

SOC 101 – Introduction to Sociology
Fall 2010

Instructor: Paul Prew
Office: AH 113
Office Hours: 3:00 - 5:00 Friday, or by appointment
Office Phone: 389-5674
Email: paul.prew@mnsu.edu

Course Description

As the course title states, this class is intended to introduce you to the discipline of Sociology. The course will acquaint you with a number of sociological perspectives, theoretical orientations and methodological tools. By taking this course, you will develop a sense of the range of issues covered by sociologists and the various perspectives and tools used to understand these issues. Sociology is, by its very nature, a discipline that dissects the world we live in.

Many people in our nation and other nations are profoundly ignorant of how contemporary society operates. Sociology uses scientific investigation to expose the unrecognized forces affecting us in our everyday lives. Because Sociology is a scientific analysis of the everyday, it is bound to conflict with the misperceptions and misinformation that many people harbor. The best Sociology requires that you confront your long held beliefs and open up your mind to new perspectives regarding the social world.

Some folks find it difficult to let go of their own ignorance and misperceptions, so if you are close-minded or have strong traditional beliefs, this may not be the course for you. This course, while covering selected topics in Sociology, will attempt to challenge you to think differently about a variety of sociological issues including the media, race/ethnicity and gender. You will be required to understand the world sociologically instead of based on your own misperceptions, which can be challenging to you at times.

Course Objectives

- Students will be familiarized with the basic perspectives in Sociology.
- Students will expand their knowledge of basic Sociological issues.
- Students will be exposed to issues of globalization.
- Students will learn about problems facing people living in other areas of the world.

Required Texts

- *Sociology: A Global Perspective* by Joan Ferrante (Custom Edition)
- *Introduction to Sociology* compiled by Paul Prew
- *You May Ask Yourself* by Dalton Conley (Custom Edition)
- *Behind the Invasion of Iraq* by the Research Unit for Political Economy
- *Interwrite PRS* – Personal Response System – “Clicker”

Desire to Learn (D2L)

- Some readings, especially for your quizzes, will be posted on D2L.
- Be sure to check the D2L regularly for weekly assignments and extra credit opportunities.
- Lecture slides will also be posted on D2L.

Critical Thinking and General Education

- Many of the issues that we will cover in this course are complex and do not lend themselves to easy answers.
 - Hopefully, you will develop more questions as we progress through the class.
- We will focus on *Sociological* views to understanding contemporary issues.
 - Sometimes, the material may make you uncomfortable – this is natural, and it means that you are confronting commonly held beliefs, which is one of the goals of Sociology.
 - We will look at the world from a variety of Sociological theories to address a number of social issues like the media, workplace dissatisfaction, racism, etc.
 - Some issues that we will cover may appear unfamiliar to some of you.
 - While I understand that it may be new material to some of you, it is rooted in historical sociological analysis and is information firmly acknowledged internationally.
 - For example, an international student asked me why some of the US students were surprised by the content. For her, it was common knowledge and something that some international students had witnessed first-hand.
- This course is designed specifically to meet the goals of the **General Education Requirements** it fulfills.
 - For example, we will “develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues” - one of the goals of Goal Area 5: History and Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - We will also “analyze specific international problems illustrating cultural, economic, ... social and political differences which affect their solution.” Goal Area 9: Global Perspective
 - In this class, I stress that you “understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.” Goal Area 9: Global Perspective
 - This course also helps you “identify the impact of oppression for individuals from diverse populations.” Diverse Cultures - Purple
- Other General Education Requirements
 - In this course, students will be exposed to the methods and theories used by social scientists.
 - The course will look at a number of social institutions, especially the media, economy and others.
 - Students will also be exposed to other cultures and the relations between various cultures within the US and also other regions of the world.
- Any unease you feel regarding these goals or the course content is part of your intellectual growth and a necessary part of expanding your understanding of the world.
 - The purpose of the course is to create a more informed citizen in an increasingly globalized world to better cope with both the personal and social issues looming on the horizon.

Sensitive Course Content

Because sociology addresses difficult social issues, the class may cover topics that some people have experienced personally. The following topics may produce anxiety for students who have experienced these social issues.

- *Social Movements and Use of Violence as a Means of Social Control*
 - During these sections, we will address the issues of lynching and military combat, which may include graphic images.
- *Gender and Society and Sexuality*
 - During these sections, we will address issues of sexual assault.
- If you think any of these topics will be difficult for you to experience, you have a couple options:
 - Since some in-class activities are dropped, you may be able to miss one class (and possibly more) and choose not to come during these subjects.
 - Please feel free to contact me ahead of time to make alternative arrangements.
 - If you are personally dealing with these issues or others, I have listed some resources on campus that may provide assistance. If you do not see what you need on this list, I may be able to suggest others.

