

Course: SOC 2000-906: Understanding Human Society  
Winter 2013

Instructor: Megan Petersen  
M.A. Sociology- Wayne State University  
M.A. Educational Psychology- Eastern Michigan University  
B.S. Education- Wayne State University

Meeting Days & Times: January 7, 2013- April 30, 2013  
Saturday 9:00-12:00  
408 Oakland Center

Office Hours: Saturday 8:30-9:00 and 12:00-12:30 408 Oakland Center  
Main Campus - Evenings By Appointment

Contact: ae2925@wayne.edu or megan.petersen@wayne.edu  
Sociology Phone: 313-577-2930

Required Text: *Sociology: A Down-To-Earth Approach*  
James. M. Henslin (any edition)\*

Catalogue Description: Analysis of basic sociological concepts and principles to give the student an understanding of the perspective that sociology brings to the study of human society.

Late Work Policy: Late work is not accepted without penalty, see individual assignment information for penalty details. Missed tests must be made up the **following week at 8:30 A.M and must be scheduled in advance**. All assignments MUST be turned in by the last class meeting (April 30) to be counted towards your grade.

Withdrawals & Incompletes: Incompletes are only given in cases of medical or other verifiable emergencies. The withdrawal system at WSU is student-initiated, so if you are hoping to withdraw from the course you must do so yourself via pipeline. Students who do not formally withdraw from the course but stop attending and do not complete the course requirements will receive a failing grade in the course. Note that January 18, 2013 is the last day to drop a class with tuition cancellation and March 23, 2013 is the last day to withdraw from a class.

Academic Dishonesty: Assignments must be clearly distinguishable from those of other students or sources. Plagiarism is considered cheating; any quoted material must be placed in quotation marks with proper references to the author included. If you think you might be plagiarizing, then you probably ARE! Copying entire paragraphs from sources is not appropriate. Evidence of cheating on tests or plagiarizing will result in automatic failure of the test/assignment and possibly the course. Please see the student code of conduct for more information on WSU's policies regarding academic integrity <http://doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct/PDF-Documents/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20Brochure.pdf>

Disability Services: If you are a student with a disability or condition (physical, emotional, or other) that might affect your performance in this course, you should inform me of this as early as possible. Students with a range of disabilities can also receive help from Student Disability Services, located in the Undergraduate Library (phone number: (313) 577-1851; email: [studentdisability@wayne.edu](mailto:studentdisability@wayne.edu); website: <http://studentdisability.wayne.edu/> ).

Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- describe what it means to use the sociological perspective & what it means to say that reality is socially constructed.
- distinguish between different theories/approaches (macro vs. micro, conflict vs. functionalist, qualitative vs. quantitative) in sociology.
- illustrate ways that culture influences human behavior and identify ethnocentrism.
- define and illustrate statuses (achieved vs. ascribed) and roles.
- describe major social institutions (e.g. economy, political system, family, health care system, religion, etc.) and how they shape social life.
- describe the characteristics of a variety of research methods, including participant observation/ethnographic methods, experimental methods, survey research methods and secondary data analysis methods.
- describe social stratification and social classes in the United States.
- describe patterns of gender inequality in the United States.
- identify historical patterns of racial/ethnic inequality.
- critically evaluate and interpret sociological data.
- understand how one's social location impacts their social experience.

General Course Expectations

- I expect students to attend class and to contact me immediately when a class is missed.
- Read and complete all required assignments prior to coming to class.
- Ask questions if you do not understand an assignment. Get additional help from the The David Adamany Undergraduate Library Writing Center if necessary.
- Respect everyone in the classroom. This includes, but is not limited to, respectful means of communication, not disrupting class by using phones or other technology in ways that is not related to class, and quiet consumption of food & beverages.
- The best way to contact me is via e-mail. Please be sure to communicate in a professional manner.
- Blackboard and e-mail will be used by me to communicate with you. Be sure to check both frequently throughout the semester.
- Missing class does not excuse you from an assignment or test. If proper documentation is not presented you will earn less than full (or zero) credit on the assignment/assessment.
- Don't procrastinate! This goes both for assignments and in contacting me with questions or concerns.
- **Have fun and get something out of class! I promise that this will not be a waste of your time as long as you put forth effort and keep an open mind.**

