

Snapshots



"I love our lunches out here, but I always get the feeling that we're being watched."

Introduction to Sociology/Fall 2014

Professor: Dr. Deric Shannon

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Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to give students a critical introduction to the discipline of sociology. Sociology is the study of human social activity, from groups to the individual and the many overlaps where they meet. We will pay particular attention to theories of society, different types of social inequality, our dominant institutions, and how humans collectively produce meaning. Students should expect to take nothing for granted in this course as we go on a mental journey together, studying humanity and its impact on groupings within it and our surrounding environment.

Books:

Ferris, Kerry and Jill Stein. *The Real World: an Introduction to Sociology* (4th edition). New York, NY: WW Norton.

Guidelines:

1. We will be discussing sensitive topics this semester and critiquing institutions and ways of life that all of us are very familiar with and some of us have a vested interest in. Please be sensitive to differences of opinion.
2. Along with number 1, remember that you can have any opinion you want on these subjects and should never hesitate to express it. This is regardless of what you think my own positions are and those of your classmates. Open dialogue is an important feature of any democracy, and we will have open dialogue in my classroom.

3. That said, there is no reason to state things in an offensive way. Be respectful.
4. Our class schedule is SUBJECT TO CONSTANT CHANGE. It is of the utmost importance that you come to class. If you often skip classes, this one is not for you. (Note also the attendance policy).
5. We may watch films in this class with disturbing content and images or have discussions that could be disturbing to some students. Feel free to leave anytime if you must.
6. Try to have a good time and think critically.

Attendance Policy:

Everyone can miss class two times throughout the semester. Students will be penalized by 3 points toward their grade for every missed class after that.

Students with Disabilities:

Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. Students who need documentation or other disability-related services are advised to visit the Student Health/Counseling Center: <http://oxford.emory.edu/academics/catalog/educational-resources/disability-services/>.

Grades:

Grades for this course will be based on six quizzes, three reflection papers, participation, and one final paper as outlined below. Students might also have some small opportunities for extra credit, which we will discuss in class.

Grade Distribution:

Below is the percentage distribution for grades. No, I won't be rounding up or down or otherwise altering scores and I am *not* willing to negotiate this. If a student wants to discuss their grade on a given assignment, it should be done in writing within two weeks of receiving a given grade. I will not be discussing how students can improve their scores with anyone in the final few weeks of class.

94-100 = A
90-93.999 = A-
87-89.999 = B+
84-86.999 = B
80-83.999 = B-
77-79.999 = C+
74-76.999 = C
70-73.999 = C-
67-69.999 = D+
60-66.999 = D
59 > = F

Reflection Papers:

Students are required to hand in **three** 2-3 page reflection papers throughout the course. These papers can be in any format and cover any topic, provided they are related to the course. We will discuss the details in class. At least two are due by October 15th and all three are due by November 3rd. No, you may not email them to me.

Six Quizzes:

In lieu of a midterm and final exam, students will take six quizzes throughout the semester at the end of each week. The majority of the quizzes will be on material covered in readings or in classroom activities during the week leading up to the quiz. However, there will be some cumulative questions on each quiz, starting with Quiz 2.

Final paper:

These are 8-10 page papers and should include at least two *scholarly* references. They should demonstrate critical thought about what the student has learned in class. They can take any format the student likes and we will discuss possible topics in class. Final papers are due November 19th. Guidelines will be handed out in class. No, you may not email them to me.

Participation:

Participation scores are based on meaningful in class participation and attendance. Students who come to class after roll is called are considered absent for that day. Exceptions might be made in special circumstances, but must be discussed with Dr. Shannon before the late or missed classes.

Grade Breakdown:

6 Quizzes: 60%

3 Reflection papers: 15%

Final paper: 15%

Participation: 10%

Reading Schedule:

Week 1 (Aug 27th): Introductions

Week 2 (Sept 3rd): Chapter 1—Sociology and the real world

Week 3 (Sept 8th and 10th): Chapter 1—Sociology and the real world (cont'd)

Week 4 (Sept 15th and 17th): Chapter 2—Research methods (Quiz 1 on the 17th)

Week 5 (Sept 22nd and 24th): Chapter 3—Culture

Week 6 (Sept 29th and Oct 1st): Chapter 4—The self and interaction (Quiz 2 on the 1st)

Week 7 (Oct 6th and 8th): Chapter 5—Groups

Week 8 (Oct 15th): Chapter 6—Deviant behavior (2 Reflections due by the 15th)

Week 9 (Oct 20th and 22nd): Chapter 7—Social class (Quiz 3 on the 22nd)

Week 10 (Oct 27th and 29th): Chapter 8—Race and ethnicity

Week 11 (Nov 3rd and 5th): Chapter 9—Gender and sexuality (All reflections due the 3rd)

Week 12 (Nov 10th and 12th): Chapter 10—Social Institutions (Quiz 4 on the 12th)

Week 13 (Nov 17th and 19th): Chapter 11—The economy and work (Final papers due the 19th)

Week 14 (Nov 24th): Chapter 12—Families (Quiz 5 on the 24th)

Week 15 (Dec 1st and 3rd): Chapter 15—Cities and environments

Week 16 (Dec 8th): Chapter 16—Social change (Quiz 6 on the 8th)