Course Requirements

For the course, your grade will be based on three components:

- short interactive exercises,
- reading assignments and
- four multiple-choice exams.

There will be no make-ups for the interactive exercises, assignments or exams, but an optional Final may be used to replace a missed exam or your lowest grade on the other four exams.

● Interactive Exercises

- These are assignments handed out randomly during class.
 - Some will be handed out during class while others may involve homework discussed during the class.
 - Some assignments will involve the “clicker.”
 - **Be sure to bring your “clicker” to every class.**
 - **Do NOT share your clicker with others. It will erase the answers of whoever shares your clicker.**
 - Some assignments may be in the form of short multiple choice quizzes based on the readings.
- There will be no make-ups for the interactive exercises!!!
 - Some accommodations can be made for officially sanctioned activities such as National Guard Duty or university-sponsored activities.
 - Contact me if your schedule conflicts with an assignment.
- The interactive exercises together will represent 20% of your grade.

● Reading Assignments

- Assignments covering the readings will be posted on D2L.
 - See the “Content” section of D2L for more information.
- To complete the assignment, you must go to the “Quizzes” section.
 - Make sure you have completed the readings prior to beginning the assignment.
 - You will have a limited time to complete these assignments.
 - There will be no make-ups for these assignments.
- The written reading assignments will be worth 20% of your grade.

● Exams

- Exams are multiple-choice and will be taken in class.
 - Exam days are posted on the “Weekly Readings” schedule below.
 - Exams will be approximately 50% lecture material and 50% text material.
- We will cover issues relevant to the assigned text, but I will not specifically cover the text material during lecture.
 - However, feel free to bring up questions regarding what you have read, and I will try to answer them during lecture.
- There are no make-ups for the exams (See “Final Exam” at the end of the syllabus for more information).
- **Review sessions covering lecture and text material may be offered.**
 - Also, feel free to make use of my office hours or make an appointment.
- Each exam also represents 15% of your grade.

● Extra Credit

- Extra credit opportunities may be made available and will be posted on D2L.
- **Follow the requirements as they are outlined, or you will receive no credit for the assignment.**

Course Requirements Continued

- **Grading for the Course Will Be Based on the Following:**
 - Exams (4) 60%
 - Interactive Exercises 20%
 - Reading Assignments 20%
- Grades for the course will use the +/- scale and will have divisions as follows:
 - 92 and above = A,
 - 91.99 – 90 = A-,
 - 89.99 – 88 = B+,
 - 87.99 – 82 = B,
 - 81.99 – 80 = B-,
 - 79.99 – 78 = C+,
 - 77.99 – 72 = C,
 - 71.99 – 70 = C-,
 - 69.99 – 68 = D,
 - 67.99 and below = F
- **Notice that any grade below 68% is an F.**
- I am very willing to help students who are struggling with the course requirements.
 - **If your exam scores, etc. are lower than you would like, come talk to me.**
 - There may be alternative arrangements or other services that can help you improve your scores.
 - See also the “Student Needs” section below.
- Grade grubbing and unsubstantiated complaints about missing assignments **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**
 - **DO NOT EMAIL ME AT THE END OF THE TERM REQUESTING THAT I ROUND UP YOUR GRADE!**
 - I am very willing to work with students during the term to improve their grade. Please come see me!
 - However, your lack of effort, planning or reluctance to spend the time with me to improve your grade during the term is not my problem - **YOUR FINAL GRADE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!**
 - Begging to be bumped up to the next letter grade will result in your grade being lowered one-half letter grade **for each interaction, email, etc.**
 - If you are missing an assignment, make sure that you **ARE MISSING AN ASSIGNMENT.**
 - If we cannot locate your missing assignment you will be subject to a one-half letter grade deduction.
 - Also note that you will not receive credit for illegible handwriting.
 - If we are able to associated your missing work with your illegible name on the assignment, you still will **not** receive credit.
 - Inevitably, we will experience difficulties with the “clicker” system.
 - Make sure your batteries are either new or strong - this is the most common issue.
 - If you are having problems with your clicker, please let me know so that it can be resolved.
 - However, I will drop one or more of the clicker assignments to deal with random clicker issues.
 - If your name or ID does not appear in the system, there is nothing we can do on an individual basis.
 - There is nothing I can do, so repeated communications regarding missing clicker entries will be subject to the above policy of grade deduction.

Course Expectations

- Because this course is relatively large, I have certain expectations for you when you are in the classroom.
 - **The use of laptops or cell phones is not permitted in the classroom.**
 - Other distractions such as text messages, conversations between students, etc. are not permitted.
 - I will stop the class if students are using laptops, checking cell phones, texting, or otherwise distracting other students in the class.
 - If the problem persists, students distracting others will be asked to leave and/or failed for the course.
 - I request that you abide by these expectations, not for my benefit, but for the students around you.

