

## **Introduction to Sociology**

### **Sociology 1101: Section P - Fall 2008**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mark Patrick George

**Class Times:** Monday & Wednesday 2-3:15 p.m.

**Classroom:** University Center 1144

**Office:** University Center 1129

**Office Phone:** 229-249-4976

**Office Hours:** M/W 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. & Tues. 12:30 -1:30 p.m. or by appointment

**Email:** [mpgeorge@valdosta.edu](mailto:mpgeorge@valdosta.edu)

**Required Text:** *The Real World, An Introduction to Sociology*, Kerry Ferris and Jill Stein. New York: Norton and Company.

#### **Course Description**

What is this course about? This course introduces students to the discipline of sociology and provides them with a general survey of various sociological fields of study. As a scholarly field that works to systematically analyze, study, and understand human societies, the course explores how various social processes and structures impact human behavior/interaction, identity construction, and the allocation of resources and power within society.

#### **Course Objectives**

What will students learn and what skills will they take away from the course? Students will acquire a general knowledge of sociological theory, research methodology, and key sociological subfields. Students will also develop the ability to critically apply sociological paradigms, theories, and concepts to the social world as well as their own lived experience. In doing so, students will leave the course with the ability to identify, critique, and articulate many of the social forces that shape their lives and that impact our broader society. In order to achieve these goals, the course is designed to be highly interactive and includes a combination of lecture material largely drawn from the assigned text/ readings, small group discussions, relevant videos, experiential exercises, and guest speakers.

#### **Course Requirements**

What do students have to do to successfully complete the course? You must do well on regular exams, reading quizzes as well as attend and actively participate in class.

**Exams:** There will be three exams during the semester. Each exam will be multiple choice and short answer format. Exam questions will be drawn from the readings, lectures, videos, guest speakers, etc. The exams are not cumulative and the average of the three scores will account for 55% (55 points of a total 100) of your final grade. Make-up exams will be given only if an adequate excuse (university accepted) is provided prior to the exam. If you are going to miss an exam it is your responsibility to notify me before the exam if possible. If you miss an exam because of an unforeseeable emergency (i.e. sickness/death in family, accident, etc.) you must notify

me as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero (0) for the missed exam. Any make-up exams given will not follow the format of regularly scheduled tests. Instead, all make-up exams will be in essay format.

**Reading Quizzes:** In an effort to encourage students to stay current with the readings there will be 8 quizzes on the assigned reading material and they will be given randomly at various points throughout the course. Each quiz will be multiple choice/short answer format and will cover the assigned reading for that day. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes and the 2 lowest quiz grades will be dropped. These quizzes will account for 30% (30 points of a total 100) of your final grade. Since I use quizzes to record attendance on the days they are given, you should inform me after class if you arrive in class late and miss the quiz. Otherwise you may be counted absent for that day.

**Attendance and Participation:** Please note that this course revolves around the readings, small group discussions, lecture, videos, and other relevant information. Therefore, students' attendance, punctuality, preparedness, and participation are essential, as well as expected. This means come to class having read the assignments and ready to discuss them. Attendance, preparedness, and your participation will account for a total of 15% (15 points of a total 100) of your final grade. I define participation as the active and regular involvement in class discussions and exercises. Students with good attendance and who regularly participate, without having to be called upon, will receive all 15 of these points. Students with good attendance, who participate occasionally, without having to be called upon, will receive 11 of these points. Students with good attendance who never participate will receive 7.5 of these points.

Keep in mind that attendance will be taken randomly. Given that life happens, I allow for 3 unexcused absences during the semester. However, at the point you have 4 unexcused absences your final grade will be lowered by 10 points. At the point you have 5 unexcused absences their final grade will be lowered by 20 points. At the point you have 6 unexcused absences or more you will be withdrawn from the course. If you have a passing course average at the point you reach 6 unexcused absences, and only if it is prior to the midterm point (10/9), you will be assigned a W. If you have a failing grade average you will receive a WF. All withdrawals after the withdrawal deadline (10/9) will result in a WF. Please refer to "Policy on Attendance" in the VSU catalogue for university standards. Remember, you are also responsible for any and all material missed because of any absences.

**Extra Credit Paper Assignment:** For those interested in extra credit work, you have the option to write an 8-10 page paper on a topic of your choice (one related to the material covered in the course). You must approve the paper topic with me prior to writing it as well as provide me with an outline and a draft of the paper prior to handing in the final version. A paper guideline sheet will be given to you when you discuss your topic with me. The last day to approve a topic is 11/5. Extra credit papers, depending

on the quality, can add up to 10 points to your final grade. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the last day of the course (12/8).

