

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

**Meeting Time:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Sec. 6: 8:00–8:50 a.m.; Sec. 5: 10:00–10:50 a.m.

**Meeting Place:** 207 Kethley 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:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00–10:00 a.m. and 11:00–12:00 noon

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

**Readings:**

*Course Text:* Henslin, James M. 2004. *Essentials of Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach*. 5th Edition. New York: Allyn Bacon/Longman.

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

Books are available at the University Bookstore. Students should purchase the text and reader, or otherwise make arrangements to access the course readings.

**Course Overview:**

This course introduces college students to topics that sociologists study, results of sociological research, and the logic of sociological inquiry. 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. Course material is presented in the class meetings, and in assigned readings from the course textbook and reader.

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 chapters *before* the meeting for which the chapter is assigned, and come to lectures prepared to discuss the material in the text. Fridays are dedicated to discussions of readings from the course reader. Again, please read the assigned readings *before* the session, and come to class prepared to discuss them.

**Study Questions:**

Each week, a set of study questions pertaining to that week's topic will be available to students. These questions are designed to assist students with the week's reading assignments. It is recommended that students 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.

**Course Web Site:**

Check the course web site periodically for information on the course, 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)

### Assignments and Grading:

All students must complete all of the following assignments:

- (1) Reading, attendance and participation (15 points)
  - Each student is expected to do all of the assigned readings and attend all class sessions; please arrive on time.
  - Frequent absences suggest a lack of interest in the course material, and this will be reflected in the final grade.
  - Please **do not** come to class meetings unprepared (i.e. not having done—and thought about—the assigned readings).
- (2) Discussion Sections (20 points)
  - Each student is expected to engage actively in discussion sections on reading assignments that apply the concepts presented in lectures and the text (10 points).
  - Each student will prepare and lead a discussion on one of the assigned readings from the course reader, either alone or in conjunction with another student (10 points).
  - See the course website for guidelines on leading a discussion.
- (3) Quizzes (20 points)
  - Four in-class quizzes will be assigned during the semester (5 points each).
  - The quizzes will consist of short-answer questions (e.g. multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank).
  - The first quiz covers material presented since the beginning of the course, and subsequent quizzes cover material presented since the previous quiz.
- (4) Writing Assignments (20 points)
  - Four in-class or take-home writing assignments will be assigned during the semester (5 points each).
  - Students should complete each assignment and submit it at the specified time.
  - Students 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, students are expected to do their 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 the student's ability to absorb and synthesize course material presented in the readings and lectures.
  - The final exam is comprehensive.
- (6) Discretionary (5 points)
  - The instructor will evaluate each student's performance based on factors such as the motivation, interest, and improvement the student demonstrates.

There are a total of 100 points available for the semester. Students that accumulate 90 or more points will get an "A," students with 80 to 89 points will get a "B," 70 to 79 points will get a "C," 60 to 69 points will get a "D," and less than 60 points will get an "F." Note that you start with zero and earn points; you do not start with 100 and lose points.

Students that comply with all course requirements and submit all of the assignments satisfactorily and on time can expect a "C" in this course. To receive a higher grade, students must demonstrate a superior grasp of course material and an ability to apply the material in productive ways, 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) Students are **responsible** for learning the course material and for their progress in the course
  - Students are expected to **attend class regularly** and **complete all of the assignments**.
  - Students are expected to know **all** material presented during class sessions, whether the student attended the class or not. Students that miss a class session should check with another student to see what they 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 a student misses class or an assignment for anything other than documented illness or emergency, he/she is making a choice that prioritizes other activities above the class. For this reason, no work can be made up unless the reason for the absence or missed assignment is documented.
  - Assignments are due at the time specified; **no late assignments will be accepted** without a valid, written excuse from a doctor or previous arrangement with the instructor.
  - Illnesses and emergencies pertain only to the student, not to the student’s family, friends or others.
  - If a student must miss class or an assignment for something other than illness or an emergency, the student should make arrangements with the instructor **BEFORE** the missed class or assignment; any arrangements after the event will require documentation with no exceptions.
  - 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.
- (3) Class **discussion** is an important element in this course
  - The purpose of the discussion is to provide students with an opportunity to practice thinking skills in a safe environment.
  - In discussions, students are encouraged to explore ideas presented in the readings and lectures, to think about and apply concepts, and to develop arguments and evaluate evidence.
  - Students must demonstrate **appropriate respect** the opinions and ideas of other students. Students that repeatedly show disrespect for other students will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - Class discussions are **NOT** a time for students 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. Students that repeatedly talk out of turn will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - It is acceptable (and encouraged) to disagree with the perspectives of other students, but students 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. Students whose phones or pagers repeatedly interrupt class will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - Students asked to leave the classroom for disruptive or disrespectful behavior **cannot** make up any work they miss as a result.
- (4) Students are expected to **comply with all academic standards and ethics** as defined in the DSU Bulletin and Handbook
  - Students are expected to do their 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.

