

# **SO 111 (L1) INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

CASE FALL 2017

## **DR. TARA PARRELLO**

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## **REQUIRED READING**

Andersen, M. & Taylor, H. F. (2015). *Sociology: The Essentials, 9<sup>th</sup> edition*. California: Cengage Publishers.

\*Any other required reading materials will be posted on Blackboard. (ISBN# 9781305503083)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Sociology is the scientific study of human social life, groups and societies. This course is designed to introduce you to the fundamental principles of sociology. The basic premise of sociology is that human behavior is largely determined by the groups to which people belong and by the societies in which they live. Throughout the semester, we will focus on a wide variety of issues including culture, race, gender, class and crime, among others.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The main goal of this course is to develop your “sociological perspective” which means having the ability to place your own individual experiences into a broader social context. Central to the sociological perspective is the issue of diversity. Diversity often produces, or is the justification for social inequality, discrimination, mistreatment, differential opportunities and social conflict. The challenge of sociology is to understand the role of this diversity in shaping our own and others’ lives and societies. The sociological task is not to assess which values, viewpoints, or behaviors are right or “normal” but rather to achieve the insight that every set of values, viewpoints and behaviors is a product of the social environment. In addition to developing a sociological perspective, you will learn to think about society critically, apply sociological concepts to everyday life and understand the importance of theory to see multiple dimensions of a social issue.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Must be submitted according to the schedule specified in each assignment's instructions.** Any delay that is not approved in advance will result in a penalty. Any assigned piece of work that is more than one week late will automatically receive a zero. Please read the directions for each graded assignment and discussion post very carefully and, as with all aspects of this course, please do not hesitate to ask for any clarification you need.

*If you have a smartphone, try getting the blackboard app, so that announcements can be pushed to your phone. Announcements will be posted to blackboard but will also be emailed to students, so you are expected to check your DC email daily throughout the duration of the course.*

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Breaches of academic integrity include such practices as:

1. Plagiarism — that is, failing to acknowledge adequately the source of words or ideas which are not one's own.
2. Copying or buying completed assignments, research results, or creative works — even with the author's or creator's knowledge and permission — if the work is represented as one's own. This includes material available through the Internet or other electronic sources and any material which has been copyrighted. Students are hereby advised that when such material has been copyrighted, its unauthorized use constitutes not only a breach of academic integrity, but a violation of law and may incur civil or criminal penalties.
3. Fraudulent procurement, use, or distribution of examinations.
4. Giving or receiving information during examinations.
5. Using unauthorized materials during an examination.
6. Signing another's name to examinations, reports, or papers.
7. Misrepresentation of reasons for not completing assignments, for not appearing at examinations, or for prolonged absence from class. Attempting any such practices is also a breach of academic integrity, even if the attempt is unsuccessful.

**There are consequences to any violations of academic integrity, ranging from failing the assignment to failing the class. In addition, any violations will be documented in the Dean's Office and your file will be permanently noted.**

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b># of Items</b>	<b>Points/Item</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Discussion Forum</b>	Weekly (first post due every Thursday by 11:55pm)	8	20	160
<b>Graded Assignment</b>	Weekly for select chapters (Sundays by 11:55pm)	4	30	120
<b>Ind. Component</b>	Once (TBA)	1	20	20
<b>Quizzes</b>	Weekly for select chapters (Sundays by 11:55pm)	6	20	120
<b>Midterm</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> week	1	50	50
<b>Paper</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> week	1	50	50
<b>Final</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> week	1	50	50
<b>Total</b>				<b>570</b>

All grades are posted to and can be viewed on Blackboard on a weekly basis. Students should make it a habit to regularly check the system to know their current grade.

### **Dominican College's Grading System**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Quality Points</b>
A	(100-96)	4.0
A-	(95-92)	3.7
B+	(91-88)	3.3
B	(87-84)	3.0
B-	(83-80)	2.7
C+	(79-76)	2.3
C	(75-72)	2.0
C-	(71-68)	1.7
D+	(67-64)	1.3
D	(63-60)	1.0
F	(Below 60)	0

## **STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Any student with a documented disability is welcome to contact the Director of The Office of Special Services, Margaret Guiliano, as early in the semester as possible so that she can arrange reasonable accommodations. The office is located in Rosary Hall and the number is (845)-848-4035.

