

**COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**

Course and section numbers: SOC 115A

Course meeting day and time: Tues/Thurs 8:55 am – 10:55 am

Room number: COMEN 309

Current semester: Fall 2011

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

Instructor's name: Professor Andrew McIntosh

Office hours: Tue / Thur 10:30 am – 12 pm or by appointment

Office location: PPHAC 310

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**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

*Sociology In Our Times: The Essentials*, 8th Edition, Diana Kendall, 2011, Wadsworth

**COURSE DESCRIPTION FROM MORAVIAN COLLEGE CATALOG:** Explores basic concepts and theories concerning the relationship between individuals and society. Emphasizes the influence of culture, social structure, and institutions upon human activity. Discusses and analyzes social groups, socialization, community, class, power, and social change, among other substantive issues.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FROM THE COURSE OUTLINE:** Students will discover and harness the power of their *sociological imagination*. Through text, lecture, discussion and activity, students will learn and adopt the basic principles of sociology and its research methods to just about anything: family, race, religion, crime, globalization, power, work, war, health, and sports, etc.

- A. The successful student will be able to apply a theoretical understanding to contemporary topics concerning culture, groups and organizations, social inequalities, social institutions and social dynamics and social change.
- B. Apply concepts, theories, and major perspectives (paradigms) to particular cases and to their own experiences using the thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students should be able to engage in all aspects of critical thinking.
- C. Acquire knowledge about some of the primary sub-fields within sociology including social stratification systems based on class, race, ethnicity, and gender and also social institutions such as family, religion, education, politics, and economics.
- D. Logically organize ideas according to social science criteria in written assignments and oral presentations.
- E. Compare the basic functions of the society of the United States to those in other cultures.
- F. Increase his or her own cultural awareness and knowledge of ethnic, racial, gender, social class, and religious diversity in the United States and around the world.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN:**

### **What to expect in the classroom and what is expected of you:**

Introductory Sociology curriculum revolves around the assigned text. Many of us are brand new to sociology; we must absorb and digest fundamental sociological terms, concepts and ideas in order to competently engage the social sciences. There is no way around it: reading the assignments is critical to your work in the classroom, on assignments, and on exams.

What will be hopefully engaging and enjoyable about our topic is that concepts of sociology will discuss and dissect our lives in the United States in relation to the whole world, *right here and right now*. Class discussions and group activities are all but required to be relevant to our lives and provide us with an opportunity to relay our own experiences and perspectives.

Our class meetings three times a week will generally follow this pattern:

**Tuesdays:** Examination of the week's principal terms and concepts from *Sociology In Our Times: The Essentials* via lectures, class discussions and use of examples in the form of video, music or other.

**Thursdays:** Will wrap up the chapter being discussed, sometimes examining a particular assigned reading for that week. On certain weeks, class will be broken into groups. Group activity guidelines and expectations will be defined in a separate handout.

### **How Your Final Grade will be Determined:**

**4 Quizzes: 20%**

**Final Exam: 20%**

**Class Participation: 20%**

**"Scrapbooks" : 20%**

**Research Paper: 20%**

1) There will be **6 Quizzes given throughout the semester**, the average of your **4 highest quiz grades** will be (**20%**) of your grade.

- Quizzes will cover material that was assigned for reading overnight or, material just discussed in class, or a general overview of material since the last quiz.
- Worth 5% of your total grade each, these quizzes will be in the form of multiple choice, true/false or matching terms.

*If a student is absent the day of a quiz, there will be no make up quizzes*

2) There will be **Final Exam** totals **20%** of your grade.

- The **Final Exam (20%)** is cumulative.

*The Quizzes will be in the form of multiple choice, true/false and "short answer" questions. The Final Exam is a "take home" multiple essay examination.*

3) **Class Participation (20%)** is required and will be measured by **class discussion**, the "**week's work**" and **group activity**. Students will receive **100%** credit for this requirement by **their regular participation in class discussions, written work for classroom activities and participation in group work**. A student who does not receive full class participation credit by the professor's judgment will have *not* frequently joined class discussions, *not* given an honest effort to class activities or offered helpful contributions to the group activity. They are likely to have spotty class attendance. The "**week's work**" and **group activity** allow students opportunities to "maintain" their class participation grade even if they are not comfortable speaking during class discussions.

## **RELATED POLICIES:**

**Consequence of Lateness to Class:** Students' **Class Participation** grade will be **penalized by 5 points** each time they arrive after 8:55 am three or more times.

**Extra Credit:** Two extra credit opportunities are available the week classes are held before Thanksgiving. The additional points toward your class participation grade that week can be earned by class attendance (10 points); class presentation (10 points); summary review paper (20 points). More information will be given in a handout and discussed in class.

4) **Sociological Scrapbook (20%):** Over the course of the semester, students will turn in **five social artifacts** that convey a concept or issue that is discussed in the class. The artifacts can be images or text, the more creative a student is the more likely satisfying this exercise will be. For each artifact, **one to two paragraphs explaining how and why it illustrates a particular sociological concept or issue is required.** Further explanation for this assignment will be given in a handout.

