

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

**Meeting Time:** Tuesday & Thursday, 9:25–10:40 am  
**Meeting Place:** 203 Bailey Hall

**Instructor:** Dr. Alan Barton                      **Telephone:** 846-4097  
**Office:** 201A Kethley Hall                      **E-mail:** abarton@deltastate.edu

**Office Hours:** The professor holds regular office hours at the following times:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:45–11:45 am

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

**Course Web Site:**

Check the course web site for up-to-date information on the course, including changes on the syllabus, weekly study questions, and other information pertaining to the course. The web site is located at:

[http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp\\_academic/abarton/Soc101/SOC101Syllabus.html](http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp_academic/abarton/Soc101/SOC101Syllabus.html)

**Course Overview:**

This course is designed to introduce 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. 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.

**Readings:**

*Course Text:* Lisa J. McIntyre. 2002. *The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology*. Second Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

*Course Reader:* Leonard Cargan and Jeanne H. Ballantine. 2003. *Sociological Footprints: Introductory Readings in Sociology*. 9th Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

*Additional Reading:* Clifton L. Taulbert. 1997. *Eight Habits of the Heart: Embracing the Values the Build Strong Families and Communities*. New York: Penguin Books.

Books are available at the campus bookstore. Students should purchase all three books, or otherwise make arrangements to access the course readings.

**Study Questions:**

Each week, a set of study questions pertaining to that week's topic will be posted on the course website. These questions are 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 will be drawn from these study questions.

### Assignments and Grading:

All students must complete all of the following assignments:

- (1) Reading, attendance and participation (20 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).
  - See the course website for tips on taking effective notes, and on getting the most out of class sessions.
- (2) Discussion Leader (10 points)
  - You will prepare and facilitate two (or more) discussion(s) on the assigned readings.
  - See the course website for guidelines on facilitating a discussion, for a copy of the form used to evaluate your discussion, and for a schedule 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).
  - The first quiz covers all course material presented since the beginning of the course, the subsequent quizzes cover material presented since the previous quiz.
  - See the course website for suggestions on how to study for the 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 spelling and grammar errors 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.
  - For out-of-class assignments, you are expected to do your own work – this policy will be enforced with **no exceptions**. See Additional Course Policies below for more information.
  - 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.
- (6) Discretionary (10 points)
  - The instructor will evaluate your performance based on factors such as the motivation, interest, and improvement the student demonstrates.
  - See the course website for suggestions 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 over the course of the semester, 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 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.

#### **Additional Course Policies:**

- (1) **YOU are responsible** for learning the course material and for your progress in the 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 a 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 the student, not to the student's family, friends or others.
  - If you must miss 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. note or e-mail) or documentation for any missed class. It is risky to simply tell the instructor and expect him to remember.

- (4) 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.
- (5) 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** 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 other students 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.
  - Any work missed by a student that was asked to leave the classroom **cannot** be made up under any circumstances.
- (6) You are expected to **comply with all academic standards and ethics** as defined in the DSU Bulletin and Handbook
- You are expected to do their own work in this course. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will **NOT** be tolerated.
  - See the course web page if you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism. 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.

**Course Outline:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day/Date Format</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Reading/ Assignment</b>
<b>Topic: Introduction to Sociology</b>			
<b>1</b>	Tue. 1/13 Lecture/ Discussion	Course Introduction	None
	Thu. 1/15 Lecture/ Discussion	The World as a Social Construction	<i>Text</i> , Intro and Chapter 1
<b>Topic: Seeing the Social World</b>			
<b>2</b>	Tue. 1/20 Lecture/ Discussion	Critical Thinking and Skepticism	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 2
	Thu. 1/22 Discussion	The Sociological Imagination	<i>Reader</i> , No. 2 (Mills) & No. 5 (Berger)
<b>Topic: The Sociological Perspective</b>			
<b>3</b>	Tue. 1/27 Lecture/ Discussion	Paradigms: Functionalist, Conflict and Interactionist Approaches	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 3
	Thu. 1/29 Discussion	Paradigms in Social Research	<i>Reader</i> , No. 21 (Kahlenberg) & No. 22 (Gans)
<b>Topic: The Dangers of Being a Sociologist</b>			
<b>4</b>	Tue. 2/3 Lecture/ Discussion	Cultural Assumptions; Developing a Relativist Viewpoint	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 4
	Thu. 2/5 Discussion	Value and Values	<i>Reader</i> , No. 19 (Hacker) & No. 62 (Inglehart et al.)

