

Introduction to Sociology
SOC 150

Instructor:

Email: _____

I. Course Description and Objectives

Introduction to Sociology is a course designed to welcome students to the field of sociology. Sociology is defined as the scientific study of human behavior. Therefore, we will learn about the intersection of the individual and society and consider how socialization, social roles, gender, race, and social change are processed through social institutions such as the family, education, and the economy.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A) Explore the relationship between symbols, individuals, and society
- B) Understand and examine United States stratification systems
- C) Explain basic forms of social inequalities
- D) Understand the individual's role in creating social change
- E) Assist in the development of the Sociological Imagination

II. Required Materials

This course requires students to have some form of the following textbook:

Ballantine, J. H. and Roberts, K. A. (2015) *Our Social World Condensed Version 4th Edition*. Los Angeles: Sage. (ISBN # 978-1-483-6861-0)

Additional readings will be assigned and made available when necessary and relevant to course content via Blackboard.

Technical Requirements

Due to the format of this course being entirely online, students should have the following at a minimum for their full participation in this course:

- A) Regular access to the internet and course Blackboard page
- B) Access to a computer with an updated operating system (Windows/Mac)
- C) Updated internet browsers (Apple Safari/Internet Explorer/Google Chrome/Mozilla Firefox)
- D) DSL or Cable Internet connection or connection to a wireless internet connection speed no less than 6 Mbps
- E) Media player such as QuickTime or Windows Media Player
- F) Adobe Reader or free alternative PDF reader
(<http://get.adobe.com/reader/?promoid=HRZAC>)
- G) Free Java plugin (<http://java.com/en/download/index.jsp>)

H) Basic writing and presentation software (i.e. Microsoft Word)

Students in need of additional technical support can contact the Information Technology Help Desk by phone (618) 537-6445 or via email at helpdesk@mckendree.edu.

III. 'Virtual Classroom' Etiquette (i.e. Netiquette)

The internet provides an easy way to contact people all over the world. However, as a reminder here are some helpful tips on the appropriate ways to contact your instructor and each other.

- A) Emails to the instructor should have proper salutations such as Professor Valdez or Mrs. Valdez.
- B) Be sure to provide a student name in all correspondences. In this case, do not assume the instructor knows who the student is simply by email address.
- C) Please do not send blank text emails with a single attachment. The instructor will not open said emails or attachments without an explanation.
- D) Be reflective before posting emotional responses to online forums.
- E) Foster a healthy community with comments that add to a constructive, positive learning environment.

Additionally, a course designed to introduce students to Sociology may deal with controversial issues that can expose some students to new ideas and arguments they may not agree with in class readings or class discussions. Students are encouraged to voice their opinions in a constructive and respectful way as not to alienate others. Consider the following tips on creating a healthy, positive dialog:

- A) We all have something to teach and something to learn.
- B) Learn to appreciate diversity in personalities.
- C) Respect the individual's experience.

IV. Course Requirements

Evaluation Breakdown:

- A) Reflection Discussions: 20% (200 points available/50 points per week)
- B) Module Quizzes: 20% (200 points available/50 points per quiz)
- C) Short Writing Assignment #1: 20% (100 points available)
- D) Short Writing Assignment #2: 20% (100 points available)
- E) Book Review: 20% (100 points available)

There will be no extra credit given in this course. If a student is having an issue with their grade, please seek assistance immediately.

Grading Scale:

100 to 90 = A	69 to 60 = D
89 to 80 = B	59 and below = F
79 to 70 = C	

Grades are not rounded at the end of the term.