5) **Research Paper (20%):** The summary paper will be an exercise in **applied research.** Students will pick a topic of *their choice* in a field of interest and attempt rudimentary research of the topic in the form of certified online resources or traditional media found at the library. The paper will discuss a social phenomenon or social problem in four to five pages in length; it will be detailed in its discussion, proofread and **STAPLED.** The topic for this paper is due **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25** and the paper itself is due for **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15.**

Further directions for this paper and a grading matrix will be handed out later in the semester.

### **Grade Scale: Final Average Range**

A: 100-93	B+: 89-87	C+: 79-77	D+: 69-68
A-: 92-90	B: 86-83	C: 76-73	D: 67-60
	B-: 82-80	C-: 72-70	F: 59-0

**Consequences of Late Work, Missed Exams, Make-Up Work:** Students must make direct communication with the professor in person or by email if they miss an exam or want to be formally excused from class. If a student misses a class, they are responsible to study covered material themselves or with another student. ***If an exam is missed, arrangements must be made for a make-up date ASAP by email.*** If a student does not contact the professor within 24 hours of a missed exam, they will receive a failing grade for the exam. An excused absence for an exam by proof a doctor's note, employer verification or dean letter may be necessary.

**Class Attendance:** A student who misses class more than twice the number of weekly meeting of the class (4 classes) will have their **Class Participation penalized 20 points for every missed class thereafter.** If student is having issues with attending class, *it is the student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor and make arrangements to cover assigned work.*

### **Classroom Management (cell phone use, leaving class, disruptive behavior):**

**Put cell phones away with ringers off,** their use is not permitted during class. If a student is awaiting an EMERGENCY CALL, please discuss with the professor before class starts. Otherwise, casual use is not permitted and **repeat "Text Offenders" will be penalized.** *Caught once texting, you will receive a warning; caught twice you will receive a failing participation grade.*

Leaving class to use the bathroom or for some other reason is permitted if absolutely necessary. Excuse yourself without disrupting others.

We are all here by the choices we have made in our lives or are preparing to make. Each one of us has

something to contribute to the class discussions and flow of ideas. For some, speaking in class comes quickly and easily. Others will be finding their voice as they sort their thoughts. Your Professor will embody both of these traits at times and **requires that the respect shown to the Professor will also be given to one another of your fellow students**. Rude interrupting and careless talking will not go unchecked.

*Not meeting these expectations on a regular weekly basis will result in a **failing participation grade**.* Continued unruly behavior after penalty will be dealt with outside of class with a Dean's assistance.

Each one of us will likely admit they want to be treated with respect by the Professor and others. The same is expected of your behavior as well. Following these guidelines ensures you will be in the best position to succeed in this class.

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### **Course Calendar (dates, topics and assignments for each class meeting):**