## **PAPER**

Students will create a research question, select three scholarly articles, and then write a summary and annotated bibliography in response to the question. Full assignment instructions will be discussed in class and a model paper will be posted on Blackboard. This assignment is due the 7<sup>th</sup> week of class.

### **Grading Rubrics**

#### **Discussion Board Posts**

Content	Initial response addresses question presented (due every Thursday by 11:55pm)	5
Reference	Participant uses a resource not already cited in the lesson.	5
Citation	Participant uses correct APA citation formatting.	5
Response to classmates	Participant responds to a classmate's post (due every Sunday by 11:55pm), and response furthers the discussion, e.g., asks a question, provides further information or examples, or introduces a different opinion.	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20</b>

#### **Graded Assignment (Due by Sunday by 11:55pm)**

Student demonstrates a well-developed focus, thorough points of development, and a logical pattern of organization of ideas and concepts.	10
Sources and citations are properly given. Participant uses correct APA citation formatting.	10
Clearly defined pattern of subject knowledge.	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

## Course Outline

Session 1

### Week 1: The Sociological Perspective

- well, what is sociology?
- the sociological perspective
- debunking myths
- the development of sociology
- the major sociological frameworks

Reading: Chapter 1

Assignments: Student Introductions (through discussion board)  
Discussion Board  
Chapter Quiz

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Session 2

### Week 2: Culture & the Media

- culture and society
- characteristics of culture
- building blocks/elements of culture
- subcultures
- ethnocentrism & cultural relativism
- the media and culture

Reading: Chapter 2

Assignments: Discussion Board  
Graded Assignment  
Chapter Quiz

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Session 2

### Week 3: Doing Sociology

- the scientific method
- variables and stuff
- research methods: strengths and weaknesses
- ethics and research

Reading: Chapter 3

Assignments: Discussion Board  
Chapter Quiz  
Independent Component  
**Research Question due Sunday**

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Session 3

### Week 4: Socialization and the Life Course

- definition of socialization
- nature vs nurture
- functions and consequences of socialization
- agencies of socialization
- socialization and the life course

Reading: Chapter 4

Assignments: Discussion Board  
Graded Assignment  
Chapter Quiz

Session 4

**\*\*\*\*\*Midterm on Modules 1-4\*\*\*\*\***

**Week 5: Deviance and Crime**

- what is deviance?
- variations
- explanations of deviance
- enforcing conformity: norms and sanctions
- types of crime and criminals

Reading: Chapter 7

Assignments:

Midterm  
Discussion Board  
Chapter Quiz  
**First Article and Annotation due Sunday**

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Session 5

**Week 6: Stratification and Inequality**

- differentiation and stratification
- systems of stratification:
  - estate and caste
  - slavery: moral and economic deficiencies
  - class
- wealth and income and social mobility
- why inequality?
- poverty & explanations for its causes

Reading: Chapter 8

Assignments: Discussion Board  
Graded Assignment  
Chapter Quiz

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Session 5

**Week 7: Race and Ethnicity**

- what is race?
- differences between ethnicity and 'nation'
- ethnicity as minority status
- means of forging group solidarity
- patterns of group interaction

Reading: Chapter 10

Assignments: Discussion Board  
Graded Assignment  
Chapter Quiz

**PAPER DUE SUNDAY\*\*\*\*\***

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Session 5

**Week 8: Gender Inequality**

- sex vs gender (i.e. nature vs nurture)
- gender socialization
- current gender stratification
- social construction of gender
- how gender dominance has been established and maintained

Reading: Chapter 11

Assignments: Discussion Board (only initial post, no responses)

**\*\*\*\*\*Final Exam on Modules 5-8\*\*\*\*\***