

**PLEASE MAKE A HARD COPY OF THIS SYLLABUS
FOR YOUR RECORDS**

SOCIOLOGY 131: INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES

Section 3

**No Class Meetings – All Internet-Based
Spring 2008**

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Office Hours: 11:30 am - 1 pm Mondays and Wednesdays; or by appointment

Reachable via email 9 am -5 pm M-F;

I will respond to all emails within at least 24 hours of receiving them.

Required Textbook:

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

Why Take this Class?

As you will learn early in this course, the most basic definition of sociology is the study of society. In studying society, sociologists must answer the “how” and “why” questions regarding social workings. Sociologists answer these questions through the use of concepts, theory, and empirical research. Oftentimes concepts, theory, and research overlap, and the use of each and all require critical analytic skills. In studying sociology, you can develop these skills that will help you throughout your academic careers and “real-world” endeavors.

Course Objectives:

1. Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, and trends).
2. Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and theoretical perspectives.
3. Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
4. Be able to take critical analytical skills with you into the “real-world.” In-turn, you will become a more effective contributor to society.
5. Demonstrate basic computer literacy skills. In the beginning of the semester, you will be asked to type your name and date on the syllabus agreement form (last page of the syllabus and a document that will also be emailed to you) and send it back to me via email as an attachment.

Course Context:

The Internet:

This course is entirely internet-based. **There are NO IN-CLASS MEETINGS.** You are required to have a Sam Houston email account in order to enroll in this class. *Blackboard* is the software used in the course. All necessary information about tests and assignments is contained in this syllabus. Reminders of tests and assignments will also be posted on the course website, as well as emailed to your Sam Houston email account.

Because the course is entirely internet based, it is important to be a “self-starter,” and keep up with readings, assignments and testing materials independently. This means logging on to the course **at least two-to-three times a week**, or as often as you might attend an in-person class.

What is Required of You:

Readings/Course Structure:

You will be assigned approximately one chapter (or most of one chapter) every two (traditionally-timed) class meetings. Readings are detailed in the Tentative Course Outline, in this syllabus. Please do the readings *prior to* logging on to the course website, so you can absorb more from the posted materials regarding the readings.

I encourage you to take notes while you read the text. I will elaborate on this more in the course introduction materials. The exercise may seem pointless to some, but note-taking really does help the memory. Plus, these notes are great to refer to when studying for tests. Finally, the process helps keep you engaged as you read.

At times you will also be assigned articles that correspond to chapter readings. More on this will follow.

Relevant course materials will be posted, as detailed in the Tentative Course Outline. Course materials will include course content notes, and outside materials that are relevant.

*You are responsible for all course materials and all assigned readings. **Any course materials or readings will be considered “fair game” for tests.***

Examinations:

You will have three examinations, including the final exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points, or approximately 25% of your final grade (including the final). Each exam will contain 50 multiple-choice questions. The final exam will be half new material, half comprehensive. Exams will consist of questions from the readings and from the lectures. ***Exams will be taken over the internet, and are open book. However, tests are designed to assess not only what you know, but also your critical thinking skills, so they are not simply a regurgitation of definitions, and will test much more than your ability to look up materials quickly.***

In order to do well on examinations, you must study all the relevant course materials and readings or notes from the readings prior to exams. There will be a short review posted prior to exams (see Tentative Course Outline).

Students will have 50 minutes to complete exams. One point will be deducted for every one minute that students go over the time limit. To take tests, students will need testing passwords. Appropriate passwords will be distributed prior to exam times.

There will be no make-up exams unless there is an emergency and you can verify in writing the nature of the emergency. Arrangements will be made at the instructor's discretion.

**Quiz dates and discussion dates will be posted on the Blackboard calendar by January 20th.
Quizzes:**

Throughout the semester, five quizzes (worth ten points each) will be given. Quizzes will be made up of multiple choice and short answer questions. More on quizzes to follow.