## Assignments & Grading

- **15 Practice Tests:** You will complete practice tests every few weeks that relate to course topics which will serve to help you be prepared for class discussion. Practice tests can be found on the textbook website ([http://wps.ablongman.com/ab\\_introsoc\\_studysite/216/55497/14207417.cw/index.html](http://wps.ablongman.com/ab_introsoc_studysite/216/55497/14207417.cw/index.html)). There is also a link and directions for the practice tests on blackboard. Practice tests must be completed by midnight Friday for full credit, with 1 point deducted for each day that the practice test is late. For example, the 1<sup>st</sup> practice test is due by midnight Friday, January 18. Practice tests turned in on Saturday, January 19 12:01 A.M.-midnight will lose 1 point, practice tests turned in on Sunday, January 20 12:01 A.M.-midnight will lose 2 points, etc... The lowest score you can receive for a practice test is 1 point no matter how late it is, as long as it is submitted by April 30. Be sure to email practice test results to yourself and to me so that we both have a record of your results.
- **Mini-Research Project:** Students will conduct a small observation on a topic of their choice. A brief summary of methods and findings will be reported via class presentation as well as in writing. Directions for this project can be found in a separate handout and is due February 9. Late assignments will be accepted for less than full credit as described on the assignment rubric.
- **Choice Topic Project:** Each student will be assigned a particular unit of sociology to examine in depth and to correlate with the various sociological perspectives. Students will have a variety of choices regarding both their specific topic as well as the methodology for conducting this exploration. The date of your presentation will be dictated by your topic choice. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the chosen topic via class presentation **and** by submitting a 3-5 page paper. Students are encouraged (but not required) to work in groups of 2-3 students on the presentation but must complete their own individual written portion. Directions for this project can be found in a separate handout. Late papers/presentations will be accepted for less than full credit as described on the assignment rubric.
- **Attendance/Participation:** Attendance is critical, especially in a course that meets weekly. The unit tests are based both on lecture and reading, but lecture material will be **heavily** represented on the tests. This is not a standard lecture course; class will be comprised of many group activities, discussions & personal investigations. Points will be rewarded for each class attended 100% (arriving on time and staying for the duration of class). Students who arrive late or leave early (15 minutes) will receive partial attendance credit. Students may miss a total of 3 classes, no questions asked, without losing credit. Students who miss fewer than 3 classes will earn extra credit. Please contact me *immediately* if you are going to miss class for some reason and be sure to check blackboard for any handouts or announcements that you may have missed.
- **3 Unit Tests + Take Home Final Exam:** Tests will cover approximately 4 weeks of material and will be comprised of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Study guides as well as prompts for the essay questions will be provided in class the week before the test. The final exam will be a take home test. **Make-up tests will be given only if prior arrangements** have been made with the instructor or in the event of extreme (documented) emergencies. You will not be allowed to make up the test if you have not contacted me regarding doing so. **Make-up tests will be available ONLY on the date of the next scheduled class meeting at 8:30 A.M. and will be more difficult than the original test.**
- **Extra Credit:** Students may earn extra credit in 3 ways:
  - Extra credit essay points possible on each unit test.
  - Conduct an additional mini-research assignment.
  - Missing fewer than 3 classes.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pts. Each</b>	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Grade Percent</b>
<b>Practice Tests</b>	15	4	40	15%
<b>Mini-Research Project</b>	1	50	50	12.5%
<b>Choice Topic Project</b>	1	50	50	12.5%
<b>Unit Tests &amp; Final</b>	4	50	200	50%
<b>Attendance</b>	10	4	40	10%

<b>A</b> 371 – 400	<b>A-</b> 358 - 370	<b>B+</b> 346 - 357	<b>B</b> 330 - 345
<b>B-</b> 318-329	<b>C+</b> 306-317	<b>C</b> 290 - 305	<b>C-</b> 278 - 289
<b>D+</b> 266 - 277	<b>D</b> 250 - 265	<b>D-</b> 238 - 249	<b>E</b> 0 - 237

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic &amp; Textbook Chapter</b>	<b>Assignments, Presentations &amp; Assessments</b>
1/12	Sociological Perspective & Culture <i>1 &amp; 2</i>	Directions For Mini-Research Project
1/19	Socialization & Interaction <i>3 &amp; 4</i>	Practice Test #1 & 2 Due Friday Jan. 18 Choice Topic Project Sign Up & Directions
1/26	Research <i>5</i> <b>Study Guide for Test #1</b>	Practice Test #3 & 4 Due Friday Jan. 25 Mini-Research Project Due
2/2	Societies to Social Networks <i>6</i>	Practice Test #5 Due Friday, February 1 <b>Test #1 – Chapters 1-5 (Sociology Basics)</b>
2/9	Global Stratification & Social Class in the United States <i>9 &amp; 10</i>	Practice Test #9 & 10 Due Friday Feb. 8 <i>Global Stratification &amp; Social Class Presentations</i>
2/16	Sex & Gender <i>11</i>	Practice Test #11 Due Friday Feb. 15 <i>Sex &amp; Gender Presentations</i>
2/23	Race & Ethnicity <i>12</i>	Practice Test #12 Due Friday Feb. 22 <i>Race Presentations</i>
3/2	The Elderly <i>13</i> <b>Study Guide for Test #2</b>	Practice Test #13 Due Friday March 1 <i>The Elderly Presentations</i>
3/9	Bureaucracies & Deviance <i>7 &amp; 8</i>	<b>Test #2 – Chapters 9-13 (Inequality)</b>
3/16	No Class- Spring Break	
3/23	The Economy & Politics <i>14 &amp; 15</i>	Practice Test #14 & 15 Due Friday March 22 <i>The Economy &amp; Politics Presentations</i>
3/30	Marriage & Family, Education <i>16 &amp; 17</i>	Practice Test #16 & 17 Due Friday March 29 <i>Marriage &amp; Family, Education Presentations</i>
4/6	No Class- NCSA Conference	No Class – NCSA Conference
4/13	Religion & Population <i>18 &amp; 20</i> <b>Study Guide for Test #3</b>	Practice Test #18 Due Friday April 12 <i>Religion &amp; Population Presentations</i>
4/20	Social Movements & Change (21 & 22) <b>Final –Take Home Test Assigned</b>	<b>Test #3 – Chapters 14-20 (Institutions)</b> <i>Social Movements &amp; Change Presentations</i>
4/27		<b>Final Exam Due In Class</b>

**\* Remember that make up tests are ONLY available when prior arrangements have been made with the instructor!**