

SOC 1 Principles of Sociology

Course Code: SOC 1

Instructor: D. Bruce Carter, Ph.D.

Home Institution: Syracuse University

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Email: Email: dbcarter@syr.edu

Credit: 4

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the discipline of sociology. Sociology, and this class, how society functions and is organized and how society impacts and influences individual motivation, understanding, action, and well-being. Students are introduced to research methods and key issues including class, race, gender, sexuality, religion, globalization, education, health care, crime, the media, and the environment. Basic sociological ideas regarding social relations, social interaction, social structure, and social change are examined. The knowledge gained in this course will aid you in future studies within a variety of fields and careers, and it will encourage the development of critical thinking about important and timely issues.

Required Textbooks:

Newman, D. M. (2018). **Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life, Brief Edition.** (6th Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA USA: Sage Publication. (eText ISBN: 9781544325774, 1544325770) **(Available as a Kindle E-Book)**

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify how the sociological perspective illuminates understanding.
2. Discuss specific areas of study and methods used within sociology.
3. Critically examine theoretical perspectives and be able to apply them to current issues.
4. Appreciate how political, economic, and cultural forces constitute social life;
5. Understand the ways in which social institutions are interdependent and organize the components of social structure; and evaluate ideas and debates using the sociological perspective

Course Schedule:**Unit 1: The Individual, Self & Society (Chapters 1-3)**

- 1 Course Overview; What is Sociology?
- 2 Taking a new look at a familiar world (Chapter 1)
- 4 Seeing & thinking sociologically (Chapter 2)
- 5 Groups & Society
- 6 Building Reality- The Social Construction of Knowledge
- 7 Sociological Research Methods
- 8 Unit 1 Quiz

Unit 2: Identity and Social Relationships (Chapters 4-6)

- 9 Building Order- Culture and History (Chapter 4)
- 10 Building Identity- Socialization (Chapter 5)
- 11 The processes of socialization
- 12 Changing Self Presentations (Chapter 6)
- 13 Video 2: Race, identity, and the US Education system- Separate but Unequal
- 14 Unit 2 Quiz

Unit 3: Construction of Difference and Deviance (Chapter 7-10)

- 15 Building Social Relationships: Intimacy & Families (Chapter 7)
- 16 Divorce & other changes to the Family
- 17 Constructing difference: Social deviance (Chapter 8)
- 18 Structure of Society- Organizations, social institutions, & Globalization (Chapter 9)
- 19 Stratification, social class and inequality (Chapter 10)
- 20 Class and inequality: Why do they persist
- 21 Video 3: Policing the Police
- 22 Unit 3 Quiz

Unit 4: Inequality and inequity (Chapters 11-14)

- 23 The Architecture of inequality- Race & ethnicity (Chapter 11)
- 24 Architecture of inequality- Sex & gender (Chapter 12)
- 25 Demographic dynamics: Population trends (Chapter 13)
- 26 Demographic dynamics: Population changes (Chapter 13)
- 27 Architects of Change: Reconstructing Society (Chapter 14)
- 28 Designing and implementing change (Chapter 14)
- 29 Video 4: White Like Me
- 30 Unit 4 Quiz

Grading Policy:

1. **Quizzes**- I will administer a quiz at the end of each unit. These quizzes will be a way to check your learning of the material in the text and lecture. Each quiz will cover the material covered in class and in readings that week. Each quiz is worth 20% of your grade in the course. Exams will be administered online.
2. **Video Response**- Each week you will be shown a video as one of your lectures. The video will present information that is part of what is being discussed in class that week. The Videos are labelled "Video 1," "Video 2," etc. in the schedule. Your task is to write a one page typed, double-spaced response to the video. You may express agreement or disagreement with one or

more of the points the speaker made in the video. OR you can relate the material in the video to something that is happening currently in the world or in your society today. OR you can present your own ideas about the topic discussed in the video. You may watch the video any time during the week the topic is discussed but you must send your response during that week (that is, by the Saturday EDST at the end of the week) to me attached to an email message. My email address is dbcarter@syr.edu. I will grade your response on a 0 (no response) to 10 (excellent response) scale.

3. **Attendance-** This course is online so there is no in-person attendance.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	93-100%	Excellent Work
A-	90-92%	Nearly Excellent Work
B+	87-89%	Very Good Work
B	83-86%	Good Work
B-	80-82%	Mostly Good Work
C+	77-79%	Above Average Work
C	73-76%	Average Work
C-	70-72%	Mostly Average Work
D+	67-69%	Below Average Work
D	60-66%	Poor Work
F	0-59%	Failing Work

Course Policies:

Attend Class

Because this course is online, there is no attendance policy. However, you are expected to listen to the online lectures, participate in the online discussions, and complete all assignments.

Time Zone

The official time zone for this course is **EASTERN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** (New York, NY time). Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is 4 hours ahead of EDST; China Standard Time is 12 hours ahead of EDST. So 09:00 EDST is 21:00 China Standard Time the same day; 21:00 EDST is 09:00 the following day (Thursday night in New York is Friday morning in Beijing). So, if an assignment is due by 10 PM (22:00) EDST then it is due by 10:00 in Beijing.

Missed/Late Assignments

Assignments are due on the date listed. Without prior approval from the instructor, no late assignments will be accepted.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider disenrolling from a course. Refer to the Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

"The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. University expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades."

Definitions

"**Cheating** is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means."

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating."

"Plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person's contribution."