

Introductory Sociology

Soc 115B, meets LinC M4 requirement, Fall 2014

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:45; PPHAC 116

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
- improve their ability to work as part of a team
- improve their ability to use technology as an aid to learning
- engaged in social scientific research
- better understand how they learn

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. Since students

will have their electronic devices with them during class, it is expected that these will be used for the purpose of the class and not be utilized for other purposes.

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--both in class and through the various electronic discussion forums that we will utilize. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that the classroom and on-line environments are 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 must contact Ms. Elaine Mara, assistant director of academic support services for academic and disability support, at the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

A note on the Use of Technology in this Course: The Moravian College policy of issuing all incoming students with Macbooks and Ipads provides the opportunity to re-imagine how courses are conducted. This course will make use of these new tools, and in so doing, will evaluate these tools. Students will be asked to utilize a variety of electronic resources and applications in this course. Part of our course will be devoted to evaluating the benefits and drawbacks of these resources.

I will communicate through the announcements feature of blackboard, the announcements feature of MySocLab, and through Moravian email—it is expected that all students will check these regularly. Please note that I do not open emails without a subject heading. When you send me an email, please include a subject heading that includes a reference to our course (e.g. IntroSoc; Soc115; etc).

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**, both in class and online, 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:

Reading Responses, Quizzes & Assignments	40% of final grade
Short Essays	30% 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 & Other Resources:

Our primary text is *The Sociology Project* by Jeff Manza, Richard Arum, and Lynne Haney (Pearson, 2013). Along with this text, you will have access to MySocLab from Pearson. You will need to purchase access to MySocLab along with either a print or electronic version of the text.

Two other texts are required. First, *Signs of War and Peace* by Jack Santino (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004). Second, *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers (Back Bay, 2013). This is the First Year Reading, so the vast majority of you should already have a copy of this. These texts will allow us to engage sociologically with the Thematic Programming for 2014-15 **InFocus: War, Peacebuilding, and the Just Society**.

Students should also be sure to self-enrol in the Blackboard shell for this course.

Course Schedule:

The outline below is meant to provide a brief overview of how this course will progress. A more detailed, and regularly updated, schedule is included in our shared online folder.

Week 1 (August 26th & 28th) Introduction to the course; Setting up for collaborative learning.

Tuesday: Overview of the Syllabus and other course resources

Thursday: What is sociology?

Read: *The Sociology Project* (SP), ch. 1

Week 2 (September 2nd & 4th)

Tuesday: What is qualitative research? (Task: interview other class member about what leads to successful learning experiences.)

Read: SP, ch. 2

Thursday: No Class Meeting - Schedule your interviews for this date!

Read: Santino, ch. 1

Week 3 (September 9th & 11th)

Tuesday: Culture

Read: SP, ch. 5

Thursday: **Opening Convocation @ 11:45 in Johnston Hall. Nobel Peace Prize Winner Jody Williams. Attendance at this program is required.**

Read: Santino, ch. 2

Week 4 (September 16th & 18th)

Tuesday: Thinking about War and Memory

Read: Powers, *The Yellow Birds*; Santino, chs. 3-4

Thursday: Culture as Structure

Read: SP, ch. 4; Guy Deutscher, "Does Your Language Shape How You Think?"

Week 5 (September 23rd & 25th)

Tuesday: Making sense of conflict

Read: Santino, chs. 5-6

Thursday: Power

Read: SP, ch. 6

Week 6 (September 30th & October 2nd)

Tuesday: Self, Socialization, Interaction

Read: SP, ch. 3

Essay 1 Due

Thursday: Inequality

Read: SP, ch. 9

Week 7 (October 7th & 9th)

Tuesday: Race and Ethnicity

Read: SP, ch. 10

Wednesday, October 8th | 7:00 PM | Foy Hall (Attendance at this program is highly encouraged)

Hispanic Heritage Month Keynote: Journalist Maria Hinojosa - "Preparing Our Society for 2043"

Thursday: Immigration and the changing meanings of Race and Ethnicity
Read: SP, ch. 12

Week 8 (October 14th & 16th)

Tuesday: No Class Meeting, Fall Recess

Thursday: How we make things change

Read: SP, ch. 17

October 16th & 17th: Trustees

Week 9 (October 21st & 23rd) Organizing our world

Tuesday: Time

Read: SP, ch. 7

Thursday: Space

Read: SP, ch. 8

Week 10 (October 28th & 30th) Institutions

During weeks 10-13, we will read SP, chs. 13-15; we will also schedule a number of student (team) presentations. The specific schedule will be worked out as we approach these dates.

Tuesday:

Thursday:

Week 11 (November 4th & 6th) Institutions, Part II

Tuesday:

Thursday:

Week 12 (November 11th & 13th) Institutions, Part III

Tuesday:

Thursday:

Week 13 (November 18th & 20th) Institutions, Part IV

Tuesday:

Thursday:

Week 14 (November 25th & 27th)

Tuesday: Do we live in a global society?

Read: SP, ch. 20

Thursday: No Class - Thanksgiving Recess

Week 15 (December 2nd & 4th)

Tuesday: What have we created together?

Thursday: Evaluating our work together

Week 16: Exam Week

Our scheduled final exam time is Monday, December 8th; 1:30-4:30