

Introductory Sociology

Soc 115 C, meets LinC M4 requirement
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:45; PPHAC 330

Professor Daniel Jasper

PPHAC 316

Office Hours: M 4:30-6:00; T 1:00-2:15 & 3:45-5:00; other times by appointment

djasper@moravian.edu

610.625.7882

Course Overview: This course is designed to provide an introduction to the academic discipline of sociology. The primary focus will be to develop the skills of sociological observation, questioning, thinking, analysis, and argument. Students will, therefore, be introduced to the theoretical principles, empirical methods, and historical development of the sociological perspective. Students will become familiar with some of the central structures and processes of social life. Topics will include the social order, culture, socialization, stratification, and institutions. Throughout the term, we will emphasize the application of sociological insights to the social worlds with which we are familiar.

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

- understand sociology's intellectual origins and its current underpinnings
- understand the basic ideas and perspectives of sociology
- understand the role of social structure in our everyday lives
- be able to apply the sociological perspective to better understand self, community, and world.
- be able to pose sociological questions
- be able to collect and analyze data to address these questions through observation and library research
- be able to apply sociological insights, perspectives, and thinking to questions
- improve their ability to construct and analyze academic arguments

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, having thoroughly and thoughtfully completed the assigned readings. Students will bring all of the necessary materials with them to class—including texts under discussion, questions and comments on these texts, and the energy to participate actively in the collective work of the course. Unnecessary distractions (such as cell phones) should not be brought to class.

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.

There is a blackboard site for this course. Assignment guidelines, supplemental readings, and course announcements will be posted to the site. Students are expected to check the site regularly.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

Assessment: Student learning will be assessed through a variety of means during the course of the semester, including quizzes, formal and informal essays, assignments, and active participation. **Quizzes** are designed to assess the thoroughness and depth of students regular engagement with course materials. **Assignments** and **essays** are designed to assess students ability to observe social life, conduct research, and develop scholarly arguments, including the ability to synthesize, analyze, and apply course material. **Participation** assesses the degree to which students have actively contributed to the collective work of the class. Students will be evaluated on the quality as well as the quantity of their participation. It is within the instructor’s purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course

Grading:

4 Quizzes (3 points each)	_____/12
Assignments	_____/25
3 Reaction Essays (6 pts. Each)	_____/18
Journal Article Review Essay	_____/10
Book Review Essay	_____/10
Sociological Inquiry Essay	_____/15
Course Participation	_____/10
Total Points	_____/100

Final Grades

	87-89.9 = B+	77-79.9 = C+	67-69.9 = D+
94-100 = A	83-86.9 = B	73-76.9 = C	63-66.9 = D
90-93.9 = A-	80-82.9 = B-	70-72.9 = C-	60-62.9 = D-
Below 60 points = F			

Texts:

Conley, Dalton. 2008. *You May Ask Yourself*. New York: W. W. Norton.

Foster, Robert J. 2008. *Coca-Globalization*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Supplemental texts will be available through Blackboard or Reeves Library.

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

Week 1 (September 1st & 3rd) **What is Sociology? What will this class be like?**

Read: Course Syllabus; Student Handbook; skim Conley

Week 2 (September 8th & 10th): What do Sociologists do? How do they do it?

Read: Conley, chs. 1-2.

Quiz 1 on September 8th.

Week 3 (September 15th & 17th): How does this relate to me?

Read: Conley, ch. 4-5

Quiz 2 on September 15th

Week 4 (September 22nd & 24th): Is this all a vast conspiracy?

Read: Conley, ch. 3

September 24th: Library Instruction Day.

Week 5 (September 28th & October 1st): Can I still be different?

Read: Conley, ch. 6

Week 6 (October 6th & 8th): How can I think deeper about culture, structure and power?

Due: Journal Review Essay on October 6th.

Week 7 (October 15th): Is it like this everywhere?

October 13th: No Class, Fall Break

Read: Foster, part I

Quiz 3 on October 15th

Week 8 (October 20th & 22nd): What does it mean for Papua New Guinea? What does it mean for us?

Read: Foster, part II

Week 9 (October 27th & 29th): The world is a big place, what about our college?

Read: Conley, chs. 12-13

Due: Book Review Essay on October 29th.

Week 10 (November 3rd & 5th): What about our class(es)?

Read: Conley, ch. 14-15

Week 11 (November 10th & 12th): Doesn't it all start at home?

Read: Conley, ch. 7

Week 12 (November 17th & 19th): Do schools play a role? How about churches?

Read: Conley, chs. 8-9

Week 13 (November 24th): Why do so many people eat turkey on Thanksgiving? Should we decorate our houses for Eid and Diwali?

November 26th: No Class for Thanksgiving

Due: Sociological Inquiry Essay on November 24th.

Week 14 (December 1st & 3rd): Who's in control? What can I do about it?

Read: Conley, chs. 10-11, 18

Quiz 4 on December 1st

Week 15 (December 8th): What did I learn?