Quality of Work and “Academic Honesty”

- Students are responsible for ensuring that their assignments, essays and general intellectual contributions are their own.
 - In other words, I demand that the students’ contributions are the result of their own creativity and critical assessment of the material covered during this course.
 - I encourage students to study together and discuss the course material outside of class, but do not write your assignments together.
 - Intentional or unintentional similarities in papers, exams, assignments or answers **will result in the students failing the course.**
 - This includes but is not limited to:
 - borrowing portions or whole essays from another source such as a friend, website or “paper mill.”
 - using authors’ ideas without proper credit,
 - submitting a paper that is not your own work,
 - similarities between student papers,
 - copying answers from others in class,
 - using notes during exams,
 - submitting work for others such as attendance sign in, assignments, “clicker” entries, etc.

Students’ Needs

- If you are having trouble in the class understanding the material or doing well on the exams, **I encourage you to contact me.**
 - If you are worried about how you are doing in the class, contact me early in the term.
 - If you wait until the 3rd or 4th exam, it will be too late.
 - There are also resources on campus to aid your study skills and provide tutoring.
 - Check the list of resources on the next page, or ask me about your options.
- Please let me know if you have any need for accommodations in the classroom to meet your needs.
 - I realize that students have different learning styles and different needs.
 - While this is a large class, I will do my best to help you in any way I can.
 - My objective in this course is to get you to look at the world in a different, more sociological, way.
 - My goal is not to “weed out” those who cannot do well on a test.
 - In this way, I do encourage you to use my office hours or make an appointment to discuss the course material, concerns you may have, or general issues relevant to the course.
- For those of you who may have more specific needs, MSU-Mankato provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in education programs, activities or services.
- Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to participate in-class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the Office of Disability Services (contact info below) and then contact me as soon as possible.

Resources for Students on Campus

There are many resources on campus for students, especially those new to the campus. Below you can find the location and contact information for various services on campus. They are there for you, so take advantage of them. All of these resources are aimed at helping you succeed and excel while you are here. Please ask me if there is anything I can help you find. I may be able direct you to other offices that can help you out.

Tutoring and Other Services for All Students

Center for Academic Success
Memorial Library in ML 125 (lower level)
Phone: 507-389-1791
Email: academicsuccess@mnsu.edu
<http://www.mnsu.edu/supersite/academics/success/>

General Information and Help with Study Skills

Student Relations, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Advising "U"
Armstrong Hall 114
Phone No: 507-389-6306
<http://sbs.mnsu.edu/prospective/advisingu.html>

Resources for International Students

The International Student Office (ISO)
Kearney International Center
250 Centennial Student Union
Phone: 507-389-1281 (V) or 800-627-3529
(MRS/TTY)
E-mail: iso@mnsu.edu
<http://www.mnsu.edu/iso/>

Facilities and Resources for Students with Disabilities

Office of Disability Services
132 Memorial Library (lower level)
Phone: 507-389-2825 (Voice/TTY)
Email: julie.snow@mnsu.edu
<http://www.mnsu.edu/dso/index.html>

Sexual Violence Awareness Education

The Women's Center
218 Centennial Student Union
Phone: (507) 389-6146
<http://www.mnsu.edu/wcenter/>

Ethnic Student Population Resources

Office of Multicultural Affairs
243 Centennial Student Union
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 507-389-6300
<http://www.mnsu.edu/cultdiv/programs/>

Academic Support In Writing, Reading And Computer Literacy For Underrepresented Students

Diversity English Institute (IDEI)
Intercultural Center, CSU 269
Phone: 507-389-5594
Email: amy.mukamuri@mnsu.edu
<http://www.mnsu.edu/cultdiv/ei/>

Resources for First-Generation College Students and Others

Student Support Services
355 Wiecking Center
Phone: (507) 389-2797
<http://www.mnsu.edu/sss/>

Confidential Help to Assist Students in Resolving Personal, Social, and Educational Concerns

The Counseling Center
245 Centennial Student Union (CSU)
Phone: (507) 389-1455
<http://www.mnsu.edu/counseling/>

Student Health Services

Medical Clinic
21 Carkoski Commons
Phone: 507-389-6276
Health Education
100 Carkoski Commons
Phone: 507-389-5689
<http://www.mnsu.edu/shs/>

Weekly Readings

Week 1 (August 23 - 27)

What is Sociology? “The Sociological Imagination”

Sociology: A Global Perspective by Joan Ferrante **Chapter 1. The Sociological Imagination**

D2L Quiz Reading: *Week 1 _ C. Wright Mills _ The Sociological Imagination (on D2L)*

***** Reading Quiz: Week 1 (Due 11:59PM Sunday, August 29)**

Week 2 (August 30 - September 3)

Both Sides of the Story? Bias, Perspective and Ethnocentrism

Introduction to Sociology compiled by Paul Prew **Chapter 1. Culture, Society, and Diversity**

