

Snapshots



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

Introduction to Sociology

Professor: Dr. Deric Shannon

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Office hours: Tu/Th 1:35-2:35 or by appointment

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:

Glasberg, Davita Silfen and Kenneth J. Neubeck. *Sociology: Diversity and Change in the 21st Century*. Kendall Hunt.

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. Feel free to leave anytime if you must.

6. Try to have a good time and think critically.

Honor Code:

All aspects of the course are governed by the Oxford College Honor Code as is articulated on the relevant pages of the Oxford College Catalog.

Attendance Policy:

Everyone can miss class two times throughout the semester. Students will be penalized by 3 points toward their participation 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 four quizzes, two long papers, participation, and four reflection papers as outlined below. Students might also have some small opportunities for extra credit, which we will discuss in class.

Four reflection papers: 20%

4 quizzes: 40%

Midterm paper: 10%

Final paper: 15%

Participation: 15%

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.

94-100 = A

90-93 = A-

87-89 = B+

84-86 = B

80-83 = B-

77-79 = C+

74-76 = C

70-73 = C-

67-69 = D+

60-66 = D

59 > = F

Reflection Papers:

Students are required to hand in 2-3 page reflection papers four times throughout the course. These papers can be in any format and cover any topic, provided they are related to the course and specific guidelines will be discussed in class. At least two are due by March 18th and all four are due by April 10th. No, you may not email them to me.

Four Quizzes:

In lieu of a midterm and final exam, students will take four quizzes throughout the semester. The majority of quizzes will be on material covered in readings or in classroom activities during the weeks leading up to the quiz. However, there will be a few cumulative questions on each quiz, including at least one extra credit cumulative question.

Midterm paper:

These are 3-5 page papers. They should demonstrate critical thought about what the student has learned in class. They can take any format the student likes and suggested topics will be handed out in class the week before the due date. The midterm paper is due March 18th. No, you may not email them to me.

Final paper:

These are 5-8 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 April 22. No, you may not email them to me.

Participation:

Participation scores are based on meaningful in class participation and especially 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.

Schedule:

Week 1 – Jan. 14/16: Introductions and course construction

Week 2 – Jan. 21/23: Chapter 1—What is sociology?/The sociological imagination/Theories of Society

Week 3 – Jan. 28/30: Chapter 1 continued...

Week 4 – Feb. 4/6: Chapter 2—Research and method/How do sociologists study society?

Week 5 – Feb. 11/13 (QUIZ ONE on the 13th): Chapter 3—Macro social structures

Week 6 – Feb. 18/(FEB. 20 CLASS CANCELED): Chapter 4—Micro and midlevel social structures

Week 7 – Feb. 25/27: Chapter 5—Culture

Week 8 – Mar. 4/6 (QUIZ 2 on the 6th): Chapter 6—Socialization

SPRING BREAK – HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE

Week 9 – Mar. 18/20 (Midterm Papers Due the 18th): Chapter 7—Systems of inequality

Week 10 – Mar. 25/27: Chapter 9—Deviance, crime, and social control

Week 11 – Apr. 1/3 (QUIZ 3 on the 3rd): No readings

Week 12 – Apr. 8/10 (All reflections due by the 10th): Chapter 11—The state and capital

Week 13 – Apr. 15/17: Chapter 12—Work and economy

Week 14 – Apr. 22/24 (Final papers due the 22nd and QUIZ 4 on the 24th): Chapter 13—Families