

SOCIOLOGY 2020 Revised, Fall 2015

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN SOCIETY

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY, COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Brigit Dyer, M.A.

CONTACT INFO: Office: Faculty/Administration Building (FAB)
Office hours: by appointment.
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REQUIRED TEXTS: SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Sixth Edition, Macionis

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course should enable the student to become aware of the sociological perspective and use this perspective to critically examine social problems. More specifically, in this course you will have the opportunity to:

- (1) Develop an understanding of and learn how to apply the sociological perspective toward understanding societal problems.
- (2) Use your sociological imagination to envision solutions to social problems.
- (3) Cultivate abstract and critical thinking skills.
- (4) Engage in intellectual discussions with your classmates.
- (5) Work on your reading, writing, and verbal skills.

OPERATION OF THE COURSE

This course will consist of lecture, class discussions, videos and small group projects based on the videos. Students are encouraged to both ask questions and participate in class discussions. Chances are that certain topics in this course will generate wide-ranging opinions in the class. Please show **respect for your fellow students**, even if they present viewpoints that differ from your own.

In addition, please contact me if you are having any difficulty in the class or visit me during office hours.

The course will follow the order listed in the class schedule. However, the instructor may make changes as necessary. Any changes will be communicated to the students during class time and on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) **There will be a total of 4 exams during the semester.** This includes the final exam. Exams are not cumulative per se, but do require you to incorporate prior knowledge concerning sociological theories that are taught early in the semester to all of the class exams. Much of the exam will include concepts discussed that are not in your text book; therefore, attendance is very important. If you miss one exam, you will be allowed one makeup exam to be taken no more than 7 days after the due date, if you notify your instructor prior to the exam date. No more than one makeup exam will be allowed.
- 2) **Homework** will consist of reading the assigned materials and completing **3 papers that count for 25 points each.** No late work will be accepted. Each assignment should be a minimum of **1½ to a maximum of 3 pages, double-spaced and typed.**
- 3) You will have a **quiz on the syllabus the second class period.** Understanding the syllabus is essential to your success in the class. In addition, **there will be 2 pop quizzes given throughout the semester worth 20 points each.** These quizzes will not be announced in advance. These quizzes will help me assess your understanding of the assigned reading material. If you are absent during a class where there is a quiz, there is no make-up option.
- 4) There will be 3 videos shown throughout the semester, with **group work** activities associated. These group work activities will be worth 20 points each.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

At the beginning of each class, I will have a sign-in sheet and handouts that supplement your textbook readings. Although you are not awarded points for attendance, it is extremely important that you attend class regularly because a significant amount of what you will learn will be through lectures and class discussions and will not necessarily come from your textbook. Try not to be late to class and if you are, please sit in the back of the classroom and sign in and get your handouts at the end of class so as not to be disruptive to the other students.

Please TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE (or put it on mute or vibrate) prior to entering the classroom. If you have an emergency situation, please raise your hand and ask to be excused from class to conduct your phone business outside the classroom. Students who violate this rule will be asked to put away their phone, repeated violations of this policy may result in your instructor asking you to leave the classroom.

E-MAILING ETIQUETTE

Please practice professionalism in your email communication. When sending an email, include the name and section number of the class you are taking in the “subject” line, a greeting to me, and your name at the end of the message. Use appropriate grammar and sentence structure (avoiding “text speak”) and spell-check your messages. The ability to communicate effectively through writing is a skill that will serve you well in any profession.

GRADES

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------|
| Exams..... | 4 @ 100 points each= | 400 |
| Quizzes | 3 @ 20 points each= | 60 |
| Homework/Short papers..... | 3 @ 25 points each= | 75 |
| In-class group work | | = 60 |
| Total points possible..... | | 595 |

Final grading scale:

| | | | |
|------|---------|------|--------|
| A = | 94-100% | D+ = | 62-64% |
| A- = | 90-93% | D = | 58-61% |
| B+ = | 87-89% | D- = | 55-57% |
| B = | 83-86% | F = | 0-54% |
| B- = | 80-82% | | |
| C+ = | 75-79% | | |
| C = | 70-74% | | |
| C- = | 65-69% | | |

STUDENT RESOURCES

The Academic Success Center is located in 1600 Undergraduate Library and can help you with tutoring and in enhancing your study skills. The link to the center is:
www.success.wayne.edu

The Writing Center is housed on the second floor of the Undergraduate Library and has tutors available to help you with your writing skills. I highly recommend that you utilize this center when working on your papers for this class as many students in previous classes have improved their paper scores by a full letter grade or more by consulting with the center. The web address is: <http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing>

If you have a **question about a class policy, a grade on an assignment or your final class grade**, please communicate your concerns to me and I will be happy to work with you to see if there is any remedy that can be applied to the situation. However, you are always free to contact my supervisor, Dr. Janet Hankin, Chair of the Sociology Department, at 313-577-8131 or janet.hankin@wayne.edu. Her office number is Room 2233 FAB building.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Student Disabilities Services

“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 313-577-3365 (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. 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 the educational experience at Wayne State University.” (SDS website, <http://studentdisability.wayne.edu>)

Academic Dishonesty

When you do your homework, in-class group work, or any paper, remember that you cannot copy what is in your textbook or other sources word for word unless you are using quotation marks. Additionally, it is considered to be cheating if you re-use a paper you wrote in another class and submit it in its original format in this class. If you violate this code, your instructor has the option of allowing you to re-do the work, giving you a zero for the assignment or referring you to the Chair of Sociology. Please review the Code of Conduct, which is available for download at the Dean of Students Office website: <http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct-services.html>

CLASS SCHEDULE (Subject to change)
Fall 2015

| <u>WEEK</u> | <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>READING DUE</u> | <u>ASSIGN. DUE</u> |
|-------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| Wk. 1 | Sociology: Studying Social Problems The Promise of Sociology | Macionis, Chap. 1 Handout | |
| Wk. 2 | Poverty and Wealth | Macionis, Chap. 2 | |
| Wk. 3 | Racial and Ethnic Inequality | Macionis, Chap. 3 | The Promise of Sociology Question #1, P. 5 |
| Wk. 4 | EXAM 1 <i>Video</i> | | |
| Wk. 5 | Gender Inequality <i>In-class group/discussion (video)</i> | Macionis, Chap. 4 | |
| Wk. 6 | Aging and Inequality | Macionis, Chap. 5 | Chap. 3 homework due |
| Wk. 7 | Physical and Mental Health. | Macionis, Chap. 9 | |
| Wk. 8 | EXAM 2 <i>Video</i> | | |
| Wk. 9 | Crime, Violence and Criminal Justice <i>In-class group/discussion (video)</i> | Macionis, Chap. 6 | |
| Wk.10 | Alcohol and Other Drugs | Macionis, Chap. 8 | |
| Wk.11 | EXAM 3 <i>Video</i> | | |
| Wk.12 | Economy and Politics <i>In-class group/discussion (Video)</i> | Macionis, Chap. 10 | |
| Wk. 13 | Education | Macionis, Chap. 13 | |
| Wk. 14 | Population and Global Inequality | Macionis, Chap. 15 | Chap. 10 homework due |
| Wk. 15 | FINAL EXAM | | |