

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: Posted on blackboard and by office door

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 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 and assignments. 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.

A note on Class Discussion and Participation: Much of this course will be conducted as a discussion. All students are expected to participate in these course discussions. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that the classroom environment is conducive to participation by all members of the course. Everyone shares the responsibility to attend all course sessions prepared to engage in the work of the class. Excessive absences and/or lateness will negatively impact the class, and your grade. If you must miss a class, please inform me beforehand via email. Students are responsible for material covered if they miss a class. Be sure to get notes from classmates.

A note on Academic Honesty: All members of this course should read, re-read, and familiarize themselves 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.

A note on Accommodations: Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

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:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Quizzes & Assignments | 30% of final grade |
| Short Essays | 40% of final grade |
| Final Exam | 15% of final grade |
| Course Participation | 15% of final grade |
| Final Grade | 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:

Gould, Kenneth A. and Tammy L. Lewis, *Thirty Readings in Introductory Sociology*. Oxford University Press, 2013.

Supplemental texts will be available through Blackboard or Reeves Library.

There is also 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 daily. Students should enroll in the blackboard site using the password 'JasperIntro'.

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 15th & 17th) What is Sociology? What will this class be like?

Read: Course Syllabus; Student Handbook; Gould and Lewis, Section 1 Introduction & Readings 1 & 2

Week 2: (January 22nd & 24th): Culture as a Sociological Concept

Read: Clifford Geertz “Thick Description” This will be posted on Blackboard, and is also available at: http://hypergeertz.jku.at/GeertzTexts/Thick_Description.htm

Week 3: (January 29th & 31st): Foundations of Sociological Thought

Read: Readings 10 & 16 and Emile Durkheim on *Division of Labor* (Blackboard)

Due: First Essay due on January 29th

Week 4: (February 5th & 7th): Analyzing sociological Data

Read: Section 2 (Readings 4, 5 & 6)

Week 5: (February 12th & 14th): Socialization

Read: Section 3 (Readings 7, 8 & 9)

Week 6: (February 19th & 21st): Gender

Read: Section 7 (Readings 19, 20 & 21)

Due: Second Essay Due on February 21st

Week 7: (February 26th & 28th): Class

Read: Section 6 (Readings 17 & 18)

Week 8: (March 5th & 7th) Spring Break

No Class Meetings

Week 9: (March 12th & 14th) Race

Read: Section 5 (Readings 13, 14 & 15); James Lawson’s speech to the first SNCC gathering (Blackboard).

Dr. James Lawson will be speaking at Moravian on March 14th. All students should plan on attending this event.

Week 10: (March 19th & 21st): Institutions

Read: Section 4 (Readings 11 & 12)

Due: Essay three due on March 19th.

Week 11: (March 26th & 28th): Institutions continued.

Read: Readings to be posted on Blackboard

Week 12: (April 2nd & 4th) Social Movements

Read: Section 8 (Readings 22, 23 & 24)

Due: Essay 4 due on April 4th.

Week 13: (April 9th & 11th): Globalization and changing societies
Read: Section 9 (Readings 25, 26 & 27)

Week 14: (April 16th & 18th) What does sociology have to contribute to public debates (public sociology)
Read: Section 10 (Readings 28, 29 & 30)

Week 15: (April 23rd & 25th) What have we learned about Sociology?
Read: TBA

Scheduled Final Exam Time: Friday, May 3rd @ 8:30 am.