Introduction to Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 1010-090, Spring 2018

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Bruce Rigby
Class Meetings: This is an Online Class
Office Hours: On campus by appointment
Office: 311 BEHS Phone: 581-5842 or 581-6153 (message)
E-Mail: bruce.rigby@soc.utah.edu or through the Canvas mail feature.
Graduate Teaching Assistant: Jenica Barber

Required Text:

1. Objectives This course meets the Social and Behavioral Sciences Intellectual Explorations (BF) requirement.

The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with the sociological perspective. This will include an introduction to the basic nature of society and the relationship between society and the individual. Basic sociological ideas regarding social relations, social integration, social interaction, social structure, and social change are examined. The student will be introduced to several key sociological theories, and learn to apply them to a wide range of specific sociological topics including class, race, gender, sexuality, religion, globalization, education, healthcare, crime, the media, and the environment. Research methodology will also be discussed to familiarize the student with many of the methods used, as well as ethical issues in social science research.

Through a number of online discussion boards and out-of-class brief assignments the student will be asked to become familiar with sociological issues, and how they appear in nearly every aspect of daily life. The assignments will focus on, and assess, the students understanding of the following specific topics.

- Basic social theories
- Research methodology and design
- The economy and globalization
- Technologies and social change
- Crime and punishment
- Environmental issues
- The influence of the media
- The individual and their relationship to the larger society
2. Grading Procedures
The final course grade will be determined by your performance on 3 equally weighted objective type exams, 3 electronic discussion boards, and 7 brief outside class assignments. There is no comprehensive final exam in this course. The exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions.
Each exam is worth 100 points. The discussions are worth 30 points total, and the assignments are worth 10 points each for a total of 70 points.
The following schedule will be used to determine grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>372-400</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>292-307</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>360-371</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>280-291</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>348-359</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>268-279</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>332-347</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>252-267</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>80-82%</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>240-251</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>308-319</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>0-239</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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3. Important Dates:
Exam #1 Week 5, Thursday, February 8th (Chapters 1-6)
Exam #2 Week 10, Thursday, March 15th (Chapters 7-12)
Exam #3 Week 16, Tuesday, April 24th (Chapters 13-18)

Exams will cover the assigned readings, Power Points, and any other material from the class lectures. If you miss an exam, an essay type make-up must be scheduled with the instructor within one week of the regular exam. Make-up exams will only be allowed in the case of hospitalization or a death in the immediate family. THERE IS NO MAKE-UP FOR EXAM #3.

4. Assignments
Assignments will be due on Friday’s beginning week #3. There is a complete listing of the assignments in this syllabus and under the "Assignment" icon on the Canvas system home page for this course. These assignments are similar if not identical to the assignments for the other sections of Sociology 1010. You may submit by attaching a .doc, .rtf, or .pdf file. You may also “paste” your assignment directly into the text box for the assignment. Please do NOT attach .pages files for your submissions. Assignments not turned in on time will NOT be graded. This means on time on the due date. Assignments are to be submitted electronically via the “Assignments” function on the course homepage.

5. Discussions
There will be 3 discussion boards for students to post comments to during the semester. They will be on various sociological topics that your instructor feels are relevant to this course. Discussion postings will be submitted via the “Discussions” icon on the course homepage.

The grading rubric for Assignments and Discussion Postings is:
10 points: Excellent
7-8 points: Acceptable
4-5 points: Marginal effort
0 points: Not submitted
6. Testing
Exams in this course will be taken electronically. Exams will be available for a 24 hour period. Students will have 45 minutes to complete a 50 question multiple-choice exam. Exams may NOT be retaken. As I believe all students can complete the exams within the 24 hour period, make-up exams will only be allowed in the cases of student hospitalization or a death in the immediate family. Documentation will be required for any make-up exam.

7. Student Code: Per University of Utah regulations (Policy #6-400). “A student who engages in academic misconduct,” as defined in Part I, B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student’s degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php).

