

**SOCIOLOGY 101:
PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Information:

Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00–10:50 a.m.

Meeting Place: 207 Kethley Hall

Instructors:

Professor: Dr. Alan Barton

Office: 201F Kethley Hall

Telephone: 846-4097

E-mail: abarton@deltastate.edu

Graduate Assistant: Kim Proffit

Office: 201A Kethley Hall

Office Hours:

During Fall Semester, 2004, the professor holds regular office hours at the following times:

Monday 11:00 – 11:30 am; 2:00 – 6:00 pm	Wednesday 11:00 – 11:30 am; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Tuesday 3:00 – 5:00 pm	Thursday 3:00 – 4:00 pm

If you cannot make one of these times, contact the professor to set up an appointment.

Course Web Page:

You can find the most up-to-date information pertaining to the course on the course web page. Check the web page periodically for changes to the syllabus, weekly study questions, and other information about the course. The web page is located at:

http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp_academic/abarton/Soc101/SOC101Syllabus.html

Readings:

Course Text:

John J. Macionis. 2004. *Society: The Basics*. 7th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Additional readings as assigned.

The text is available at the campus bookstore. You should purchase the text, or otherwise make arrangements to access the course reading assignments. Make sure you get the **Seventh Edition** of the text. Additional readings will be made available either in class or on the web.

Course Overview:

This course introduces you to concepts in the discipline of sociology. We will primarily study how and why humans organize themselves into large and small groups, focusing on how sociologists study group behavior. The course covers the general rubrics of social structure, social action, and social change, presenting theories that sociologists use to understand these dimensions of social life, and empirical research upon which these understandings are based. We will use many practical examples from a variety of settings to understand inequality in social organizations. You will have many opportunities to read, write, discuss and lead discussions about these topics over the course of the semester.

The course meets three times per week. Mondays and Wednesdays consist of lecture and discussion on a weekly topic, drawing upon material presented in the course text. Please read the assigned readings **before** the class meeting for which the chapter is assigned, and come to class prepared to discuss the material in the text. Fridays are dedicated to student-led discussions of current topics pertaining to the course material. Please read the handouts and assigned readings **before** the discussion session, and come to class prepared to discuss the issues presented.

Course Organization and Approach:

This course uses a *participatory, learner-centered, adult education* approach. An adult education approach recognizes that *YOU are responsible* for your own learning. The instructors can only provide opportunities to learn, but cannot force you to learn. Course material is presented in readings from the text, current topic readings drawn from news outlets, lecture, and student-led class discussions. You are expected to work hard in this course, meaning that for every hour of class time, you should spend at least two to three hours outside of class preparing by doing readings, assignments, studying for quizzes and exams, and thinking about the course material.

You are expected to take responsibility for the success of the course, that is, you should take an active interest not just in the course material, but in the course itself, making it a success for all participants. Factors such as interest, motivation, creativity, and initiative are important elements in evaluating your performance in the course and assigning a grade.



Learning is least useful when it is private and hidden; it most powerful when it becomes public and communal. Learning flourishes when we take what we think we know and offer it as community property among fellow learners so that it can be tested, examined, challenged, and improved before we internalize it.

~Lee Shulman

Course Objectives:

After you successfully complete this course, you will be able to:

- (1) Identify and explain three sociological paradigms, and apply them to understand particular social issues and problems.
- (2) Define important sociological concepts, explain important sociological theories, and describe sociological research methods.
- (3) Explain how sociology has developed and changed through history.
- (4) Explain the connections between social structure, social action, and social change.
- (5) Identify 5 important social institutions, and explain the relationship between institutions and individuals.
- (6) Identify and discuss current issues, and how they are shaped by social conditions and social structure.

These objectives contribute to the overall course goals:

- (1) Developing **critical thinking skills**. The discussions, readings, writing assignments and quizzes are designed to encourage you to develop and use higher order thinking skills, including analytical, synthetic and applied thinking.
- (2) Understanding the **social structures and processes** that condition our lives. A basic goal of all sociology courses is to help you understand the nature and workings of these social structures, and how they open opportunities and impose constraints on individuals operating within these structures. Sociologist C. Wright Mills called this using your "**sociological imagination**;" activities in this course are designed to encourage you to use *your* sociological imagination.

