

SOCIOLOGY 115A  
INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY  
FALL 2012

Instructor: Vince P. Ramunni  
Office Hours: by appointment  
Home Phone: 610.882.2833  
Cell: 484.274.4797  
E-mail: mevpr01@moravian.edu

**TEXT:** Korgen, K. Odell and Jonathan M. White. The Engaged Sociologist, Third Edition. Los Angeles: Pine Forge Press, 2009.

(Supplemental readings to be announced throughout the semester)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides an introduction to the study of sociology where students are encouraged to develop skills such as observing, questioning, thinking, and debating. During the semester students will be introduced to theoretical principles, the historical development of the sociological perspective, and social life. Topics include but are not limited to social order, culture, socialization, stratification, and social institutions. Emphasis is placed on the application of sociological insights into the world where we live.

**GOALS:**

- to gain an understanding of the central ideas that define the field of sociology, its methodology, and contributions from its major theorists
- to examine social trends, their evolution, and their effects and implications for social change upon institutions and individuals
- to increase knowledge and comprehension of the ever-changing compositions, culture, and structure of the world
- to gain empathy for those different than ourselves

**GRADING:**

Scoring- Your final grade will be based on a total of 550 points, with this breakdown:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Class Participation/Reading Notes         | 50 points         |
| Two quizzes (50 points each)              | 100 points        |
| Mid Term                                  | 100 points        |
| Journal/Literary Reviews (50 points each) | 100 points        |
| Writing Assignment/Project                | 100 points        |
| Final Exam                                | <u>100 points</u> |
|   | 550 points total  |

Tests and quizzes will be based on information gathered from required reading, lecture notes, and class discussions. Due dates for Journal Reviews, Reading Notes, and Writing Assignment/Projects will be assigned as the semester progresses.

Course grades follow the letter-grade system. Of course, it is within the instructor's control and authority to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course. Please consult the **Student Handbook** for description of the requirements for attaining each grade. The numerical ranges used in assigning each letter grade in this course are as follows:

|    |         |     |       |
|----|---------|-----|-------|
| A  | 93-100% | C   | 73-76 |
| A- | 90-92   | C - | 70-72 |
| B+ | 87-89   | D+  | 67-69 |
| B  | 83-86   | D   | 63-66 |
| B- | 80-82   | D-  | 60-62 |
| C+ | 77-79   | F   | 0-59  |

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

While it is understood that there are circumstances that could prevent a student from attending class (illness, family emergency), **regular attendance is fully expected**. If a class is missed, the student, in such a case, is expected to **notify the instructor** as soon as possible of the situation. Students should also check with the instructor regarding missed work or assignments. This is your responsibility!

Attendance will be reflected in your Class Participation/Reading Notes grade. Because regular attendance is expected, students may find it difficult to make up class activities that take place during classes for which they are absent. Missed work will result in lost points toward your Class Participation/Reading Notes grade.

Class participation, for the purpose of this semester, will be measured by student attendance, attentiveness, and contribution to discussion.

## **MISSED TESTS, QUIZZES, AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Every possible effort should be made to take exams and quizzes on the scheduled dates. Test and quiz dates will be announced with at least a ten day notice.

Hard copies of all papers and written assignments must be submitted in person at the beginning of class on the given due date. **In short, do not email your papers!** Any paper or assignment not submitted in this fashion will be considered late. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty (10% deduction) for each day late (including weekends and holidays).

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Students should acquaint themselves with the college's policy on Academic Honesty in the current **Student Handbook**, specifically both sections entitled "Plagiarism" and "Cheating." Any student found to have not upheld the college's policy shall be dismissed from the course, and assigned a grade of F. Students are urged to see the instructor if they have any questions regarding this matter.

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND LECTURE TOPICS**

The instructor, with cooperation from the class, will make every effort to cover the following list of topics. This list of topics and the syllabus in general are subject to modification to best fit the needs of the class. Students will be given weekly reading assignments and should be ready at all times to discuss text chapters. Each student should expect to work at least five to ten hours per week outside of class, not including study time for tests and quizzes.

(See complete list of topics on next page)

## **LIST OF TOPICS AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

### Week One (Aug 27-29)

- The Syllabus and Other Formalities
- How Society Operates
- Reading Notes Assigned

### Week Two (Sept 5)

- Founders and Foundations
- Reading Notes Assigned

### Week Three (Sept 10-12)

- How Do We Know What We Think We Know?
- Surveys and Statistics
- Discussion
- Journal Reviews Assigned

### Week Four (Sept 17-19)

- Quiz #1
- Reading Notes Assigned
- Creating Civic Engagement Versus Apathy

### Week Five (Sept 24-26)

- Creating Civic Engagement Versus Apathy (continued)
- Journal Reviews Due/Discussion

### Week Six (Oct 1-3)

- Learning How to Act in Society
- Reading Notes Assigned

### Week Seven (Oct 10)

- Learning How to Act in Society (continued)
- Review for Mid Term Exam

### Week Eight (Oct 15-17)

- Mid Term Exam
- Group Project Discussion
- Journal Reviews Assigned
- Reading Notes Assigned

### Week Nine (Oct 22-24)

- Deviant Behavior and Social Movements

### Week Ten (Oct 29-31)

- Stratification
- Journal Reviews Due/Discussion
- Quiz #2

### Week Eleven (Nov 5-7)

- Stratification (continued)
- Racial and Ethnic Groups
- Group Project Update

### Week Twelve (Nov 12-14)

- Racial and Ethnic Groups (continued)
- Gender Stratification

### Week Thirteen (Nov 19)

- Gender Stratification (continued)
- Group Presentations

### Week Fourteen (Nov 26-28)

- Group Presentations

### Week Fifteen (Dec 3-5)

- Final Exam Review

\*Final Exam Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 130pm\*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Students requesting accommodations in this class due to a disability should contact the assistant director of Academic and Disability Support in the Academic Support Center, Monocacy Hall, lower level (extension 7625). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services. Those interested are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