**Total Grade Break Down:** Average of Exams = 55 possible pts.  
Average of Reading Quizzes = 30 possible pts.  
Attendance/Participation = 15 possible pts.  
Total Possible Points = 100 pts.

**Final Grade: A = 90-100 pts., B = 80-89 pts., C = 70-79 pts., D = 60-69 pts., F = 0-59 pts.**

**\*\* Cell Phones/Text Messaging/Laptops:** Please turn OFF (sound & vibrate) all cell phones and all other forms of technology (i.e. mp3 players, microwave ovens, etc.) prior to the beginning of class. Receiving or sending text messages/phone calls during class will result in a 3 point deduction from your final grade (for the first offense). Subsequent occurrences will result in a 5 point deduction (from your final grade) for each offense.

**Academic Honesty:** I strongly adhere to University policy regarding academic honesty. Therefore any form of academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, \*plagiarism, downloading papers, etc.) will result in an F for the course and possible further University action. Please see undergraduate handbook for further information about University standards.  
\* Plagiarism involves claiming someone else's ideas/thoughts/writing as your own instead of appropriately citing and giving that person credit for their ideas/thoughts/writing

**Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (voice) and 219-1348 (tty).

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### **Tentative Course Schedule**

Dynamics and issues raised in class will likely affect the pace of the class. With that in mind, the following is a tentative outline of the material we will cover.

#### **Week 1**

Mon 8/18 - Introductions & Review Course Objectives and Expectations  
Wed. 8/20- Chapter 1 – Sociology and the Real World (pgs. 2-29)

#### **Week 2**

Mon. 8/25 - Chapter 2 – Sociology's Family Tree – Theories and Theorists (pgs.21-59)  
Wed. 8/27 - Chapter 2 - Continued

#### **Week 3**

Mon. 9/1 – Labor Day – No Class  
Wed. 9/3 - Chapter 3 – Studying Social Life: Sociological Research Methods (pgs. 61-84)

#### **Week 4**

Mon. 9/8 - Chapter 4 – Cultural Crossroads – (pgs. 89-115)

Wed. 9/10 - Chapter 4 – Continued + Nacerima Article

#### **Week 5**

Mon. 9/15 - Chapter 5 – The Self and Interaction (pgs. 117-139)

Wed. 9/17 - Chapter 5 - Continued

#### **Week 6**

Mon. 9/22 - **Exam #1**

Wed. 9/24 - Chapter 6 – Separate and Together: Life in Groups (p.141-167)

#### **Week 7**

Mon. 9/29 - Chapter 7 – Deviance and Conformity (pgs. 170-191)

Wed. 10/1 - Chapter 8 – Social Class: The Structure of Inequality (pgs. 193-225)

#### **Week 8**

Mon. 10/6 - Chapter 8 – Continued + Class Stratification Exercise

Wed. 10/8 - Video: People Like Us

\* Thurs. 10/9 - Midterm – Last Day to Withdraw from Class

#### **Week 9**

Mon. 10/13 – **Fall Break – No Class**

Wed. 10/15 - Chapter 9 – Race and Ethnicity as Lived Experience (pg. 227-249)

#### **Week 10**

Mon. 10/20 - Chapter 9 – Continued + Video: Eye of the Storm

Wed. 10/22 - Chapter 9 – Continued + Class Exercise

#### **Week11**

Mon. 10/27 - Chapter 10 – Constructing Gender and Sexuality (pgs. 251-280)

Wed. 10/29 - Exposing Heterosexism” Exercise + Video: The Times of Harvey Milk

#### **Week 12**

Mon. 11/3 - Guest Speaker: Georgia Public Health

\* Wed. 11/5 – **Exam #2**

\* Last day to approve extra credit assignments

#### **Week 13**

Mon. 11/10 - Chapter 11 – Politics, Education, and Religion (pgs. 285-319)

Wed. 11/12 - Chapter 11 - Continued

#### **Week 14**

Mon. 11/17 - Chapter 12 – The Economy, Work, and Working (pgs. 321-353)

Wed. 11/19 - Chapter 12 Continued + Video “Free Trade Zones”

**Week 15**

Mon. 11/24 - Chapter 13 – Life at Home (pgs. 355-377)

Wed. 11/26 – **Holiday – No Class**

**Week 16**

Mon. 12/1 - Chapter 15 – Country and City: The Natural World and the Social World  
(pgs. 405- 441)

Wed. 12/3 - Chapter 15 - Continued + Guest Speaker

**Week 17**

Mon. 12/8 - Chapter 16 – Social Change: Toward Tomorrow (pgs. 443 - 466)

**Wed. 12/10 – 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. – Exam #3**