Course Syllabus **Sociology 2000 (Understanding Human Society)** Fall 2016

Course: Sociology 2000; section 001 and 502 (Understanding Human Society)

Classes meet: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:40am – 11:55am in in DeRoy Auditorium 0046

Dr. Zachary W. Brewster

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**Office Hours**: Tuesday: 9:00-10:00am and 12:30 – 2:30pm

Thursday: 1 – 3:00pm

M/W/F: by appointment (I am in my office most days)

**Required Text:**

Henslin’s *Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach REVEL Access code, ISBN:* 9780134253350

* Access code card can be purchased in the bookstore or directly through Pearson. If you purchase an access code directly through Pearson you can do so online during the registration process and save a few dollars ($25, I think). However, note that if you purchase an access code through Pearson you will NOT be able to use your financial aid.
  + In order to register you will need the course link- this will be provided before your course start date.
  + REVEL – You will have numerous assignments on REVEL, an online learning tool. This is also where you'll be reading the assigned textbook chapters.
* If you are interested in checking REVEL out in more detail, you can go here: <http://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/students/index.html>
* For help with any technical issues that might occur with REVEL, go to <http://247pearsoned.custhelp.com/>

\*Additional readings are required and made available on Blackboard.

**Course Objective**:

This course is intended to introduce you to the field of sociology. In this class, you will be exposed to the general ideas, concepts, theoretical perspectives, and research methods within the field of sociology. The underlying objective of this course is to help you develop a sociological imagination that will foster an enhanced awareness concerning the effects that social forces have on your lives and the lives of your fellow human beings. Areas of inquiry include social organization and institutional life, processes of socialization, culture, conflict, and social change—just to name a few. This course will stress abstract and critical thinking and to foster such thinking skills the sharing of personal perspectives is encouraged. More specifically, after completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality.
2. Describe how sociology differs from and is similar to other social sciences and give examples of these differences.
3. Describe how sociology contributes to a liberal arts understanding of social reality.
4. Apply the sociological imagination, sociological principles, and concepts to your own life.
5. Develop an understanding of the basic elements of the scientific process.
6. Develop a “theoretical tool bag” that you can draw from to further understand the observations that you make in the social world.
7. Cultivate abstract and critical thinking skills.
8. Engage in intellectual discussions with your classmates.
9. Work on your reading, writing, and verbal skills.

**Expectations**

Students taking this course will be tested over material derived from the text, articles, film/videos, lectures, and class discussions—in short, everything is fair game for the exams. A good portion of the material that you will be tested over will not be found in the readings. For this reason, it is imperative that students attend class. However, attending class alone will not ensure course success. In addition to class attendance, you will need to study each assigned reading carefully. I strongly recommend that you complete the assigned readings prior to class and take summary notes that capture the readings main ideas. Class lectures and discussions will incorporate material from the readings but I will not devote an exorbitant amount of class time to “teaching” the specifics of each reading. In fact, I will not discuss some of the material derived from the readings at all. In other words, I am working under the assumption that everybody can read and comprehend basic ideas and issues derived from the readings and I will thus spend the limited class time focusing on issues that are more complicated and connecting the readings to broader issues/ideas/concepts. With that said, I am not discouraging you from asking questions about things that remain unclear after you complete the readings. Some of the readings are difficult and to foster learning we, as a class, will need to discuss them in detail. Also, remember that if you do not understand something it is inevitable that others do not understand it as well so please ask questions, ask questions, and ask more questions. In short, careful preparation of the reading assignments is a crucial area in which you will need to exercise self-discipline (reading before the class that the assigned reading(s) will be discussed), independence (trying to understand the author's argument on your own), and initiative (asking questions about anything that remains unclear to you).

**Blackboard**

In addition to REVEL, Blackboard is an instrumental part of this course and as such, you are expected to login to Blackboard on a regular basis to access course materials (e.g., readings, study guides, lectures, etc.), check email, and review announcements. If you do not login to Blackboard on a regular basis you will not know what is going on in the course and your chances for success will thus be diminished greatly!