Reflection Discussions

Students are required to actively participate in module reflection discussions based on the material we cover in this course. In these discussions students are able to demonstrate understanding of central topics from textbook readings. Moreover, students are responsible for applying course materials to the specific questions posed in the module discussion. At the beginning of each module, the instructor will post discussion questions for reflection based on readings - from there, students will discuss the concepts and build on each other's insights. **Final reflection discussions must be completed by Friday at 5pm (for each module week).**

Here are some helpful tips on what is acceptable versus unacceptable material for a reflection discussion:

<u>Acceptable Reflections have:</u>	<u>Unacceptable Reflections have:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A new thought, idea or perspective ✓ Cited examples from the textbook and everyday experiences as relevant to the concept ✓ Critical thought about a concept ✓ A question or challenge to a perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Summarization of the reading ✓ I agree/disagree language without providing further elaboration or insight ✓ Restating of other posts ✓ Disrespectful responses

Please note that in evaluation of these reflection discussions the instructor is looking for **quality** over **quantity**. Each reflection discussion is worth 50 possible points (per module, not per post).

Module Reflection Discussion Due Dates:

- A) Module #1 Culture and Society: Final Responses Due
- B) Module #2 Race, Gender and The Family: Final Responses Due
- C) Module #3 Stratification of Society: Final Responses Due
- D) Module #4 The Process of Change: Final Responses Due

Module Quizzes

In an online course, the evaluation of course content can be challenging. Therefore, this course will require students to take four (4) module quizzes summarizing the course content. Module quizzes will consist of 25 multiple choice questions worth two-points each. These

quizzes are activated on Friday at 5pm at the end of the current module. After the quiz is activated, students have until Monday at 10am to complete the quiz before moving on to the next module.

- A) Module #1 Culture and Society: Quiz Due
- B) Module #2: Race, Gender, and The Family: Quiz Due
- C) Module #3: Stratification of Society: Quiz Due
- D) Module #4: The Process of Change: Quiz Due

Writing Assignments

A course designed to introduce students to the world of Sociology is also responsible for helping those students learn how to communicate the various concepts in their writing. The breakdown for the three (3) writing assignments is discussed below. Additional information regarding each of these is available via Blackboard under 'Additional Information for Writing Assignments'.

Each of the following writing assignments will be submitted via Blackboard to SafeAssign. Further instructions can be found within each assignment submission portal.

Evaluation of student writing will be conducted using a rubric available via Blackboard within each assignment submission portal. **No late assignments will be accepted.** Each assignment is worth 100 points.

A) Short Writing Assignment #1 The Sociological Imagination JULY 5

C. Wright Mills identified the central task of sociology to be the intersection of history and biography. To complete this assignment, students should write **2 to 4 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12** using the following criteria:

1. The Birth Article

- a. Identify an event in history that occurred during the month and year you were born. This can be a pop culture event (movies/television/literature/music), a historical event (government/politics/economy), or something else you consider relevant.
- b. There are several websites and resources out there to gather information about your birth month/year. The best suggestion is to google your month and year and see what comes up.
- c. **Students must get approval for their topic before starting this assignment.**

2. Discuss your event in enough detail to provide historical background and give relevance as to why you chose this particular event.
3. Interview someone in your family/life (mother, father, grandparents, older siblings, significant others) that is old enough to see how this event may have shaped your life.
 - a. How did raising you during that historical time/event shape who you are or choices that were made for you?
4. Consider in your conclusion is that particular event/moment from the month and year you were born actually shaped your biography or did another event/historical circumstance change you later in life.

B) Short Writing Assignment #2

Traditions in the Family

It is safe to assume that most students, if not all, have a family and that family has some sort of tradition - something that makes the family unique. To complete this assignment, students should write **2 to 4 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12** using the following criteria:

1. Identify a tradition in your family. Be sure to explain what you mean by 'tradition'.
 - a. How did it start? Who/What/Where/When/How
 - b. How are you involved in this tradition? Are you an organizer or a participant?
 - c. How does the tradition relate to the cultural practices of your racial-ethnic group? Are there gendered patterns?
2. Discuss how this tradition you have described has created a sense of family.
3. Incorporate how the tradition has changed over time.
 - a. What has inspired that change?
(Death/Divorce/Relocation/Age)

C) Book Review

'When we read, we can learn anything about everything and everything about anything' - Tomi De Paloa

One of the best tools a student can learn in sociology is how to think critically about topics that align with concepts learned in this course. Analyzing another person's work can help student's focus on how and why the author makes points about their topic/issue and prevent students from merely summarizing the

author's ideas. Here are some things to keep in mind when reading another person's work: ✓ What does the title of the book promise?