**Course Outline:**

Week	Day/Date Format	Material	Reading/Assignment
<b>Topic: Introduction to Sociology</b>			
1	Mon. 8/18	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	
	Wed. 8/20 Lecture/ Discussion	Course introduction; Review syllabus; Expectations; Terms and concepts; Major theoretical paradigms	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 1
	Fri. 8/22 Discussion	Section introduction; Discussion leader assignments	
<b>Topic: Becoming a Social Being</b>			
2	Mon. 8/25 Lecture/ Discussion	Socialization: Microsociological perspectives (Interaction)	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 3
	Wed. 8/27 Lecture/ Discussion	Socialization: Structural perspectives (Institutions)	
	Fri. 8/29 Discussion	The Sociological Imagination and the Social Construction of Reality	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 2 (Mills) Reading 5 (Berger)
<b>Topic: Perspectives on the Nature of Society</b>			
3	Mon. 9/1	<b>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</b>	
	Wed. 9/3 Lecture/ Discussion	Social Structure and Social Interaction	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 4
	Fri. 9/5 Discussion	Socialization Processes and Products	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 6 (Davis) Reading 10 (Taub & McLorg)
<b>Topic: Culture</b>			
4	Mon. 9/8 Lecture/ Discussion	Culture as Symbolic Understanding	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 2
	Wed. 9/10 Lecture/ Discussion	Elements of Culture	<b>QUIZ NO. 1</b>
	Fri. 9/12 Discussion	Cultural Norms and Values	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 13 (Buss et al.) Reading 14 (Fishbach & Donnelly)

Week	Day/Date Format	Material	Reading/ Assignment
<b>Topic: Social Groups and Social Control</b>			
5	Mon. 9/15 Lecture/ Discussion	Groups and Organizations: Group Dynamics	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 5 <i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 60 (Bell)
	Wed. 9/17 Lecture/ Discussion	Bureaucracy	
	Fri. 9/19 Discussion	Forms of Social Control	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 27 (Gracey) Reading 41 (Meyer)
<b>Topic: Deviance and Social Control</b>			
6	Mon. 9/22 Lecture/ Discussion	Deviance and Social Control, Symbolic Interactionist Perspectives	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 6
	Wed. 9/24 Lecture/ Discussion	Deviance and Social Control, Functionalist and Conflict Approaches	
	Fri. 9/26 Discussion	Understanding Deviance	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 51 (Ball) Reading 54 (Rosenhan)
<b>Topic: Social Inequality</b>			
7	Mon. 9/29 Lecture/ Discussion	Stratification and Social Class	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 7 <i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 19 (Hacker)
	Wed. 10/1 Lecture/ Discussion	Dimensions of Stratification	
	Fri. 10/3 Discussion	Poverty in the U.S.	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 22 (Gans) Reading 29 (Kozol)
<b>Topic: Globalization</b>			
8	Mon. 10/6 Lecture/ Discussion	International Development	<b>QUIZ NO. 2</b>
	Wed. 10/8 Lecture/ Discussion	Globalization and the World System	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 8
	Fri. 10/10 Discussion	Wealth & Poverty in a Global Society	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 47 (Bonilla-Silva & Hovsepian) Reading 62 (Inglehart & Baker)

Week	Day/Date Format	Material	Reading/ Assignment
9	<b>Topic: Social Stratification</b>		
	Mon. 10/13 Lecture/ Discussion	Social Class in the U.S.	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 9 <i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 45 (Charon)
	Wed. 10/15 Lecture/ Discussion	Race and Ethnicity	
	Fri. 10/17 Discussion	Class Relations in the U.S.	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 20 (Kerbo) Reading 48 (Moore & Pinderhughes)
10	<b>Topic: Social Stratification (continued)</b>		
	Mon. 10/20 Lecture/ Discussion	Gender	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 10
	Wed. 10/22 Lecture/ Discussion	Age	
	Fri. 10/24	<b>FALL BREAK</b>	
11	<b>Topic: Social Institutions</b>		
	Mon. 10/27 Lecture/ Discussion	Governance	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 11 <i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 37 (Wilson)
	Wed. 10/29 Lecture/ Discussion	Economy	
	Fri. 10/31 Discussion	Bureaucratic Functioning in Economy & Law	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 38 (Zuckerman) Reading 42 (Clawson et al.)
12	<b>Topic: Social Institutions (continued)</b>		
	Mon. 11/3 Lecture/ Discussion	Marriage and the Family	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 12
	Wed. 11/5 Lecture/ Discussion	Other Social Institutions	<b>QUIZ NO. 3</b>
	Fri. 11/7 Discussion	Family and Modern Society	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 23 (Skolnick) Reading 24 (Beeghley)

Week	Day/Date Format	Material	Reading/ Assignment
<b>Topic: Social Institutions (continued)</b>			
13	Mon. 11/10 Lecture/ Discussion	Education	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 13 <i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 32 (Durkheim)
	Wed. 11/12 Lecture/ Discussion	Religion	
	Fri. 11/14 Discussion	The Role of Education and Religion in Society	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 35 (Berger) Reading 12 (Harris)
<b>Topic: Social Change</b>			
14	Mon. 11/17 Lecture/ Discussion	Population	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 14
	Wed. 11/19 Lecture/ Discussion	Urbanization	
	Fri. 11/21 Discussion	Demographic Change and Its Consequences	<i>Sociological Footprints:</i> Reading 56 (Mitchell) Reading 57 (Flynn)
<b>Topic: Social Change (continued)</b>			
15	Mon. 11/24 Lecture/ Discussion	Social Movements	<i>Essentials of Sociology:</i> Chapter 15
	Wed. 11/26	Mobilization	<b>QUIZ NO. 4</b>
	Fri. 11/28	<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>	
<b>Topic: Review (Dead Week)</b>			
16	Mon. 12/1 Discussion	Sociology as a Career; Opportunities for Sociologists	Recommended: <i>Sociological Footprints</i> , pp. xii–xx
	Wed. 12/3 Discussion	Review; Prepare for Final Exam	None
	Fri. 12/5 Discussion	Course Evaluation	None
<b>Exam Week</b>	Mon. 12/8 3:00–6:00	FINAL EXAM for Section 5 (10:00 a.m.)	None
	Wed. 12/10 8:00–12:00	FINAL EXAM for Section 6 (8:00 a.m.)	None

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

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