

## SOCI 2013 – General Sociology

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Office	<b>218 Old Main</b> Building 479.575.3779	O-Hours	<b>TBD</b> <i>or by appointment</i>
Tech	<a href="https://learn.uark.edu">https://learn.uark.edu</a> <b>Clicker</b> Channel: <b>TBD</b>	E-Hours	<b>TBD</b> <b>→ emails by next e-hrs, priority to o-hrs on Tues</b>

### Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the discipline of sociology – the study of society. The primary course objective is to learn about the social lives of people, groups, and societies in order to examine: (a) how participation in social life influences personal life outcomes and (b) how people's actions, relationships, and experiences create, influence, and transform social structures. Course readings and discussions focus on engaging students in developing a "sociological imagination" that questions everyday experiences, "common knowledge," and the status quo. Throughout the entire course, students will learn how social groups and processes, socialization, social structures, and social inequality form the basis for social interactions across contexts. Subtopics include marriage and family, culture, social inequality and poverty, race and ethnicity, gender, crime, education, religion, mass consumption, communication, and globalization.

### Goals:

This class centers on the essentials of thinking sociologically about our individual and group lives. Students are taught to see the limits in individualistic focuses to – still respect the role that individuals play in society while also learning to – view the more macro-level process of group interactions in the formation of broad social patterns.

Education is an important cornerstone of empowerment. To this end, class will center on the application of sociological concepts to important social issues. This class is a journey of doing sociology, which is the application of a theoretical perspective in the analysis of social life. After learning the tools of this class, students will ask in their day-to-day lives: what social forces are at work? What's the history of this social issue? What are we not seeing? How do factors such as race, class, gender, etc. affect the outcome?

### Objectives:

The objective of the course is that students will gain the following skills and abilities:

- Examination of social life by applying the "sociological imagination."
- Development of an increased awareness and understanding of social inequalities.
- Deepening of ability to think critically, in general, and with regards to social issues.

Methods to achieve course objectives include readings, class participation, examinations, and other class assignments. Each method is explained in greater detail in the following sections of the syllabus.

## Learning Objectives

In addition to learning concepts covered in readings and class lectures, this course should (more importantly) encourage you to learn practical information about yourself, your social background, and your current social contexts, especially how these factors may influence the ways you interact with various social organizations and institutions.

## Mutual Expectations and Feedback

We should strive to adhere to the following expectations. This is mutual, so we are all accountable for these. Please feel free to provide feedback to me (via email, phone, or in person) if your expectations are not being met. I encourage and greatly value your constructive feedback. Likewise, I expect students to learn from class feedback.

We should all strive for:

- Enthusiasm for the course material and discussions
  - Dedication to learn and master course concepts
  - Time management skills that lead to successful preparation and progression
  - Motivation to work hard and always put best foot forward
  - Accountability in leading your educational career
  - Honesty and integrity in allowing your own work to be judged for what it is
- *High standards for excellence in all we do*

## Class Communication Modes:

- ✓ **Before/after class:** I am happy to answer questions right before or after class.
- ✓ **O-Hours:** as posted on 1<sup>st</sup> page, in my office, simply drop by or email for apt time
- ✓ **E-Hours / Email:** emails answered, live gmail chats as scheduled on 1<sup>st</sup> page
- ✓ **Blackboard:** class communication will regularly occur via Blackboard

## Blackboard Responsibility

Students are required to regularly check their email for class announcements. **Any changes, requests, required assignments, etc. that the professor sends out by Blackboard or email are considered part of class requirements, and no excuses will be given for having failed to check or receive class emails.** It is the student's responsibility to make sure that they receive e-mail sent using Blackboard.

## Classroom Behavior

Appropriate classroom behavior is expected of both the instructor and all students. Inappropriate and disruptive classroom behavior (inappropriate language and gestures, class disruptions, disrespect to other students or instructor, and other behavior as determined by the instructor) will not be tolerated and will result in possible removal from the class and/or disciplinary action as per the student handbook.