8. ADA NOTICE: University guidelines for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require the following to be included in all syllabi:
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.
All written information in this course can be made available in alternate format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

9. Title IX, Addressing Sexual Misconduct:
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status, or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677 (COPS).
This is a basic outline of the Chapters or Topics covered by week in the course. Please note that there will not be lectures in class on all chapters or topics in the text. It is the student’s responsibility to read the textbook as outlined.

**Detailed instructions for completing the assignments are outlined in the assignment section of this syllabus**

**Week 1, January 8 - 12:** Introduction to the course and Chapter 1: The Sociological Imagination

**Week 2, January 15 - 19:** Chapter 2, Methods and Research  
***Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No Classes Monday, Jan 15th***

**Week 3, January 22 - 26:** Chapter 3, Culture and Media, Begin Chap 4, Socialization  
***Assignment #1, Survey is Due Friday, January 26th***

**Week 4, Jan 29 – Feb 2:** Chapter 4, Socialization and Chapter 5, Groups

**Week 5, February 5 - 9:** Chapter 6, Social Control and Deviance and Exam #1  
***Exam #1 is Thursday, February 8th***

**Week 6, February 12 - 16:** Chapter 7, Stratification  
***Assignment #2 is due Friday, February 16th***

**Week 7, February 19 - 23:** Chapter 8, Gender and begin Chapter 9, Race  
***President’s Day Holiday, No Class Monday, Feb 19th***  
***Assignment #3, Ethnographic Study, February 23rd***

**Week 8, February 26 - March 2:** Chapter 10, Poverty

**Week 9, March 5 - 9:** Chapter 11, Health and Society  
***Assignment #4, Breaching Experiment, Due Friday, March 9th***

**Week 10, March 12 - 16:** Chapter 12, Family and Exam #2  
***Exam #2 is Thursday, March 23rd***
Week 11, March 18 - 24: SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES

Week 12, March 26 – 30: Chapter 13, Education

***Assignment #5, Lecture/Podcast Attendance, Due Friday March 30th***

Week 13, April 2 - 6: Chapter 14, Capitalism and the Economy

***Assignment #6, Book or Video Summary, Due Friday, April 13th***

Week 14, April 9 - 13: Chapter 15, Authority and the State, begin Chapter 16 Religion

***Assignment #7, Biography, Due Friday, April 20th***

Week 15, April 16 - 20: Chapters 17 & 18, The Environment and Social Change

***Assignment #8, Book or Video Summary, Due Friday, April 27th***

Week 16: April 23 – 24: Exam review and Exam #3, Tuesday, April 24th

***Please note there is NO comprehensive Final Exam in this course***

**Course Assignments for Sociology 1010-090**

The following out of class assignments require the student to define/utilize/and apply many relevant sociological concepts presented in the class. These activities are intended to be interesting, fun, and enlightening.

These exercises in all sections of introduction to sociology reflect the University of Utah requirements to increase the class from a three credit hour class to a four credit hour class. Your written assignment should be 2-3 pages in length double-spaced is preferred. Assignments must be submitted in MS .doc(x), .pdf, or format or pasted into the assignment text box. Assignments are due on the dates indicated below. Late assignments will NOT be graded. Each assignment is worth 10 points towards your course grade. Assignments should be submitted electronically to the Assignments function in Canvas.

**Week Three (1/26) Assignment #1:** Conduct a brief survey of at least 30 people regarding and issue or topic of your choice. In a brief summary paper include the survey, summarize your findings, and draw conclusions regarding your research. Refer to Chapter 2, Doing Sociological Research.

**Week Five (2/16) Assignment #2:** Conduct a brief participant observation or ethnographic study wherein you study and/or participate in a particular group event or social organization. Samples of events could include an Indian powwow, visit a religious group other than the one you usually attend, hang out at a greasy spoon cafe or coffee shop, attend a sporting event, or any volunteer organization. To complete the assignment, simply
write down your observations, note any patterns you observe, or point out any observations or patterns that particularly surprise you. Refer to Chapter 1, The Sociological Perspective, and Chapter 3, Culture.