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16.9% of Mississippians have a college degree. For the U.S., the figure is 24.4% (Source: U.S. Census, 2000).

When you finish your degree, you will join an elite group. What is *your* strategy for finishing your degree?

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48

Will *you* be ready to live up to the responsibilities of a college graduate?

### Course Policies:

- (1) **YOU are responsible** for learning the course material and for your progress in this course
  - You are expected to **attend class regularly** and **complete all of the assignments**.
  - You are expected to know **all** material presented during class sessions, whether you attended the class or not. If you miss a class session, you should check with another student to see what you missed.
  - “I didn’t know” is **NEVER** a valid excuse. If you don’t know something, it is your job to find out.
  
- (2) Missed assignments **cannot** be made up
  - It is assumed that if you miss class or an assignment, you are making a choice that prioritizes other activities above the class. For this reason, none of the assignments or coursework can be made up.
  - Assignments are due at the time specified; **no late assignments will be accepted**.
  - If you miss a quiz or writing assignment, you will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. In the first instance, this will count as your lowest grade and will be dropped. Subsequent instances will be scored as zero.
  - If you must miss a presentation or other in-class activity, it is up to you to arrange to trade with another student before the event. Please notify the instructor of such changes.
  
- (3) Illnesses and emergencies **MUST** be documented
  - If you must miss class due to illness or another personal emergency, notify the instructor **BEFORE** the missed class period either by e-mail or telephone.
  - If you cannot notify the instructor in advance, bring a note from a doctor or other professional to the next class meeting.
  - Illnesses and emergencies pertain **only** to you, not to your family, friends or others.
  - If you must miss a class for an official university activity, you should make arrangements with the instructor **BEFORE** the missed class. Appropriate documentation is required.
  - Notified absences (i.e. you notify the instructor before the event) count as one-half absence. Excused absences (i.e. you bring a note from a doctor or other professional) will not count against you for the first two; after that, each excused absence counts as one-half absence.
  - You are responsible for all material presented in the class, even during an excused absence. You should get class notes from another student for all class sessions you miss.
  - It is in your interest to provide the instructor with written notification (e.g. a note or e-mail) or documentation for any missed classes. It is risky to simply tell the instructor and expect him to remember.

- (4) Class **discussion** is an important element in this course
- The purpose of the discussion is to provide you with an opportunity to practice thinking skills in a safe environment.
  - In discussions, you are encouraged to explore ideas presented in the readings and lectures, to think about and apply concepts, and to develop arguments and evaluate evidence.
  - You must demonstrate **appropriate respect** for the opinions and ideas of other students. If you repeatedly show disrespect for other students, you will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - Class discussions are **NOT** a time to chat with each other about topics not related to the course. Talking privately with other students while the rest of the class is trying to carry on a discussion is disruptive, bothersome, and disrespectful to other students and to the professor. If you repeatedly talk out of turn, you will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - It is acceptable (and encouraged) to disagree with the perspectives of other students, but you should phrase this to show disagreement with the idea or opinion, not with the person presenting the idea or opinion.
  - Please make sure that all pagers, cell phones, etc. are **turned off** during class time. If your phone or pager repeatedly interrupts class, you will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - If you are asked to leave the classroom for disruptive or disrespectful behavior, you **cannot** make up any work that you miss as a result.
- (5) You are expected to **comply with all academic standards and ethics** as defined in the DSU Bulletin and Handbook
- You are expected to do your **own work** in this course. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will **NOT** be tolerated.
  - If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, use the link on the course web page. If it is still unclear, see the instructor. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO UNDERSTAND THESE GUIDELINES.** If at some point in the semester you are suspected of committing plagiarism, pleas of "I didn't know what plagiarism was" will not be accepted.
  - The sanctions for plagiarism are outlined on the web page. Make sure you are aware of these **BEFORE** you submit any work in this class.
- (6) **DO NOT** bring cell phones or other portable communication devices to class during quizzes, exams, or in-class assignments. If the instructor sees a cell phone or other device during a quiz, exam, or in-class assignment, your work will be collected immediately and you will be asked to leave the classroom.
- (7) Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with medical problems or diagnosed disabilities. Have Dr. Richard Houston at the Reily Health Center (846-4690) contact the course instructor to make arrangements.