**Student Conduct**

This is a college course; therefore, I expect that you are all adults and will act accordingly. The success of this class depends largely on the students, making class participation imperative. All expressions of ideas are welcome assuming that these expressions are not uncivil to your classmates. Harassment of any nature will not be tolerated. Students are also expected to maintain academic integrity and therefore, cheating of any sort may result in failure of this course. For additional information on academic integrity and related issues refer to the Student Conduct Services homepage (<http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct/index.html>). The student code of conduct is also available on BlackBoard for you to review. Remember, ignorance is not a viable defense against allegations of student conduct violations.

**Attendance**

Regular class attendance is expected. While there will be no formal attendance policy in this class excessive absences will inevitably be reflected in your final course grade. Excessive tardiness and leaving class early will be regarded as disrespectful. If there is a problem with getting to class on time or having to leave early, please see me as soon as possible. You are all adults and are capable of making the decision to attend class. In cases in which you unable to attend class you are responsible for obtaining missed information from a classmate (if you are sick, stay home and get better but **I do not need to see doctors’ notes** if this is the case). I will not provide students with my lecture notes nor will I reiterate lectures for individual students. In the case of an emergency, where excessive absences result, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can work with you.

**Makeup Exams**

I understand that we are all human and unexpected events often occur in our lives. However, I strongly discourage missing on days of scheduled exams. If a problem does arise and it is not possible to take the exam on the scheduled date, contact me as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements. Students who miss the scheduled date of an exam are expected to arrange to take a makeup exam within a one-week period. If arrangements are not made in this time a makeup exam may not be permitted. Makeup exams will be disproportionately essay format.

**Class Cancellations**

In the event that classes are cancelled for any reason on the scheduled day of the exam, the exam will be given the next scheduled class meeting. If classes are cancelled the class prior to the day of a scheduled exam, the exam will be given as scheduled. If this is the case, you will not have an opportunity to ask questions in the class prior to taking the exam so I would encourage you to contact me via telephone or email with questions.

**Students with Disabilities**

Wayne State University is working to build a community that is inclusive and welcoming to all people, including those with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is [313-577-1851](callto:+1313-577-1851) or [313-577-3365](callto:+1313-577-3365) (TDD only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from me without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University. Please refer to the SDS website for further information about students with disabilities and the services we provide for faculty and students: <http://studentdisability.wayne.edu/>

**Extra Credit**

I do not give extra credit. Focus your time and energy on the learning opportunities that I have provided you with, instead of hoping to do additional work toward the end of the course. If you follow the course plan, you will not need extra credit opportunities! This course is intentionally designed with several different types of assignments to give you multiple and varied chances to succeed. However, it is imperative that you keep-up with the readings and projects to avoid falling behind. If you run into any difficulties, please see me immediately so that we can develop a plan for you to meet your goals.

**Components of Final Grade (Note: Students are required to keep backup copies of all their work and check Blackboard regularly to ensure that their grades are accurately posted.)**

*Exams*

Three exams consisting of objective (e.g., multiple choice, true/false, etc.) items will be given in this course. The first exam is worth a maximum of 100 points. The second exam will be worth a maximum of 110 points. The final exam will be worth a maximum of 120 points. The final exam will be comprehensive and must be taken at the scheduled exam date. (Maximum total exam points = 330).

*Revel Chapter Quizzes*

You are required to complete quizzes on Revel covering material derived from each of the textbook chapters that we discuss in class. After reading each section of each chapter you will take a short quiz (3-5 questions). You will also take a quiz at the end of each chapter (10-13 questions). You will have two chances to answer each multiple choice quiz question correctly. Each question is worth 2 points on Revel. If you do not get the answer the right the first time, you can try again and get 1 point if you are correct. If you answer the question incorrectly twice you will not receive any points for that question. Each quiz will be available for at least one week before closing at 11:59 p.m. on the date that it is due. After that you cannot do the chapter quizzes. The quizzes will be worth 25% of your grade (125 points).

