

Sociology 1010: Introduction to Sociology

Dixie State University

Fall 2013

Instructor: Christina Duncan

E-mail: duncan@dixie.edu

Phone Number: 435-652-7927

Office: MCD 232

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is the scientific study of people doing things together. In this course we will discover that our behaviors, from the local and intimate to the global and public, are patterned and situated within the groups, communities, and societies of which we are members. We will see that sociologists go about uncovering and understanding our behaviors via empirical observations. By the end of the course you will develop a Sociological Imagination--a perspective of the world that recognizes the interchange of personal biographies and larger global and historical events.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students completing Introduction to Sociology should:

- demonstrate an ability to identify the ideas, people, and events that are generally thought to be important by sociologists;
- demonstrate an understanding of sociology as a scientific discipline (i.e. the gathering and analyzing of empirical data in a systematic fashion);
- demonstrate an understanding of functionalism, conflict, and symbolic interactionism as the major theoretical perspectives of sociology;
- demonstrate an understanding of the five main institutions of society (family, religion, education, economy, and politics) from a sociological perspective.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

David Brinkerhoff, Lynn White, Suzanne T. Ortega and Rose Weitz. 2008. *Essentials of Sociology*, 9th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Taking Sides Paper1 (30 points)

Writing is a thinking and reasoning process in itself; trying to clearly put down on paper what you mean forces you to grapple with ideas. You will write one critical thinking papers this semester (3-5 pages). Each paper is due at the beginning of class and must be typed. Detailed instructions for the assignments will be handed out in class. All writing must be free of spelling errors and grammatically correct.

NOTE: I do not accept LATE work

Taking Sides Paper 2 (30 points)

Writing is a thinking and reasoning process in itself; trying to clearly put down on paper what you mean forces you to grapple with ideas. You will write one critical thinking papers this semester (3-5 pages). Each paper is due at the beginning of class and must be typed. Detailed instructions for the assignments will be handed out in class. All writing must be free of spelling errors and grammatically correct.

NOTE: I do not accept LATE work

Class Participation (20 points)

Your active participation is a vital aspect of this class. It is in your best interest to come to class in order to understand the material covered when we meet. Also, **read the assigned material by the date indicated**—lectures and in-class discussions are based on the idea that you have some understanding of the more basic aspects of each assigned chapter and related course material for that day's class meeting. You are responsible for *all* assigned reading, even if it is not discussed in lecture. I also present material not found in the text. Regardless, if you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to get lecture notes from another student in the class. I will ask students to provide ideas and/or examples concerning the material.

NOTE: Often, this will require students to expand their knowledge beyond personal beliefs and opinions.

Mid-term and Final Exam (2 @ 60 points)

A mid-term and final exam will be given during exam week as noted on the schedule. It will be composed of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions.

NOTE: There are no makeup exams

NOTE: I reserve the right to (a) adjust individual grades based on my evaluation of your participation and enthusiasm in the course and (b) make changes to the syllabus during the course if I feel it will benefit the class.

GRADING

Your semester grades will be calculated by total points earned by completing course requirements. I highly recommend tracking your points earned during the semester; to avoid any discrepancies or surprises when I calculate your final grade.

Requirement Points

Taking Sides Paper 1 30 points= 30

Taking Sides Paper 2 30 points = 30

Class Participation 20 points = 20

Exams 2 @ 60 points = 120

Total Points 200

CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

1. Do not come into class late or leave early, unless you have a compelling reason that you have discussed with me prior to class.
2. In order to do well in this course, your writing must be grammatically correct with correct spelling. Good writing does not mean complicating writing; clear, carefully constructed sentences should be your goal.
3. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a classmate. I do take attendance. Excused absences are those for which you can provide documentation proving illness, death in the family, or participation in a college-sponsored event. Excused late arrivals must be discussed with me before class starts.
4. Active participation includes not only frequency, but quality of participation, in a manner that demonstrates both completion of assigned work and respect for classmates and the instructor. I will not expect you to always have the right answer to questions and problems in class, but I will expect you to have done the reading, homework, and to be prepared to engage with the material during the class session. Demonstrating respect includes taking care to avoid monopolizing discussion and interrupting classmates. It also includes making sure that one's comments are directly related to the topic at hand and are offered to get a better grasp of course material or to contribute constructively to the class discussion.
5. Students are required to refrain from having side conversations during class. Having side conversations will significantly lower your participation score. If you feel the need to read the newspaper, read for another class, play on the Internet/Facebook, text message, and/or take a nap, do not come to class. Students are expected to turn off their cell phones before class starts.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

I expect you to check your e-mail regularly in case I send out information relating to this class. You can expect me to reply to your communications (please allow me 48-72 hours to respond). Here are some general rules for emailing:

- Email messages should be courteous, clear, concise, and directly related to specific content in the course.
- Messages must include your full name and a specific subject line.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE POLICY

Academic dishonesty in any form, including, but not limited to, plagiarism on written assignments, submitting other person's work as one's own, and cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated at Dixie State College of Utah. Teachers at Dixie State College of Utah have the right to manage their classroom environments to ensure a good learning climate.

DISABILITY RESOURCES

If you are a student with a physical or mental impairment and would like to request accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in Room 201 of the Student Services Center. The Disability Resource Center will determine your eligibility for services based upon complete professional documentation. If you are deemed eligible, the Disability Resource Center will further evaluate the effectiveness of your accommodation requests and will authorize reasonable accommodations that are appropriate for your disability.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug 19 Classwork Starts

Aug 22 Last Day to Waitlist

Aug 23 Last Day to Add Without Signature

Aug 28 Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class)

Aug 28 Residency Application Deadline

Sep 2 Labor Day

Sep 3 \$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee

Sep 9 Pell Grant Census

Sep 9 Last Day for Refund

Sep 9 Last Day to drop without receiving a "W" grade

Sep 10 Courses dropped for non-payment

Sep 13 Last Day to Add/Audit

Oct 1 Associate's degree Graduation Deadline - Fall 2013

Oct 9 Mid-Term Grades Due

Oct 10-11 Semester Break

Oct 14 Last Day to Drop Individual Class

Oct 21 Spring and Summer 2014 class schedules available online

Nov 1 Bachelor's degree Graduation Deadline - Spring 2014

Nov 8 Last Day for Complete Withdrawal

Nov 11 Spring Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)

Nov 12 Career Day

Nov 12 Spring Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)

Nov 13 Spring Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)

Nov 14 Spring Registration Open to All Students

Nov 27-29 Thanksgiving Break

Dec 6 Classwork Ends

Dec 9-13 Final Exams

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS

W1 August 19-23 *Welcome and Chapter One*

W2 August 26-30 *Chapter One*

W3 SEPTEMBER 2ND NO SCHOOL September 4-6 *Chapter Two*

W4 September 9-13 *Chapter Three*

Paper One (Due September 11th)

W5 September 16-20 *Chapter Four*

W6 September 23-27 *Chapter Five*

W7 September 30-October 4 *Chapter Six*

W8 October 7-9 ***Mid-Term***

W9 October 14-18 *Chapter Seven*

W10 October 21-25 *Chapter Eight*

W11 October 28-November 1 *Chapter Nine*

W12 November 4-8 *Chapter Ten*

Paper Two (Due November 6th)

W13 November 11-15 *Chapter Eleven*

W14 November 18-22 *Chapter Twelve*

W15 November 25 HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL 27TH -29TH

W16 December 2-6 *Chapter Thirteen/Review*

W17 Final Exam_____