Please respect fellow classmates and the instructor by turning off cell phones and other electronic distractions before entering class. It is not possible to learn and do social media at the same time. Students may use laptops to take notes, but NOT to check email, social networking sites, or to surf the web. Non-class laptop activity often distracts others who are trying to learn. If students start abusing laptops in class, I will ban all laptops and other electronic devices from class. *I reserve the right to dock class participation points for electronic distractions of any type.*

## Class Requirements

1. Required Readings: Reading is an important part of learning sociological material. The assigned readings are available through the required textbooks and the course Blackboard site. **Students are expected to come to class the day the reading is due having read the required reading assigned for that day.** See the Course Schedule below for the required reading due dates.

Required Course Materials:

- **(IS)** - *Introduction to Sociology, 9th Edition* by Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, Richard P. Appelbaum, and Deborah Carr. (2014), ISBN-13: 978-0393912296
- **(SS)** - *Social Stratification in the United States: The American Profile Poster, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* by Stephen J. Rose (2015), ISBN-13: 978-1620970058
- **(BB)** – Required Readings posted on Blackboard
- **(Clicker)** from Turning Technologies. Clickers may be purchased from the bookstore. See here for information on how to register clickers to Blackboard: [https://techarticles.uark.edu/clickers/clickers\\_student\\_purchase\\_and\\_registration/](https://techarticles.uark.edu/clickers/clickers_student_purchase_and_registration/)

To help ensure students progress through reading material in a timely manner, regular **reading quizzes will be given on Blackboard throughout the semester.** Make sure to check Blackboard regularly for upcoming reading quiz dates. **No late submissions of reading quizzes will be accepted.** Reading quizzes total to 15% of the course grade.

2. Class Participation: Students are expected to show up on time, turn off cell phones and other electronic distractions, and in general, engage in forward-thinking scholarly activities. Please come to class ready to participate in the learning process. While no official attendance will be taken in class, **class participation scores are based on quantitative Clicker data from in-class questions, in addition to qualitative assessments of contribution to class discussions.** Students absent from classes are responsible to get materials from any missed classes. *Participation totals to 10% of the course grade.*

3. Assignments: **Throughout the semester, there will be in-class or Blackboard assignments relating to course content.** These assignments are designed to facilitate learning of the material, as well as aid students in honing their time management skills. *Assignments total to 5% of the course grade.*

4. Regular Exams: **There will be 2 regular exams that cover all materials from each of the first 2 Units, per the schedule below.** Class notes and readings are the best way to study for exams. *Each regular exam is worth 20%, totaling to 40%.*

5-a. Final Exam: **The final exam will cover content from Unit 3.** While not technically cumulative, knowledge of Units 1 & 2 is beneficial. *The final exam is worth 30%.*

Or 5-b. [OPTIONAL] Research Proposal: Instead of the final exam, students can propose a sociological research project based on their major field of study. The “final” in this case will be a research proposal that specifies the sociological topic, theory applied, method selected, and possible results/implications. The research proposal is turned in during the final exam using the format provided. *If students select this option, they will replace the final exam with the research proposal, for 30% of course grade.*

## Grading & Evaluation Procedures

All grades will be posted on Blackboard according to the following course breakdown:

- **Class Participation** = 10% of final grade
- **Reading Quizzes** = 15% of final grade
- **Assignments** = 5% of final grade
- **Exams (2)** = 40% of final grade
- **Final or Group Presentation** = 30% of final grade
- **Extra Credit Questions\*** = +5% of final grade

\*Random quiz questions will count as extra credit towards your final grade, with a possible 5% of additional percentage points earned. This can make the difference between letter grades! The key to doing well on these quizzes is **DOING THE READINGS**. If you read before class/attend, you can potentially significantly increase your grade.

A	90-100+%
B	80-89.4%
C	70-79.4%
D	60-69.4%
F	00-59.4%

**Grades are calculated according to the table to the left.**

**Grades are not rounded until the final course grade. Course grades will be rounded as the following: .5 and above will round up while below .5 will round down.**

**THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

If you email in the last week of the semester asking for a grade change, I won't be able to help you. If you are concerned about your grade, PLEASE talk to me BEFORE then.