*Outside Events & Event Reports*

Over the course of the semester you are required to attend 2 scholarly events (e.g., lectures, panels, film screenings, etc.) on or around campus that can be located within the social sciences or humanities. After each event you are required to write a brief “event report” wherein you first summarize the main ideas that you learned from attending the event. Each event report should be approximately 1 page (typed, 12pt font, double spaced). You should submit each event report via the safeassign link on Blackboard no later than one week after attending the event. I will periodically invite you to share your event experiences with your classmates during regular class sessions. While I will make every effort to bring upcoming events to your attention you should also be on the lookout for events occurring on campus. If you see an event that you think would be good for you and your classmates to attend please let me know and I’ll forward the information along to the class. There will be ample opportunities for you to attend events on campus throughout the semester. However, I strongly discourage you from waiting until the last month of the semester to begin working towards fulfilling this course requirement. In the event that you wait too long you might run out of opportunities. Attending events and completing your event reports will be worth 10% of your grade (50 points)

Grading Scale

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 97-100% A+ | 87-89% B+ | 77-79% C+ | 67-69% D+ |
| 93-96% A | 83-86% B | 73-76% C | 63-66% D |
| 90-92% A- | 80-82% B- | 70-72% C- | 60-62% D- |
|  |  |  | Below 60% F |

GRADING RUBRIC: Your grade is based on a total of **505** points. (605 points for honors students)

**Tentative Schedule** (Tentative meaning that this is not sketched in stone and almost certainly will be altered according to class interest, time constraints, and other unforeseen events. As such, it is **your responsibility** to check Blackboard **regularly** to verify what you need to do in order to be prepared for each class session. If you do not do so you will not do as well in this class as you otherwise could have done.)

**Topic or Activity Readings Reading #**

**The Sociological Imagination** Chapter 1(pp. 1-22) 1

The Promise (online) 2

Teenage Wasteland (online) 3

**Social Theory** Chapter 1, pp. 22-32 4

**Research Methods** Chapter 5 5

Situationist Perspective on Evil (online) 6

**Culture** Chapter 2 7

Sexist Language 8

Overt or Covert, Sexism at Work Causes Real Harm 9

Culture of Fear (online) 10

Code of the Streets (online) 11

**Socialization**  Chapter 3 12

Extreme Isolation (online) 13

Night to His Day (online) 14

Sex Stereotypes and the Media (online) 15

Learning to Strip (online) 16

Anybody’s Son Will Do (online) 17

Becoming a Marijuana User (online) 18

**Social Structure and Social Interaction** Chapter 4 19

**Social Class** Chapter 10 20

The Power Elite (online) 21

Preparing for Power (online) 22

Savage Inequalities (online) 23

As American as Apple Pie (online) 24

Media Magic (online) 25

**Race and Ethnicity** Chapter 12 26

Race at Work (online) 27

Getting a job, Not Getting a Job (online) 28

Affirmative Action and Minority Applicants (online) 29

Forty Acres and a Mule (online) 30

Savage Inequalities Revisited (online) 31

**Sex and Gender** Chapter 11 32

Detours on the Road to Equality 33

Women and Weight 34

The Glass Escalator (online) 35

The Mommy Tax (online) 36

**Important Dates**

**Wednesday, August 31—Welcome Back to Classes**

**Tuesday, October 6—Frist Exam**

**Tuesday, November 10—Second Exam**

**Wednesday, December 14—Final Exam from 10:40am – 1:10pm**

**Other Important Dates**

**Monday, September 5— Labor Day Holiday, university closed**

**Wednesday, September 14—Last day to add a class**

**Wednesday, September 14—Last day to drop w/ tuition cancellation**

**Wednesday, September 28—Last day that a dropped course will not appear on your academic record**

**Friday, September 30—Degree application due**

**Sunday, November 13—Last day to withdraw from a course**

**Wednesday, November 23-Staturday, November 26--Thanksgiving Break**

**Monday, December 12—classes end**

**Tuesday, December 13—Study day**

**Wednesday, December 14-20—Final Exam week**