D2L Quiz Reading: *Week 2 _ Ward Churchill _ Kill the Indian Save the Man (on D2L)*

***** Reading Quiz: Week 2 (Due 11:59PM Sunday, September 5)**

Week 3 (September 8 - 10)

(No Class Monday, September 6)

Sociological Perspectives & Classical Sociological Theory - Alienation

Sociology: A Global Perspective by Joan Ferrante **Chapter 2. Theoretical Perspectives and Methods of Social Research**

D2L Quiz Reading: *Week 3 _ Al Gini _ Good Work Bad Work (on D2L)*

***** Reading Quiz: Week 3 (Due 11:59PM Sunday, September 12)**

Week 4 (September 13 - 17)

Exam 1 – Monday, September 13 !!!

Socialization: The Media and The Propaganda Model

Introduction to Sociology compiled by Paul Prew **Chapter 2. Socialization**

***** No Reading Quiz This Week**

Week 5 (September 20 - 24)

Sociology in Practice: The Propaganda Model Applied

D2L Quiz Reading: *Introduction to Sociology* compiled by Paul Prew **Chapter 3. Understanding U.S. Journalism II**

***** Reading Quiz: Week 5 (Due 11:59 Sunday, September 26)**

Week 6 (September 27 - October 1)

Structural and Individual Racism

You May Ask Yourself by Dalton Conley **Chapter 13. Race**

D2L Quiz Reading: *Week 6 _ Eduardo Bonilla Silva _ Racism Without Racists (on D2L)*

***** Reading Quiz: Week 6 (Due 11:59PM Sunday, October 3)**

Week 7 (October 4 - 8)

Race and Racism: Ethnocentrism and Mascots

Sociology: A Global Perspective by Joan Ferrante **Chapter 8. Social Stratification**

D2L Quiz Reading: *Week 7 _ C. Richard King _ Of Polls and Race Prejudice (on D2L)*

***** Reading Quiz: Week 7 (Due 11:59PM Sunday, October 10)**

Week 8 (October 11 - 15)

Exam 2 – Monday, October 11 !!!

Global Political-Economic Institutions

Sociology: A Global Perspective by Joan Ferrante **Chapter 11. Economics and Politics**

D2L Quiz Reading: *Week 8 _ Liza Featherstone _ Students Against Sweatshops (on D2L)*

***** Reading Quiz: Week 8 (Due 11:59PM Sunday, October 17)**

Week 9 (October 18 - 22)

Social Movements

You May Ask Yourself by Dalton Conley **Chapter 18. Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change**

D2L Quiz Reading: *Week 9 _ Defense Planning Documents (on D2L)*

***** Reading Quiz: Week 9 (Due 11:59PM Sunday, October 24)**

Week 10 (October 25 - 27)

(No Class Friday, October 29)

Use of Violence as a Means of Social Control

You May Ask Yourself by Dalton Conley **Chapter 6. Social Control and Deviance**

D2L Quiz Reading: *Behind the Invasion of Iraq* by the Research Unit for Political Economy **Chapter 2. Western Imperialism and Iraq (pages 19-54)**

***** Reading Quiz: Week 10 (Due 11:59PM Sunday, October 31)**

Week 11 (November 1 - 5)

Exam 3 – Monday, November 1 !!!

Gender and Society

Introduction to Sociology compiled by Paul Prew **Chapter 4. Sex and Gender**

***** No Reading Quiz This Week**

Week 12 (November 8 - 12)

Sexuality

Introduction to Sociology compiled by Paul Prew **Chapter 5. Sexuality**

***** No Reading Quiz This Week**

Week 13 (November 15 - 19)

Contemporary Education in the US

You May Ask Yourself by Dalton Conley **Chapter 8. Education**

D2L Quiz Reading: *Introduction to Sociology* compiled by Paul Prew **Chapter 7. No Corporation Left Behind**

***** Reading Quiz: Week 13 (Due 11:59PM Sunday, November 21)**

Week 14 (November 22 - 24)

(No Class Friday, November 26)

People and the Environment

Introduction to Sociology compiled by Paul Prew **Chapter 6. How Much Can One Planet Take?**

***** No Reading Quiz This Week**

Week 15 (November 29 - December 3)

Course Wrap Up

(No Readings)

Exam 4 – Wednesday, December 1 !!!

Final Exam (Optional)

You can take the final exam to replace an exam that you missed, or you can take the final exam in an attempt to remove your lowest exam score.

Your exam grades will be taken from the best 4 out of 5 grades.

For the 12:00 MWF class, the Final Exam is Friday, December 10, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

For the 1:00 MWF class, the Final Exam is Thursday, December 9, 12:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

For the 2:00 MWF class, the Final Exam is Monday, December 6, 12:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.