## **Assignments and Grading:**

You must complete all of the following assignments:

### **(1) Reading, Attendance and Participation (15 points)**

- You are expected to do all of the assigned readings and attend all class sessions. Please arrive on time.
- You are expected to engage actively in all class discussions.
- If you miss class frequently, or show up late to class, this suggests a lack of interest in the course material, and this will be reflected in your final grade.
- Please **do not** come to class meetings unprepared (i.e. not having done—and thought about—the assigned readings).
- Make sure you sign the attendance sheet at each class session.
- See the course website for tips on getting the most out of class sessions.

### **(2) Discussion Leader (10 points)**

- You will pair up with a classmate, and together you will prepare and facilitate one Friday discussion on an assigned reading.
- Readings are drawn from current news articles and will be distributed at the beginning of each week.
- We will discuss two articles each Friday, so each discussion should last approximately 25 minutes.
- As discussion leader, your goal is to get the students discussing the article in sociological terms, applying the theories presented in the text and in class.
- See the course website for guidelines on leading a discussion and for a list of discussion leaders.

### **(3) Quizzes (20 points)**

- Three in-class quizzes will be given during the semester (10 points each).
- The lowest grade from the three quizzes will be dropped at the end of the semester.
- The quizzes will consist of short-answer questions (e.g. multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, matching terms).
- The first quiz covers material presented since the beginning of the course, and subsequent quizzes cover material presented since the previous quiz.
- See the course website for suggestions on studying for quizzes.

(4) **Writing Assignments** (20 points)

- Three in-class or take-home writing assignments will be assigned during the semester (10 points each).
- The lowest grade from the three writing assignments will be dropped at the end of the semester.
- You should complete each assignment and submit it at the specified time.
- You should prepare papers using standard college prose, and should check for errors in spelling and grammar prior to submitting the paper.
- For out-of-class assignments, the papers should be typed, 10 or 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced.
- You are expected to do your own work on these assignments, particularly out-of-class assignments. See the policy on plagiarism and cheating on the web site; this policy will be enforced with **no exceptions**.
- See the course website for tips on writing papers for this course.

(5) **Final Exam** (20 points)

- Each student must take the final exam.
- The exam includes short-answer and essay questions.
- The exam tests your ability to absorb and synthesize course material presented in the readings and lectures.
- The final exam is comprehensive.
- See the course web site for tips on taking essay tests.

(6) **Discretionary** (10 points)

- The instructors will evaluate your performance based on factors such as motivation, interest, and improvement over the course of the semester.
- See the course web site for tips on developing good study habits.

Your **final grade** in the course will be calculated as follows: There are a total of 100 points available for the semester. Your final score is simply the sum of all points earned over the semester. If you accumulate 90 or more points, you will get an "A" in the course. If you accumulate 80 to 89 points, you will get a "B," for 70 to 79 points you will get a "C," and for 60 to 69 points you will get a "D." If you get less than 60 points, your final grade will be an "F." Note that you start with zero and earn points; you do not start with 100 and lose points.

If you comply with all course requirements and submit all of the assignments satisfactorily and on time, you can expect a "C" in this course. To receive a higher grade, you must demonstrate a superior grasp of course material and an ability to apply the material in productive ways. It is also helpful to show an interest in the course material and in learning, and an achievement-based orientation.

Note that you simply cannot pass this class unless you attend the lectures and discussions regularly, as a substantial portion of your grade depends on attendance and active participation in class activities.

**Study Questions:**

Each week, a set of study questions pertaining to the week's topic will be posted on the course web page. These questions are designed to assist you with the week's reading assignments. It is recommended that you prepare short answers to these questions to prepare for lectures and discussions. Questions for the quizzes, the final exam, and writing assignments are frequently drawn from these study questions.

See the course web page to download the study questions each week.

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An international study of 13-year-olds ... found that Koreans ranked first in mathematics and Americans last. When asked if they thought they were "good at mathematics," only 23 percent of the Korean youngsters said "yes" – compared to 68 percent of American 13-year-olds. The American educational dogma that students should "feel good about themselves" was a success in its own terms – though not in any other terms.