#### **WEEK 1: THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE AND RESEARCH PROCESS**

*Assigned Readings:*

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 2 – 39

**Tue Aug 30:** Introduction and Salutations; The Sociological Perspective and The Research Process

**Thur Sept 1:** The Sociological Perspective and The Research Process completed

#### **WEEK 2: CULTURE**

*Assigned Readings:*

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 40 – 73

**ESSAY HANDOUT:**

“Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” Horace Miner

**Tue Sept 6: QUIZ #1 (Chpt 1); Culture**

**Thur Sept 8:** Culture completed

#### **WEEK 3: SOCIALIZATION**

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 74 – 84; 85 – 103

**Tue Sept 13:** Socialization; **\*SCRAPBOOK #1 DUE\***

**Thur Sept 15:** Socialization completed; **QUIZ #2 (Chpt 2 and 3)**

#### **WEEK 4: SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND INTERACTION**

*Assigned Readings:*

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 104 – 137

**ESSAY HANDOUT:**

“You Can't Be a Sweet Cucumber in a Vinegar Barrel” Philip Zimbardo

**Tue Sept 20:** Social Structure and Interaction;

**Thur Sept 22:** Social Structure and Interaction completed

## **WEEK 5: GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

*Assigned Readings:*

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 138 – 163

**ESSAY HANDOUT:**

“Characteristics of Bureaucracy” Max Weber

**Tue Sept 27:** Groups and Organizations; **\*SCRAPBOOK #2 DUE\***

**Thur Sept 29:** Groups and Organizations completed; **QUIZ #3 (Chpt 4);**

## **WEEK 6: DEVIANCE AND CRIME**

*Assigned Readings:*

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 164 – 205

**Tue Oct 4:** Deviance and Crime

**Thur Oct 6:** Scrapbook Review

## **WEEK 7: U.S. AND GLOBAL STRATIFICATION**

*Assigned Readings:*

**ESSAY HANDOUTS:**

“Keeping Up with the Trumps” Juliet Schor

“No, Poverty Has Not Disappeared” Herbert Gans

**Tue Oct 11:** *No Class – Fall Recess*

**Thur Oct 13:** U.S. Class Stratification in the United States; Global Stratification

## **WEEK 8: RACE AND ETHNICITY**

*Assigned Readings:*

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 272 - 290

**Tue Oct 18:** **QUIZ #4 (Chpt 7 & 8);** Race and Ethnicity

**Thur Oct 20:** Race and Ethnicity completed; **\*SCRAPBOOK #3 DUE\***

## **WEEK 9: SEX AND GENDER**

*Assigned Readings:*

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 308 - 345

**Tue Oct 25:** Sex and Gender; **\*\*\*RESEARCH TOPIC DUE\*\*\***

**Thur Oct 27:** Sex and Gender completed; **QUIZ #5 (Chpt 9 & 10)**

## **WEEK 10: FAMILIES AND INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS**

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 346 - 379

**ESSAY HANDOUT:**

“Family in Transition” Arlene Skolnick and Jerome Skolnick

**Tue Nov 1:** Families and Intimated Relationships

**Thur Nov 3:** Families and Intimated Relationships completed; **QUIZ #6 (Chpt 11)**

**WEEK 12: EDUCATION**

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 380 - 401

**ESSAY HANDOUT:**

“Savage Inequalities” Jonathan Kozol

**Tue Nov 8:** Education; **\*SCRAPBOOK #4 DUE\***

**Thur Nov 10:** Education completed

**WEEK 12: EDUCATION AND RELIGION CONTINUED**

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 401 - 420

**ESSAY HANDOUT:**

“The Decline of the American Civil Religion?” Gordon Clanton and Shoon Lio

**Tue Nov 15:** Religion; **\*\*\*RESEARCH PAPER DUE\*\*\***

**Thur Nov 17:** Religion completed; **QUIZ #7 (Chpt 12)**

**WEEK 13: THANKSGIVING WEEK**

**Tue Nov 22:** Extra Credit Class; **\*\*EXTRA CREDIT SUMMARY PAPER DUE\*\***

- Attendance to *this class* is **worth 10 class participation points**.
- Class periods will be given to the students for presentations, discussion of class material, summary papers and grades.
- Informal presentations are **worth 10 class participation points**. Presentations can be on subject of student’s choice. *Discussion and/or video, music, or other media must connect to a sociological concept learned this semester.*
- Extra credit paper: Summary and review of Sean Christopher Lewis’ “Killadelphia” Thursday, November, 17 8 pm performance at Moravian College Arena Theater, **worth 20 points**.

**WEEK 14: HEALTH CARE / POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 470 – 487

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 420 - 426

**ESSAY HANDOUT:**

“The End of Work” Jeremy Rifkin

“The Third Technological Revolution” Daniel Bell

**Tue Nov 29:** Health Care; Politics and Economics

**Thur Dec 2:** Politics and Economics completed; **Quiz #8 (Chpt 13 & 14)**

**WEEK 15: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS / SOCIAL CHANGE**

**SIOT, Kendall:**

pg 561 – 571

**ESSAY HANDOUT:**

pg 469: “The 17 Great Challenges of the Twenty-First Century” James Martin

**Tue Dec 6: Social Movements and Social Change; \*SCRAPBOOK #5 DUE\***

**TAKE HOME FINAL DUE: WED, DEC 14 BY 5 pm**

**POLICIES:**

**Academic Honesty Policy**

**Student Responsibilities**

- Students are solely responsible for their work and for making sure that their work represents their own honest efforts to meet the goals of the course.
- They are responsible for learning and following the policies and expectations of the college and for understanding the consequences of actions that violate the policy on academic honesty.
- They are responsible for showing that the work they present is theirs in whatever ways are deemed appropriate by the faculty for the course.

**Consequences of Plagiarism:** Violations of the academic honesty policy include any actions that attempt to gain academic credit for work that does not represent the student's own efforts and knowledge. They include, but are not limited to the following situations and examples:

- Cheating on examinations and quizzes
  - Using notes, materials, and/or mechanical, electronic, or technological devices not authorized by the instructor during examinations and quizzes.
  - Providing or receiving help on an examination or test in a manner not authorized by the instructor.
  - Buying, selling, improperly obtaining, or using any tests or examinations
  - Posing as another student or allowing another student to pose as you when taking an exam or quiz
  - Altering or adding answers on exercises, exams, or quizzes after the work has been graded
- Plagiarizing
  - Using the ideas or words of others without appropriate quotation and documentation that acknowledges the source or sources—in other words, presenting someone else's work as one's own
  - Copying exact words, phrases, or sentences without quoting and giving credit to the source
  - Using a paraphrased version of the opinions, work, or ideas of others without giving credit
  - The wrongful appropriation of all or part of someone else's literary, artistic, musical, mechanical, or computer-based work

***The penalty for plagiarism that will be applied in this class will be a failing grade for the assignment, quiz, exam or paper.***

*This syllabus is offered as a guide; however, it is subject to change throughout the semester, as necessary.*