

Introductory Sociology
Soc 115 C, meets LinC M4 requirement
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:45; PPHAC 335

Professor Daniel Jasper

PPHAC 316

Office Hours: T, R, F 9:00-10:00; other times by appointment

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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:

3 Quizzes (4 points each)	_____	/12
Assignments	_____	/18
4 Analytic Essays (5 pts. Each)	_____	/20
Journal Article Review Essay	_____	/10
Book Review Essay	_____	/10
Sociological Inquiry Essay	_____	/15
Course Participation	_____	/15
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 (January 19th & 21st) **What is Sociology? What will this class be like?**

Read: Course Syllabus; Student Handbook; skim Conley

Week 2 (January 26th & 28th): What do Sociologists do? How do they do it?

Read: Conley, chs. 1-2.

Quiz 1 on January 26th

Week 3 (February 2nd & 4th): How does this relate to me?

Read: Conley, ch. 4-5

Week 4 (February 9th & 11th): Is this all a vast conspiracy?

Read: Conley, ch. 3

Week 5 (February 16th & 18th): Can I still be different?

Read: Conley, ch. 6

Week 6 (February 23rd & 25th): How can I think deeper about culture, structure and power?

Read: Foster, part I

Due: Journal Review Essay on February 23rd.

Week 7 (March 2nd & 4th): But don't we live in a global society?

Read: Foster, part II

Week 8 (March 9th & 11th): **No Class, Spring Break**

Week 9 (March 16th & 18th): The world is a big place, what about our college?

Read: Conley, chs. 12-13

Due: Book Review Essay on March 18th.

Week 10 (March 23rd & 25th): What about our class(es)?

Read: Conley, ch. 14-15

Week 11 (March 30th & April 1st): How can I further refine my sociological imagination?

Week 12 (April 6th & 8th): Doesn't it all start at home?

Read: Conley, ch. 7

Week 13 (April 13th & 15th): Do schools play a role? How about churches?

Read: Conley, chs. 8-9

Week 14 (April 20th & 22nd): Who's in control? What can I do about it?

Read: Conley, chs. 10-11, 18

Due: Sociological Inquiry Essay on April 20th.

Week 15 (April 27th & 29th): What did I learn?

Scheduled Final Exam Time: Friday May 7th @ 6:30 pm