**Week Seven (2/23) Assignment #3:** For this assignment I would ask each student to pick any social issue that interests them and apply one of our 3 major theories (Functional, Conflict, Symbolic Interaction) to explain the issue/event. I'm not expecting a comprehensive explanation of any given social issue, but rather that each student attempt to apply a given theory to some social issue. There is no right or wrong application of theory in evaluating your submissions, but you will be graded on how well you understand and attempt to use a specific theoretical perspective. Some social issues you may chose could be: The recent economic problems and bailouts, Climate change and the various political perspectives, Gender inequality in (fill in issue), Gay marriage, Moving the Utah State Prison, Political Gridlock, The recent police shootings and protests, Oil exploration and the environment, or any other issue you find interesting.

**Week Nine (3/9) Assignment #4:** Conduct a non-intrusive breaching experiment, wherein you attempt to validate the existence of a particular norm. This may include singing on the bus, singing in an elevator, not talking to anyone for a day, or any other unusual activity. In writing describe your experiment, and report peoples reactions to your behavior. Refer to Chapter 1, The Sociological Perspective, and Chapter 5, Social Interaction and Structure.

**Week Twelve (3/30) Assignment #5:** Any time during the first 11 weeks of class, attend a lecture on any subject or topic that you feel is relevant to sociology. These can be attended on campus, or off, and some will be announced in class. You may also listen to a podcast or a Ted Talk on any topic relevant to the material in this class. In no more that two pages, summarize the presentation and it’s relevance to any topic covered in this class. This assignment would include any material from the text or lecture from a sociological perspective.

**Week Fourteen (4/13) Assignment #6:** Evaluate a book or video from the suggested books/videos list. Please summarize your interpretation of the material from a sociological perspective. This assignment will allow the student to choose a topic of interest and analyze that topic using various concepts from the course.

**Week Fifteen (4/20) Assignment #7:** Write a short (2-3 pages) biography wherein you highlight the sociological factors that have influenced your life. Those could include social class, religion, race/ethnicity, or any other topics

*Suggested Books and Videos*

*Suggested Books and Videos for Assignment #6:*
The Acorn People (disabilities, illness, stigma)
The Lemming Condition, Alan Arkin (family, deviance, labeling)
Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck (stratification, social organization, poverty)
On Civil Disobedience, Henry David Thoreau (morality and society, social dissent)
The McDonaldization of Society, George Ritzer (modernization, globalization, organizations)
Race Matters, Cornel West (racism)
The Sociological Imagination, C. Wright Mills (sociology, social meaning, and morality)
Theory of the Leisure Class, Thorsten Veblin (stratification, class conflict)
Under the Banner of Heaven, John Krakauer (religion, deviance, faith based violence)
Who Rules America, G. William Domhoff (power elite model, social class, politics, stratification)

Videos

“Boys in the Hood” (race/class/poverty)
“Crash” (alienation, racism, class)
“The Gods Must be Crazy” (culture, modernization, globalization)
“Hotel Rwanda” (racism, genocide)
“An Inconvenient Truth” (global warming)
“Inherit the Wind” (religion, education, Evolution versus Creationism)
“Modern Times”, Chaplin (industrialization and modernization)
“Pleasantville” (norms, culture, socialization, prejudice and discrimination)
“Roger and Me” (capitalism, exploitation, class conflict)
“Sicko” (healthcare)
“Straight Outta Compton” (race, class, deviance)
“Taxi Driver” (anomie, powerlessness, alienation)
“The Village” (culture, norms and values, modernization)
“Capitalism: A Love Story” (economy, culture, inequality)

***Other books/videos may be used for this assignment with prior approval by your instructor or graduate teaching assistant***

***This is a preliminary syllabus and may be subject to change prior to classes beginning on Monday January 8, 2018***