Discussion Groups:

At five points throughout the semester, students will be asked to participate in discussion groups. Each discussion group is worth 5 points, making up the total 25 points for class participation. Discussion groups will be open for one week windows, so that students with busy schedules will have ample time to participate. In order to do well in discussion groups, students will need to be familiar with the readings/notes prior to participating. More on this will follow in the semester.

Participation Equals Extra Credit:

Regularly logging in to this course is expected, and participation is encouraged. Throughout the semester, a total of 10 extra credit points will be available for those who choose to complete extra credit assignments. These assignments involve going “above and beyond” the requirements of the course. They will typically involve you finding and discussing supplemental materials that are relevant to the topic(s) at hand. We will discuss extra credit more as the semester progresses. Participating in extra credit assignments is highly recommended -- especially if you think your grade might be “border-line” at the end of the semester.

Course Grade:

Your final course grade will be based upon the following:

Exam One	100 points
Exam Two	100 points
Final	100 points
Quizzes	50 points
Discussion Groups	50 points
Extra Credit	10 points
Total Points Possible (excluding extra credit)	400

Final Course Grades are as follows:

A = 360-400 points

B = 320-359 points

C = 280-319 points

D = 240-279 points

F = below 240 points

University/Class Policies

Please refer to <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus> to comprehensively understand university policies regarding academic dishonesty, students' absences on religious holy days, students with disabilities, and visitors in the classroom. These policies, as well as important class policies, are also briefly described below:

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

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 are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf

Effective Class Participation: The classroom is intended to be a place of learning. As a result, *effective* class participation is encouraged. While I encourage class participation, I ask that you ask yourselves a few questions BEFORE contributing:

1. Is what I'm about to say relevant to the topic at hand?
2. Is it sensitive to other classmates' beliefs and ideals?
3. Is it relevant to critical thought?
4. If this is antidotal, is there a point to me bring up my personal experiences?

Instructor Meetings: While it is not required, I do encourage instructor meetings. This is especially recommended for students who feel they need help in particular areas. You are welcome to visit me in my office hours, or make a special appointment with me.

Tentative Course Outline

Date	Lectures	Exams/Assignment Due Dates	Reading Assignment
January 16th	Course Introduction		none
<i>What is Sociology?</i>			
January 23rd – 28th	Sociological Theory and Methods		Preface and Chapter One
January 30 th – February 4th	What is Culture?	Syllabus Agreement Forms due January 30th	Chapter Two
February 6th	Socialization Processes	Review for Test One posted	Chapter Three
February 11 th		TEST ONE	
<i>Agents of Socialization</i>			
February 13 th	Social Interaction		Chapter Four
February 18 th - 20th	Groups and Organizations		Chapter Five
February 25th - 27th	Economics and Politics		Chapter 12
March 3 rd – 5th	Family and Religion	March 5th Test Two review posted	Chapter 13
March 17 th - 19th	Social Stratification	March 19th – TEST TWO	Chapter Eight
<i>Divisions in Society</i>			
March 24th - 26th	Social Stratification	March 26th will be a Test Two review as well.	Chapter Eight
March 31 st – April 2nd	Race and Ethnicity		Chapter 11
April 7 th -9th	Gender Stratification	April 7th – Test Three review posted	Chapter 10
April 10 th		TEST THREE	Chapter 13; reserve readings
<i>Violating Social Norms?</i>			
April 11 th -16 th	Deviance		Chapter Seven
April 23 rd - 28th	Sexuality and Society		Chapter Six
<i>Prospects for the Future?</i>			
April 30 th – May 5th	Education/ Population, Urbanization and the Environment	May 5th will also be a final review.	Chapters 14 & 15
Final time will be scheduled by the University.		FINAL – Half comprehensive/half new materials	

Student/Professor Agreement (Due January 30th)

SOCIOLOGY 131: PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

Section 3

Internet-based

Kirk – Spring 2008

(This copy is for your records. You will also be sent a syllabus agreement form document via email in which you will insert your name and the date and send back to me as a word attachment. Due January 30TH).

I _____ have read the preceding syllabus in its entirety and agree to
(print name)

abide by the conditions set forth in the said document. Failure to do so will result in the
aforementioned consequences.

(date)