✓ What does the table of contents tell you about how the book is organized?

✓ Who was the audience for this work?

Once you are ready to write, you will need to complete the following requirements:

1. Choose a book from the approved readings list.

2. Read the book in its entirety and start to pull out ideas that seem relevant to what we have learned in this course.

3. The Assignment:

a. Page One - This should be a short summary of what the book is about as well as the main points you have chosen to focus on.

b. Page Two-Four - You should discuss what main points you have chosen to focus on and relate those points to key sociological concepts from the course.

c. Page Five-More - Provide a brief conclusion about your overall understanding of the book you chose.

V. Academic Honesty

Policies related to academic honesty can be found in the 2015-2016 McKendree University Catalogue under the heading 'Academic Honesty'. Be sure to read this section and be aware that cheating and/or plagiarism will result in the failure of the course and possible dismissal from the university.

VII. Learning Disabilities

If you are student with a documented learning disability on file with the university, please let the instructor know immediately to allow for necessary arrangements to facility a better learning experience.

COURSE SCHEDULE*

*This syllabus and course schedule are considered to be tentative. The instructor reserves the right to change either the syllabus or course schedule at any time within her discretion. Ample notice will be provided via Blackboard and email if any such changes do occur.

*Additionally, as this is an online course students have the freedom to work at their own pace. 'Modules' will be activated on the first day of the week, however, it is the student's choice whether to complete all required material in one day or work with the pace of the course schedule.

*Regardless, of their choice, students should be aware of the deadlines at all times as these are **non-negotiable**. As a reminder, no late work is accepted.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Module #1 Culture and Society		
	Introduction to the Course What is Sociology?	Read your syllabus and course calendar. Review the introduction PowerPoint.
	Chapter 1: Understanding Our World	Module #1 Reflective Discussion Available
	Chapter 3: Evolution of Society Ethnocentrism	
	Chapter 4: Nature v. Nurture Roles & Status	
	Chapter 5: Solidarity & Organizations	
		Module #1 Reflective Discussion Final Responses Due by 5pm Module #1 Quiz Activated
Module #2 Race, Gender, and Family		
	Chapter 8: The Concept of Race	Module #1 Quiz Due at 10am Module #2 Reflective Discussion Activated

	Chapter 9: Gender Stratification	
	Online Discussion for Short Writing Assignment #1	
	Chapter 10: The Concept of the Family	
		Module #2 Reflective Discussion Final Responses Due by 5pm Module #2 Quiz Activated

Module #3 Stratification of Society		
		Module #2 Quiz Due at 10am Fourth of July Holiday!
		Short Writing Assignment #1 Due
	Chapter 6: Deviant Behavior Crime & Individuals	Module #3 Reflective Discussion Activated
	Chapter 7: Stratification & Mobility	
	Online Discussion of Short Writing Assignment #2	
		Module #3 Quiz Activated Module #3 Reflective Discussion Final Responses Due at 5pm
Module #4 The Process of Change		
	Chapter 12: Distribution of Power	Module #3 Quiz Due at 10am Module #4 Reflective Discussion Activated
	Chapter 13: Population Change	Short Writing Assignment #2 Due
	Online Discussion of Book Review	
	Chapter 2: Sociological Theory	

	Chapter 14: The Process of Change	Module #4 Quiz Activated Module #4 Reflective Discussion Final Responses Due by 5pm
		Module #4 Quiz Due at 10 am Book Review Due