

# ***Introduction to Sociology: SOC 101***

**Oxford College of Emory University**

**Fall 2004**

**Dr Valerie Singer**

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(Feel free to call me at home, however I ask that you don't call after 9 PM.)

## **Required Texts:**

- Essentials of Sociology by Lindsey and Beach
- Nickel and Dimed, on not getting by in America by Barbara Ehrenreich
- The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, by Anne Fadimann
- Seeing Ourselves, Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology by Macionis and Benokraitis

## **Course Objectives:**

This course will introduce you to the basic concepts of sociology. By the end of the course each student will be able to demonstrate familiarity with:

- The meaning of a "sociological imagination"
- The elements of social structure and how these elements interact to create society
- Stages and processes of socialization
- The social construction of concepts such as race and gender, and the effect of these concepts on U.S. society
- The meaning and function of social institutions, (such as family, religion, education) in society
- The relationship of social stratification to individual life change
- The dilemmas of the working poor in current society

## **Course Grade Breakdown:**

Exam One	15%
Exam Two	20%
Exam Three (Final)	30%
Attendance and Participation:	20%
Reflection papers: (3@ 5% each)	15%

## **Academic Honesty:**

Both Oxford College and I take the matter of academic honesty very seriously. I would like to remind you that you are required to follow the Honor Code. Any suspected breaches to the Honor Code will be referred to the Honor Council for review and possible disciplinary action. This includes acts of plagiarism. I have found in the past that many college students do not understand what does and does not constitute plagiarism.

**Exams:**

Each exam will include multiple choice and short answer questions. The second and third exam will also include one essay question. The third (final) exam will be partially cumulative, in that it will address themes we have discussed and built upon throughout the semester, and any terms or concepts that the majority of the class did not master in earlier sections of the course. There will be a review session before each exam.

**Attendance:**

I will be taking attendance each day. Each student is allowed TWO absences during the semester. This is to allow for the occasional illness, personal matter, or accidental nap.

**Each additional absence will result in a 1 point lose to your attendance and participation grade (out of 20 points).** There are only two exceptions to this policy: 1) absences for religious holidays *if you notify me ahead of time that you will be absent*, and 2) extreme unexpected situations (extended illnesses, death in the family, etc.). If you have an extreme situation that prevents you from attending class, please notify me as soon as possible, and be prepared to show documentation of the situation.

**Participation:**

Your active participation is a vital part of this course. You are expected to have carefully read the assigned materials before each class session, and come prepared for discussion. I believe strongly that you can each learn a great deal in the classroom from your fellow students, not just from your professor. We are all both learners and teachers. You share with me the responsibility of creating a classroom atmosphere in which all of your classmates feel comfortable expressing their individual questions, ideas, and opinions.

I will be setting up a class conference for us on Learn Link. **As part of your participation grade, you need to contribute to the class conference at least once a week.** Your contributions may include comments on the readings or in-class lectures, discussions, or films. I also encourage you to write “discussion questions” for the rest of the class to respond to or comment on. I envision this conference as being a way to create more dialogue between students on how sociological concepts apply to and are reflected in our society.

There will be occasional class exercises or very brief assignments that will also be part of your overall attendance/participation grade.

**Reflection Papers:**

In addition to your thoughts and comments on the class conference, you will write three more formal reflection papers during the semester. Each of these should be approximately 3-4 pages, and each will be worth 5% of your final grade. I will ask you to reflect on some of the issues discussed in the course readings, giving you specific questions a week before the paper’s due date. These papers should illustrate to me that you are doing the reading with a significant level of depth and engagement.

**Extra Credit:**

Throughout the semester there will be opportunities for extra credit – usually when there is a campus speaker or event that relates to sociology. For each such event, if you attend and then submit a one-page review of the event, you will gain 1% point on your final grade. You may earn no more than 3% points of extra credit over the semester.

**Grading:**

Please note that I WILL be grading using the plus-minus system.

100-93% = A	79-77% = C+
92-90% = A-	76-73% = C
89-87% = B+	72-70% = C-
86-83% = B	69-67% = D+
82-80% = B-	66-60% = D
	59% and below = F

**Course Schedule: (subject to change)**

August 26	Course Introduction
August 31	<u>Essential of Sociology</u> (here forward “E.S.”): Chapter 1 Sociological Perspectives
September 2	<u>Seeing Ourselves</u> (here forward “S.O.”): “Invitation to Sociology” and “The Promise of Sociology”
September 7	E.S. Chapter 2 Culture
September 9	E.S. Chapter 3 Social Structure
September 14	E.S. Chapter 4 Socialization S.O.: “Parents’ Socialization of Children in Global Perspective” Film: Becoming a Woman in Okrika
September 16	E.S. Chapter 10 Gender S.O.: “How Subtle Sex Discrimination Works” Film: Killing Us Softly
September 21	Gender (continued) S.O.: “Socialization and the Power of Advertising”
September 23	E.S. Chapter 5 sexuality Reserve article: “When Debbie Met Christina” <b>Reflection Paper # 1</b>
September 28	E.S. Chapter 7 Crime and Criminal Justice

	S.O.: “The Functions of Crime” and “The Code of the Streets” Review
September 30	<b>Exam one</b>
October 5	E.S. Chapter 8 Stratification in Modern Societies S.O.: “The Power Elite”
October 7	E.S. Chapter 9 Racial and Ethnic Minorities S.O.: “The Souls of Black Folks” and “How Did Jews Become White Folks?”
October 12	Fall Break, no class
October 14	Fadiman chapters 1-8
October 19	E.S. Chapter 11, the Family and Religion
October 21	Fadiman chapters 9-12
October 26	Fadiman chapters 13-16
October 28	E.S. Chapter 12, Education and Health Fadiman chapters 17-19 <b>Reflection Paper #2 Due</b>
November 2	Review
November 4	<b>Exam Two</b>
November 9	E.S. Chapter 13 Political Economy and Sociology of Work
November 11	Nickel and Dimed S.O.: “Getting a Job in Harlem”
November 16	Nickel and Dimed S.O.: “Who Has How Much and Why?”
November 18	AAA (TBA)
November 23	Nickel and Dimed S.O.: “Alienated Labor” <b>Reflection Paper # 3 Due</b>

November 25	THANKSGIVING
November 30 Environment	E.S. Chapter 14 Population, Urbanization, and the  S.O.: “Urbanism as a Way of Life” and “Rich Planet, Poor Planet: Global Environment & Poverty”
December 2	E.S. Chapter 15 Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change
December 7	Course Conclusion and Exam Review
December 13 <sup>th</sup> , 9 AM	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>