

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

Professor Daniel Jasper

PPHAC 316

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 – 1:00, Fridays 1:00 – 2:00; 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 current focus
- 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. Each week, there will be in-class quizzes and assignments that deal with the assigned readings and class discussion topics. **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:

Quizzes & Assignments	_____/50
Short Essays	_____/20
Research Project	_____/15
Course Participation	_____/15
Total Points	_____/100

Final Grades

	87-89.9 = B+	77-79.9 = C+	67-69.9 = D+
93-100 = A	83-86.9 = B	73-76.9 = C	63-66.9 = D
90-92.9 = 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.
 Supplemental texts will be available through Blackboard or Reeves Library. Check Blackboard frequently for supplemental readings.

Course Schedule: Please note, the outline below is merely a guide. Changes are possible as the semester progresses. For many classes, the assigned readings will be supplemented by additional texts.

Week 1 (January 18th & 20th) What is Sociology? What will this class be like?

Read: Course Syllabus; Student Handbook; skim Conley

Week 2 (January 25th & 27th) What do Sociologists do? How do they do it?

Read: Conley, chs. 1-2.

Week 3 (February 1st & 3rd) Is this all a vast conspiracy?

Read: Conley, ch. 3

Deutshcer, Guy. "Does Your Language Shape How You Think?" *New York Times Magazine*. August 29, 2010. Pp. 42-47.

Week 4 (February 8th & 10th) How does this relate to me?

Read: Conley, ch. 4

Week 5 (February 15th & 17th) Can I still be different?

Read: Conley, ch. 6

Howard Becker, "Becoming a Marihuana User", *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 59, No. 3 (Nov., 1953), pp. 235-242.

Week 6 (February 22nd & 24th) (ESS) Do my friends and neighbors matter?

Read: Conley, ch. 5

Week 7 (March 1st & 3rd) What about the rest of the world?

Read: TBA

Week 8 (March 8th & 10th) **No Class – Spring Break**

Week 9 (March 15th & 17th) The world is a big place, what about our college?

Read: Conley, chs. 12-13

Week 10 (March 22nd & 24th) What about our class(es)?

Read: Conley, chs. 14-15

Week 11 (March 29th & 31st) Doesn't it all start at home?

Read: Conley, ch. 7

Week 12 (April 5th & 7th) Do schools play a role? How about churches?

Read: Conley, chs. 8-9

Week 13 (April 12th & 14th) Who's in control? What can I do about it?

Read: Conley, chs. 10-11, 18

Week 14 (April 19th & 21st) How is the US changing? How is the world changing?

Read: TBA

Week 15 (April 26th & 28th) What did I learn?

Scheduled Final Exam Time: Friday, May 6, 2011, 1:30PM: Exams for courses which normally meet TR 6th period.