 (24 & 26) **Course Conclusion**

Final Exam during scheduled exam period.