### **If you are struggling:**

**If at any point during the semester you become concerned about your progress in the class (i.e. your grade), please come and talk with me. One caveat to that is that it is not fair to me and your other classmates to wait until the last week to raise grade concerns. It is simply too late at that point for us to do anything about it. Let me be perfectly clear about that – coming to me at the end of the semester to tell me a list of reasons why I should change your grade is not appropriate. However, I welcome the opportunity to talk with you any time before the end of the semester to consider together the ways we can enhance your experience in this class. I am here to help you learn!**

### **Missed Exam Make-Up Policy**

Students who **miss a test will receive zero points for that exam**, with no opportunity for make-up work. The only exceptions to that are in the following specific conditions:

- A.** The absence was **APPROVED IN ADVANCE** by the instructor. This will only occur in rare situations involving (a) sickness (with notification prior to the start of the exam), (b) required participation in official University events (with at least 48 hours' notice), or (c) extenuating circumstances (with notification prior to the start of the exam. Approved absence will be those outlined in the University of Arkansas handbook. **In the event of illness, the excuse must be signed by a physician or nurse (not a receptionist). Excuses with boxes checked that indicate a student was seen in, for example, the University Health Center, do not indicate that the student was too ill to participate in the exam and are not sufficient.**

**Copies of excuses will not be accepted. You must provide the original excuse.** Excuses must be presented in person within one week of the missed exam. Medical excuses WILL be checked. The penalty for a falsified excuse is severe and determined by the Academic Honesty Committee. **STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO GET APPROVAL IN ADVANCE FOR ABSENCES WILL FORFEIT ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR MAKE-UP WORK.**

**B.** The absence was due to a **LEGITIMATE EMERGENCY FOR WHICH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN ADVANCED APPROVAL.** In this situation, the student must contact the instructor as soon as possible and must provide documentation that: (1) the emergency was legitimate; AND (2) advanced notification/approval was not possible. **STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO MEET REQUIREMENTS (1) AND (2) WILL FORFEIT ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR MAKE-UP WORK.**

*Only students who satisfy one of the above conditions will be allowed a make-up test.*

### **Academic Honesty**

As commonly defined, academic dishonesty consists of passing off another's ideas, work, writing, exam responses, etc., as your own. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating on exams, having unauthorized possession of an exam, and submitting the work of another person as your own (aka, plagiarism). Cheating on exams is an academic crime. If you cheat, you lessen the value of your own degree, and that of all your classmates. Value your education by respecting yourself and your peers enough to let your work stand on its own. Act with integrity in this class and throughout your academic career. Academic dishonesty will be treated very seriously, reported to the Dean, and can result in marks to academic records and potential expulsions.

Students are required to comply with all University policies regarding academic dishonesty (<http://provost.uark.edu/academicintegrity/245.php>) and other issues outlined in the official student rules. As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail. Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy' at [honesty.uark.edu](http://honesty.uark.edu). When in doubt about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please ask! Ignorance of this policy is not an excuse for noncompliance.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

If the University is open, we will have class unless otherwise noted in the syllabus. If for whatever reason this changes, a Blackboard announcement will be sent to the class. Check BB for any content from classes missed due to weather cancellations.

### **Emergency Procedures**

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at [emergency.uark.edu](http://emergency.uark.edu).

#### Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors

#### Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

- CALL- 9-1-1
- AVOID- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- DENY- Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it's safe.
- DEFEND- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

#### **Americans with Disabilities Policy**

The American Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation. All services, programs, and activities at the University are accessible to students with disabilities. If you have a disability that interferes with your potential success in this course, please inform the instructor during the first week of class so special arrangements can be made. To receive special services, you must be registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities: <http://cea.uark.edu/>.

#### **Other Assistance**

If you develop any worries, confusion, frustrations, logistical difficulties, or other problems related to this course, please, please, please come talk me in time to take constructive action. Feel free to send me an email at any time. I am also happy to set up times to meet in person either during my scheduled office hours or by appointment.

At some point during college, students often encounter some psychological and personal well-being issues. These can present major distractions from coursework, so students are responsible for seeking the assistance needed to retain focus in/outside the classroom. The University of Arkansas has a Counseling and Psychological Services Center: <http://health.uark.edu/caps.php> that can help with an array of student issues.

#### **Syllabus Content, Schedule Changes, and Copyrights**

The syllabus schedule and content may change at the discretion of the instructor. Such changes will be announced in class. Unless otherwise noted, students are held to all requirements and expectations stated in this syllabus.

***Please note that all handouts and supplements used in this course are copyrighted. This includes all materials generated for this class, including but not limited to syllabi, exams, in-class materials, review sheets, and lecture outlines. Materials may only be downloaded or photocopied for personal use by students in this class.***