

Introductory Sociology

Soc 115 C, meets LinC M4 requirement, Fall 2013

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:10-2:20; PPHAC 232

Professor Daniel Jasper

PPHAC 316

Office Hours: Posted on blackboard and by office door

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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 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 reading outlines and responses, quizzes, formal and informal essays, in-class activities, assignments, and active participation. **Outlines, reading responses, and 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 regularly. Students should enroll in the blackboard site using the password 'JasperIntro'.

Course Schedule: Please note, the outline below is merely a guide. Changes are likely as the semester progresses. Please also note that weekly assignments are posted to Blackboard. Look to Blackboard for specifics.

Week 1 An Introduction to the course.

Tuesday, August 27th What to expect.

Read: Course Syllabus; Student Handbook

Thursday, August 29th An Introduction to Sociology

Read: Gould and Lewis, Reading 1

Complete: Assignment 1 by 10:00 pm Wednesday

Week 2 (September 3rd & 5th) Developing our Sociological Imaginations

Tuesday, September 3rd

Read: Gould and Lewis, Reading 3

Complete: Assignment 2, post to BB before class, and bring hard copy to class

Thursday, September 5th

Read: Gould and Lewis, Reading 2

Week 3 (September 10th & 12th) Culture as a Sociological Concept

Tuesday September 10th

Read: Clifford Geertz “Thick Description” This is posted on Blackboard.

Complete: Reading Comprehension and Analysis quiz on BB before class.

Thursday September 12th We continue with Geertz

Week 4 (September 17th & 19th) Foundations of Sociological Thought

Tuesday, September 17th Emile Durkheim

Read: Durkheim on *Division of Labor* (Blackboard)

Complete: Assignment on Blackboard

Thursday, September 19th Weber and Marx

Read: Readings 10 & 16

Due: First Essay due on September 19th

Week 5 (September 24th & 26th) Analyzing sociological Data

Watch: *White Like Me* (Times to be scheduled)

Tuesday, September 24th

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

Thursday, September 26th

Complete: Activity on Blackboard before class

Week 6 (October 1st & 3rd) Socialization

Tuesday, October 1st

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

Thursday, October 3rd

Week 7 (October 8th & 10th) Gender

Tuesday, October 8th

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

Thursday, October 10th

Due: Second Essay

Week 8 (October 15th & 17th)

Tuesday October 15th – No Class for Fall Recess

Watch: *People Like Us* (Times to be scheduled)

Thursday, October 17th

Complete: Activity Posted to Blackboard before class

Week 9 (October 22nd & 24th) Class

Tuesday, October 22nd

Read: Section 6 (Readings 17 & 18), Selection from Hedges

Attend: lecture by Chris Hedges at 7:30 pm (Prosser) on October 22nd

Thursday, October 24th

Complete: Activity on Blackboard before class

Week 10 (October 29th & 31st) Race

Tuesday, October 29th

Read: Section 5 (Readings 13, 14 & 15)

Thursday, October 31st

Week 11 (November 6th & 8th) Institutions

Tuesday, November 6th

Read: Section 4 (Readings 11 & 12)

Thursday, November 8th

Week 12 (November 12th & 14th) Social Movements

Tuesday, November 12th

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

Thursday, November 14th

Week 13 (November 19th & 21st) Globalization and changing societies

Tuesday, November 19th

Read: Section 9 (Readings 25, 26 & 27)

Thursday, November 21st

Week 14 (November 26th & 28th) Thanksgiving Recess – No Class Meetings this week

Week 15th (December 3rd & 5th) What have we learned about Sociology?

Read: TBA

Final Exam scheduled for Thursday, December 12th at 8:30 am. Final Essays must be submitted before this time. Submit Essays via email (as attached Word .pdf file) to djasper@moravian.edu.