Course Syllabus **Sociology 1010 (Understanding Human Society)** Fall 2018

Course: Sociology 1010; sections 009 and 501 (HON) (Understanding Human Society)

Classes meet: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00pm – 2:15pm in Science Hall 2009

Dr. Zachary W. Brewster

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Teaching Assistant: Kearabetswe Mokoene (2250 Faculty Administration Building)

**Office Hours**: Tuesday: 10:00am -12:30pm

Thursday: 9:00am -12:30pm

M/W/F: by appointment (I am in my office most days, send me an email letting me when you intend to stop

by and I will confirm my availability)

**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.
  + 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/>

It's time to access REVEL for Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach, 13th Edition, the course materials for SOC. 1010

Here's how:

1. Go to our course Canvas homepage.
2. Click on the Pearson Revel link on the left side of the homepage and when prompted enter your access code. In the event that you have not purchased an access code you can do so at this time. You should also have an option to access Revel temporarily (14 days) before being prompted to purchase an access code. If you take advantage of the 14 day free access make sure that you use the same email when creating your account and when purchasing access.

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

**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).

To maintain a respectful and fruitful learning context, we will let the following principles guide our exchange of ideas: (1) You will be graded on your use of evidence, not your opinions; (2) All ideas are subject to scrutiny; (3) Constructive disagreement sharpens thinking and is encouraged; (4) Viewpoint diversity deepens our understanding of issues; and (5) Reasonable thinkers can draw different conclusions.

**Canvas**

In addition to REVEL, Canvas is an instrumental part of this course and as such, you are expected to login to Canvas on a regular basis to access course materials (e.g., readings, study guides, lectures, etc.), check email, communicate with classmates, review announcements, etc. etc. If you do not login to Canvas 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>). Remember, ignorance is not a viable defense 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. 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 may be essay format.

**Class Cancellations**

In the event that classes are cancelled for any reason I will communicate with you via Canvas so that you have up-to-date information about what to expect the following class session.

**Students 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. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 for videophone use. Once you have met with your disability specialist, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your accommodations. 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. You can learn more about the disability office at**[**www.studentdisability.wayne.edu**](http://www.studentdisability.wayne.edu/)**.  
  
To register with Student Disability Services, complete the online registration form at:**[**https://wayne-accommodate.symplicity.com/public\_accommodation/**](https://wayne-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/)

**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, quizzes, 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 Canvas regularly to ensure that their grades are accurately posted.)**

*Exams (330 points)*

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. Each of the exams will be taken online through Canvas and each is to be completed without assistance from your classmates. In other words, you are to take the exam by yourself. Each exam will be opened by 8:30am on the day of the scheduled exam and will close at 11:59pm of the same day. Once you begin taking the exam you will have 1.5 hours to complete it. We will not have class on exam days (Maximum total exam points = 330).

*Revel Chapter Quizzes (120 points)*

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.**

*Outside Events & Event Reports (50 points)*

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 in Canvas 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. In an effort to discourage you from waiting until the last month of the semester to begin working towards fulfilling this course requirement your first event summary needs to be submitted no later than October 18th. You second event summary is to be submitted by December 11th. **NO late event summaries will be accepted.**

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 **500** (600 points for Honors Section) points.

**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 29—Welcome Back to Classes**

**Thursday, October 4—Frist Exam**

**Thursday, October 18—First Event Summary Due**

**Thursday, November 8—Second Exam**

**Tuesday December 11—Second Event Summary Due**

**Thursday, December 13—Final Exam from 12:30pm – 2:30pm**

**Other Important Dates**

**Monday, September 3— Labor Day Holiday, university closed**

**Wednesday, September 12—Last day to add a class**

**Wednesday, September 12—Last day to drop w/ tuition cancellation**

**Friday, September 28—Degree application due**

**Sunday, November 11—Last day to withdraw from a course**

**Wednesday, November 21-Staturday, November 24--Thanksgiving Break**

**Monday, December 10—classes end**

**Tuesday, December 11—Study day**

**Wednesday, December 12 – Tuesday, December 18—Final Exam week**