~Thomas Sowell (quoted in J.M. Henslin, 2004)

Course Outline:

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
1	<i>Introduction to Sociology</i>		
	Mon. 8/23	REGISTRATION	
	Wed. 8/25	Course introduction; Review syllabus; Course Policies and Expectations	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 1
	Fri. 8/27	The Sociological Imagination; Theory and Methods in Sociology	
2	<i>The Building Blocks of Society</i>		
	Mon. 8/30	Introduction to Culture; Role Play	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 2
	Wed. 9/1	The Components of Culture; Cultural Diversity	
	Fri. 9/3	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts
3	<i>Becoming a Social Being</i>		
	Mon. 9/6	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
	Wed. 9/8	Understanding Socialization; Agents of Socialization	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 3
	Fri. 9/10	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts
4	<i>Social Structure and Social Interaction</i>		
	Mon. 9/13	Writing Assignment No. 1	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 4
	Wed. 9/15	Components of Social Structure; Understanding Social Interaction	
	Fri. 9/17	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
Groups and Organizations			
5	Mon. 9/20	Types of Social Groups; Groups and Social Control; Formal Organizations	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 5
	Wed. 9/22	Organizations in a Global Society; Quiz No. 1	
	Fri. 9/24	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts
Keeping People in Line			
6	Mon. 9/27	Normality, Deviance and Social Control; Labeling Deviance	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 6
	Wed. 9/29	Crime in the U.S.; The Criminal Justice System	
	Fri. 10/1	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts
Stratification and Social Inequality			
7	Mon. 10/4	Systems of Stratification; The Functions of Class; Class and Conflict	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 8
	Wed. 10/6	Social Class in the United States; Effects of Inequality	
	Fri. 10/8	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts
Globalization			
8	Mon. 10/11	Inequality in the World System; Global Society	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 9
	Wed. 10/13	International Development Writing Assignment No. 2 Due	
	Fri. 10/15	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
9	<i>Social Relations: Gender and Race</i>		
	Mon. 10/18	Gender and Social Inequality; Women and Work	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 10 (pp. 244–261) Chapter 11 (pp. 271–282)
	Wed. 10/20	Race and Ethnicity; Institutionalized Discrimination	
	Fri. 10/22	FALL BREAK	
10	<i>Social Institutions: Economy and Governance</i>		
	Mon. 10/25	Economic Change; Corporations in the Global Economy	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 12
	Wed. 10/27	Power and Pluralism Quiz No. 2	
	Fri. 10/29	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts
11	<i>Social Institutions: Family and Religion</i>		
	Mon. 11/1	Social Construction of the Family; The Changing Family in the U.S.	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 13
	Wed. 11/3	The Protestant Ethic; Religious Markets	
	Fri. 11/5	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts
12	<i>Social Institutions: Education</i>		
	Mon. 11/8	The Functions of Schools; Issues in U.S. Education	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 14 (pp. 368–382)
	Wed. 11/10	Writing Assignment No. 3	
	Fri. 11/12	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
13	<i>Social Change: Mobility and Technology</i>		
	Mon. 11/15	Population Growth and Social Change; Migration and Urbanization	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 15
	Wed. 11/17	Environment and Society; Technology and Social Change	
	Fri. 11/19	Current Topics Discussions	Handouts
14	<i>Social Change: Processes and Products</i>		
	Mon. 11/22	Social Movements and Social Change; Modern Society and the Idea of Progress	<i>Society: The Basics:</i> Chapter 16 (pp. 436–446; 450–461)
	Wed. 11/24	Quiz No. 3	
	Fri. 11/26	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
15	<i>Sociology in the Real World</i>		
	Mon. 11/29	The Value of Sociology; Revisiting the Sociological Imagination	Handouts
	Wed. 12/1	Sociology as a Career; Opportunities for Sociologists	Handouts
	Fri. 12/3	Review and Prepare for Final Exam; Course Evaluation	
Exam Week	Mon. 12/6	FINAL EXAM, 3:00–6:00 pm	

PREPARATION and PERSEVERANCE are the KEYS to SUCCESS

Be prepared; don't give up