

SOC 131.06 PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
Fall 2007
3 Credit Hours

Location: AB1, Room 301
Time: MW 2:00-3:30
Instructor: Dr. Lee M. Miller
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Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:30pm
or by appointment

Course Description: This is an introductory level class that provides a general overview of the discipline of sociology. The class begins by covering the substantive areas such as theory/methods, culture, socialization, social interaction, groups, sexuality and deviance. The middle section of the class deals with issues of inequality related to social class, race, ethnicity, and gender. The last portion of the class focuses on the societal institutions of marriage and the family, religion, education, healthcare, politics and the economy, as well as population, environment and social change.

Course Objectives:

- To acquire a working knowledge of basic sociological concepts and principles.
- To apply sociological concepts to the world around you.
- To think critically about your lives and social context.

Required Text: Macionis, John J. 2007. Society: The Basics. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall. (paperback)

Blackboard: The syllabus and other documents will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to check Blackboard regularly for announcements and course materials. The Discussion Board is a place where members of the class can engage in discussion. For some it is easier to express their views in this forum as opposed to the classroom setting. You may post anonymously. Lively discussion, as long as it remains respectful, teaches everyone involved.

Newspaper: You will be required to sign up to receive the daily news briefing e-mail messages from *The New York Times*. This is free. Routine reading of the newspaper in this format is required for class. Your knowledge of news items will allow you to participate in the class discussions and help prepare you for the extra credit assignments.

Assignments, Quizzes and Exams: (Please see due dates below.) The exams will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook AND the material discussed in class. Although

much of the class lectures will refer to the text, new material will also be introduced. You are expected to read and study the textbook independently. Information discussed in class, as well as that contained in the assigned readings, even if they are not reviewed in class, may appear on exams.

Make-up exams will be given only if arranged with the professor **PRIOR** to the day of the scheduled exam to be missed and **ONLY** if the reason for the absence is deemed valid by the professor.

Three exams will be worth 100 points each and will cover the readings and the lectures. The exams will be true/false and multiple-choice. On the day of the exam, you must bring a Scantron and a No. 2 pencil.

There will be 5 quizzes during the semester. Each one will be worth 25 points and will also cover the readings and the lectures. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. The remaining 4 quizzes will be worth a maximum of 100 total points. The quizzes will be true/false, fill in the blank, multiple-choice and short answer.

Reality check assignment: For 100 points, volunteer at a community service organization for at least five hours and write a two-page (minimum!) paper that describes the sociological aspects of the volunteer experience. A contact name, signature and phone number at the volunteer site is also required. A list of places to volunteer will be available on Blackboard. This assignment is due during our last class meeting. No late papers will be accepted. If you can't make class, you may turn it in early.

Exams	3 x 100	=	300
Quizzes	4 x 25	=	100
Reality check	1 x 100	=	100
Total		=	400

A	=	400-360
B	=	359-320
C	=	319-280
D	=	279-240
F	=	239-0

Extra Credit : Students will have the opportunity to complete TWO extra credit opportunities. Each opportunity is worth 20 points for a possible 40 points of extra credit. See below for due dates. Extra credit: 2 x 20 = 40. The format of each Real World Analysis assignment will be: to locate a current newspaper article(s) on a topic related to the course material. You will summarize the event or issue discussed in the article in your own words and link it to concepts in the textbook and/or lectures. Attach the article to your paper. Make sure you have noted the newspaper, date of article and page number. The first Real World Analysis is due on **October 1, 2007** and the second on **November 14, 2007. No late papers will be accepted.** Other opportunities to earn extra credit may be announced in class. If you do not attend classes you may miss out on these.

Attendance: SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leave early, may be counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting. Documentation is required for an absence to be excused. Attendance will be taken into consideration if your final average is on the cusp between letter grades.

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Cheating on an exam, quiz and/or assignment is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of zero (0) for the exam, quiz or assignment in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

- 1) Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect.
- 2) Students are to turn off cell phones while in the classroom. **Note: If your phone is visible during class you will be docked two points from your next exam. Points will be deducted each time your phone is visible in the classroom.** This is to avoid the temptation to read or send text messages during class. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.
- 3) I-Pods and MP3 players should be turned off and stowed during class.
- 4) Computers may be used to take notes only.
- 5) Please no tobacco products in the classroom.
- 6) Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then meet with the instructor so that appropriate accommodations may be made. **This meeting should take place within the first two weeks of the semester.** *See Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a

disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines*
<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

COURSE OUTLINE

August	20, 22	Chapter 1
	27, 29	Chapter 2
September	no class, 5	Chapter 3
	10, 12	Chapter 3 (contd.)
	17, 19	Chapter 4
	24, 26	Chapter 5
October	1, 3	Chapter 6
	8, 10	Chapter 7
	15, 17	Chapters 8-10 (selected readings)
	22, 24	Chapter 11
	29, 31	Chapter 12
November	5, 7	Chapter 13
	12, 14	Chapter 14
	19, Thanksgiving	Chapter 14 (contd.)
	26, 28	Chapter 15
December	3, 5	Chapter 16

Quiz #1	September 10, 2007
Quiz #2	October 10, 2007
Quiz #3	October 17, 2007
Quiz #4	November 7, 2007
Quiz #5	November 26, 2007

Reality check	December 5, 2007
Extra credit #1	October 1, 2007
Extra credit #2	November 14, 2007

Exam #1	September 26, 2007
Exam #2	October 31, 2007
Exam #3	FINAL EXAM (Chapters 12-16)
	December 10, 2007, 5:00-7:00pm.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.