

Sociology 100-05

Introduction to Sociology

Fall 2004

MW 12:45- 2:05pm
Morton Hall 328

This syllabus includes a description of the course, and information on the requirements for it, including the readings, examinations, procedures, rules, and general expectations. This is an important document for this course, and you are expected to be familiar with the materials in it (the rules, dates, etc.); if you lose it I will gladly supply you with another copy.

Required readings

Available at the University Bookstore:

ØTEXT: York Bradshaw, Joseph Healey, and Rebecca Smith. Sociology for a New Century. 2001, Pine Forge Press.

ÜREADER: Mitch Berbrier, editor. *Intersections: Readings in Sociology*. 3rd edition, 2004. Customized reader compiled through Pearson Custom Publishing.

General Description of the course

In this course we will discuss the great variety of approaches, perspectives, and methods of sociologists. The course is intended to be an overall introduction to the field of sociology. The upside of this is that many topics get covered; you can thus get a taste for what you like in sociology, and for what you do not. The downside of an overall introduction is that we look at few topics in any depth; many details that may interest you will necessarily be glossed over, as we quickly move on to the next topic.

If you are successful at mastering the material in this course, you will then have a better appreciation of who you are -- that is how you exist *relative to others* -- and what it means to be a *part* of a society. You will have a deeper awareness of what is going on *around* you, and if used carefully such awareness will help you in both your personal and professional endeavors. You will also be a more complete citizen, equipped with a keener understanding of what is needed for living and working *successfully* in a complex and changing society, and for understanding others in a world where people with different social, cultural and economic backgrounds increasingly come into contact with each other.

Course Expectations

You are expected to attend each class and take excellent notes on the lecture material. You are also expected to keep up with the reading of all assigned materials. Your note taking and readings must be sufficiently *active and engaged* (as opposed to passive and disinterested) to ensure that you *develop a deep* (rather than surface) *understanding* of the material.

The exams will be designed to assess the level of your engagement with, and understanding of, the material. Multiple choice questions will assess not only whether you *understand* what sociological concepts mean – or what trends are important, or

which “facts” have been established, etc. – but whether you can clearly recognize what they do *not* mean. A few short writing questions will assess whether you can *articulate* the meaning of a concept, trend, or fact at a level of sophistication expected of university students.

Finally, exams will not only assess whether you recall or understand things. Many questions (both multiple choice and writing) will also determine how well you can *apply abstract sociological concepts to concrete social situations*, and whether you can recognize or articulate when a concept is not applicable. Examples of both recall/understanding types of question and application questions will be discussed in class just prior to the first exam.

Exams, assignments, and grades

There will be three in-class exams and a final examination. There are no papers or assignments for this course. The breakdown of the grades will be as follows:

	Maximum course points	Your course points
Exam 1 September 27	25%	
Exam 2 October 20 (covers material since Exam 1)	25%	
Exam 3 November 10 (covers material since Exam 2)	25%	
Exam 4 (final exam period; covers material since Exam 3) December 17, 11:30a.m.-2:00pm	25%	
total	100%	

Grading: For all exams you will be given a grade in at least two corresponding forms: a letter grade and *course points*. It is the course points that will be used to calculate your final course grade; course points correspond to the value of the exam in the table above. If you like, you can use the above table as a worksheet to track your progress over the course of the semester.

At the end of the course, all the course points are added up. They are then translated into the letter grade that will appear on your transcript using the following key:

97-100 A+	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	<59 NC on transcript, (F on exam)
93-96 A	83-86 B	73-76 C	63-66 D	
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-	
4.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	no credit (excluded from GPA [up to twice per course])

On *rare* occasions grades may be *adjusted upward* for improvement in performance over the course of the semester (if this improvement is both marked and consistent) or *downward* for disruptions to the learning environment (e.g. frequently wandering in to class late and out early, cell phone ringing, rudeness to fellow students).

Approximate Course Schedule (subject to change)

Note: Textbook “Topical Essays” are optional reading except where specified below

Note: ** means read in advance (otherwise, it is up to you to read before or soon after class)

Date	Topic(s)	Textbook Chapter(s)	Intersections Reading
PART I: GENERAL INTRODUCTION			
8/30	Introduction to the Course		
9/1	Introduction to the Sociological Perspective	Ch.1 A Global View of Society	**Chambliss (p. 1)
9/8		Ch.2 Sociology and Society	
9/13		(Topical Essay required)	Wirth (p.23)
9/15			
9/20	Methods and	Ch.3 Sociology and Science	Huff (p.32)
9/22	the Scientific Approach		Witt (p.46)
9/27	EXAM 1 (25%)		
PART II: BASIC SOCIOLOGY			
9/29	Culture, Society, Microsociology,	Ch. 4 Culture and Society	Charon (p.50)
10/4	and Symbolic Interactionism	Topical Essay Ch. 1, Dawson, pp. 35-39, required (essays on pages 149 and 155 are optional reading)	**Miner (p.69) Hall (p.77) Ebomoyi (p.87)
10/6			Blumer (p.96)
10/11	Symbolic Interactionism: Applications		**Granfield (p.102) **Schmid and Jones (p. 120) **Anderson (p.137)
10/13	Social Stratification	**Ch.5 Inequality	
10/18		(topical essay optional)	
10/20	EXAM 2 (25%)		

PART III: TOPICS

10/25	Gender	Ch.7 Gender	Milkie (p.155)
10/27		(topical essay optional)	

11/1	Marriage and Family	Ch.8 Families	Coontz (p.181) Gerson (p.190)
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11/3	Crime and Deviance		Conrad & Schneider (p.203)
11/8		Ch.9 Crime and Punishment	

11/10	EXAM 3 (25%)		
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PART IV: MORE TOPICS

11/15	Economics and Politics	Ch.10 Economics and Politics (until p.385)	
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11/17	Social Movements and Social Change	Required Topical essay Ch.10, pp.393-399	Blumer (p.221) Gamson (p.233)
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11/22	War	Ch.11 The Changing Face of War	
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11/29	Environment	Ch.13 Can the World Develop and Sustain its Environment?	
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12/1	Population	Ch.14 How Many People is Too Many People?	
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12/3	Make Up Exam 3:00-4:20 pm		
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12/6	Race and Ethnicity	Ch.6 Assimilationism and Pluralism	
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12/8	TBA	TBA	
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12/17	Exam 4 25% 11:30a.m.-2:00 pm		
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