Week	Day/Date Format	Material	Reading/ Assignment
<b>Topic: Sociology and Science</b>			
5	Tue. 2/10 Lecture/ Discussion	Is Sociology a Science? <b>QUIZ NO. 1</b>	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 5
	Thu. 2/12 Discussion	How Sociologists Know What They Know	<i>Reader</i> , No. 1 (Durkheim) & No. 4 (Babbie)
<b>Topic: Sociological Research</b>			
6	Tue. 2/17 Lecture/ Discussion	The Job & Role of a Researcher	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 6
	Thu. 2/19 Discussion	Understanding Each Other: The Role of Symbols	<i>Reader</i> , No. 15 (Hall et al.) & No. 16 (Wood)
<b>Topic: Understanding Culture</b>			
7	Tue. 2/24 Lecture/ Discussion	Material Culture, Symbolic Culture, Subcultures	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 7
	Thu. 2/26 Discussion	Constructing Culture	<i>Reader</i> , No. 12 (Harris) & No. 13 (Buss et al.)
<b>Topic: Social Structure</b>			
8	Tue. 3/2 Lecture/ Discussion	Social Groups and Our Roles Within Them	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 8
	Thu. 3/4 Discussion	Social Processes and Social Structure	<i>Reader</i> , No. 41 (Meyer) & No. 42 (Clawson et al.)

Week	Day/Date Format	Material	Reading/ Assignment
9	<b>Topic: Conceptualizing Society</b>		
	Tue. 3/9 Lecture/ Discussion	Social Institutions and Institutionalization <b>QUIZ NO. 2</b>	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 9
	Thu. 3/11 Discussion	Constructing Social Institutions	<i>Reader</i> , No. 18 (Ritzer) & No. 23 (Skolnick et al.)
10	<b>Topic: Becoming a Social Being</b>		
	Tue. 3/23 Lecture/ Discussion	Social Interaction and Socialization	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 10
	Thu. 3/25 Discussion	How Are We Socialized?	<i>Reader</i> , No. 6 (Davis) & No. 27 (Gracey)
11	<b>Topic: Keeping People in Line</b>		
	Tue. 3/30 Lecture/ Discussion	Deviance and Social Control	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 11
	Thu. 4/1 Discussion	Crime and Insanity as Forms of Deviance	<i>Reader</i> , No. 51 (Ball) & No. 54 (Rosenhan)
12	<b>Topic: Social Hierarchies and Inequality</b>		
	Tue. 4/6 Lecture/ Discussion	Social Stratification	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 12
	Thu. 4/8 Discussion	Constructing Inequality	<i>Reader</i> , No. 29 (Kozol) & No. 55 (Flavin)

Week	Day/Date Format	Material	Reading/ Assignment
13	<b>Topic: Class, Mobility and Change</b>		
	Tue. 4/13 Lecture/ Discussion	Social Class in the United States <b>QUIZ NO. 3</b>	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 13
	Thu. 4/15 Discussion	Contrasting the Upper and Lower Classes	<i>Reader</i> , No. 20 (Kerbo) & No. 48 (Moore et al.)
14	<b>Topic: Dimensions of Stratification</b>		
	Tue. 4/20 Lecture/ Discussion	Race, Ethnicity and Gender	<i>Text</i> , Chapter 14
	Thu. 4/22 Discussion	Constructing Ideas of Race and Gender	<i>Reader</i> , No. 10 (Taub et al.) & No. 49 (Anderson)
15	<b>Topic: Sociology in the Real World</b>		
	Tue. 4/27 Discussion	Values in the Mississippi Delta	Taulbert, p. 1–48
	Thu. 4/29 Discussion	Values in the Mississippi Delta	Taulbert, p. 49–113
Dead Week	<b>Topic: Review and Evaluation</b>		
	Tue. 5/4 Discussion	Course Evaluation Opportunities in Sociology	Recommended: <i>Reader</i> , pp. xii–xx
	Thu. 5/6 Discussion	Opportunities in Sociology Review for Final Exam	None
Exam Week	Wed. 5/12 Exam	FINAL EXAM, 3:00–6:00 pm	

**PREPARATION and PERSEVERANCE are the KEYS to SUCCESS**

***Be prepared; don't give up***