

Introduction to Sociology
SYG 1000 Section 9
HCB 214 (3:35-4:50 M, W)
Fall 2008

Instructor Information

Instructor: Natalie Armstrong, M.S.
Sociology Department
Bellamy Bldg, Room 606
Office Hours: T & R 4:00-5:00 p.m., or by appointment
Office phone: 850-645-8320
Email: noa05@fsu.edu (* best way to contact me)
Course website: <http://campus.fsu.edu>

Required Text

“Essentials of Sociology, Seventh Edition,” by Brinkerhoff, White, Ortega, and Weitz.
ISBN: 0-495-09636-9.

Additional supplemental readings will be provided via Blackboard.

Other Requirements

This class requires that you be able to access the internet for the Blackboard site. All students should activate and check daily their FSU email account. This account will be used through the blackboard system to notify you of syllabus changes, send reminders, and/or transmit other class related information. If there is a problem logging on to Blackboard or to access the email account, please notify ACNS to resolve the situation. help@campus.fsu.edu

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the central concepts, methods, and perspective of sociology by developing your *sociological imagination*. We will explore topics ranging from the social construction of race and gender to deviance and crime. We will also cover topics such as the social reproduction of social class inequality as well as the current state of marriage in our society. Finally, there will be active class discussions examining how the sociological imagination can speak to relevant current events and politics (e.g., globalization, the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, terrorism, etc.).

What is the sociological imagination? How can sociological thinking help to gain a fuller perspective of the world and complex issue? What are possible solutions to social problems? These questions, along with many others, will be examined throughout the course.

This course will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and assignments, with a strong emphasis on reading all the assigned materials. The overall goal for this course is to get students to think critically about a wide variety of topics presented in the text.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate your ability to recognize, explain, and apply sociological concepts and skills by constructing logical arguments based on the concepts learned in class.
2. Apply the sociological imagination by examining our society's beliefs and values.
3. Describe and analyze major differences between various sociological explanations of a given social problem.

Course Expectations

Because each person in a class contributes to its ultimate success or failure, I expect everyone to attend our class meetings, complete the required assignments, read and think about the day's readings beforehand, and participate in class discussion. Participation means that it is not only important to express your self in class, but also to listen to others. This does not mean that you have to agree with everything presented to you. In fact, I may disagree with some of the arguments presented in our texts. However, I expect that you will think critically about the content of this course. This means that you must exhibit the ability to critically engage arguments presented by the readings and in class in a logical and respectful manner. Not meeting any of these expectations is grounds for a lowered grade.

Class Attendance

I expect you to attend class and come prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Class attendance will be recorded everyday towards the last 15 minutes of class. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet before leaving class. Leaving prior to the end of class will result in an absence. If you miss 5 or more classes, 10 points will be deducted from your final grade.

Classroom Courtesy

Because we will be learning together, it is extremely important that each individual feel comfortable in class. Any comments that could make someone feel uncomfortable will not be tolerated. This includes remarks that demean others by virtue of race, sex, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, physical appearance and the like. Often such remarks are made unintentionally, so I will point them out in order that we may all be more aware and avoid future instances. And, I am by no means perfect. If I do not recognize remarks made or inadvertently make such remarks myself, feel free to point this out (either in class or later). Of course, you are welcome and expected to disagree with one another, but this can be done in a way that is not a personal attack. Additionally, I expect you to come to class on time and **turn off all cell phones, mp3 players or ipods, laptops and any other devices that could interrupt the class.**

Assignments

Exams (3).....	45%
Quizzes (5).....	15%
Paper.....	20%
Homework (5).....	10%
In-Class Assignments.....	10%
Total.....	100%

Exams: There will be a total of 3 exams given covering the substantive topics and readings in that section of the course. Each exam is worth 15% of your final grade. The final exam will not be cumulative. The exams will include multiple choice and true/false items. Failure to be present for an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam and this grade will be included in determining final grades. *If you are unable to take an exam, you must contact me with a valid excuse prior to the time of the exam.* Late penalties (10 points each day) will be waived only if proper documentation is provided. Makeup exams may be in a different format from regular exams and must be scheduled within one week of the original test day. Failure to take your make-up exam within one week of the original test date will result in a zero for that exam. Additionally, if you miss a scheduled makeup exam date you will receive a zero for that exam. More information about the content and format of the exams will be given the day before exams are administered.

Quizzes: A total of 7 in-class quizzes will be given during the course of the semester. These quizzes will be unannounced so it is important you come to class, and read the assigned materials to effectively answer quiz questions. The top 5 quiz scores will contribute to your final grade (15% of your total grade). There will be absolutely no make-ups for quizzes under any circumstances since students may miss up to 2, penalty free. Coming to class late and subsequently missing a quiz will result in a zero for that quiz grade and cannot be made up at the end of the class period.

Paper Assignment:

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade and is due November 24th, 2008. Two versions of this assignment will be required: a paper copy turned in to me at the end of class and an electronic copy which you will submit online using BB. Failure to produce both versions by the due date will result in a lowered grade (late penalty 10 points for each day). I will be using software in order to detect plagiarism (turnitin.com). Instructions and details for this assignment will be provided to you well before this assignment is due. Makeup assignments will only be accepted within one week of the original due date. Failure to make this assignment up within the specified timeframe will result in a grade of zero for this assignment. Late penalties (10 points each day) will be waived only if proper documentation is provided.

Homework: You will be responsible for posting your answers to discussion questions on the course website. During the course of this semester, there will be five discussion questions worth 10% of your final grade. To receive full credit, you must answer *all* parts of the question(s), offering your own unique (i.e., adding your own thoughts, not just commenting on someone else's), thoughtful responses that indicate an engagement with the course material. Partial (i.e., half) credit will be given to acceptable responses that

somehow fall short of the full credit criteria. No credit will be given to those responses that fail to answer the discussion question(s) or fail to relate to the course material or topics. Discussion questions will be posted on Monday (6:00 p.m.) and you must reply by Friday (6:00 p.m.). Since you have 5 days to respond to discussion board questions, no posts will be accepted after the due date. Also, absolutely no discussion board assignments will be accepted if they are emailed to me or handed to me in class.

In-Class Assignments: This assignment will consist mainly of group work assigned during any given day. Individual grades will not be given to group members so it is important that all of the group members participate towards the overall success of the group. This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade. Makeup group work will be accepted *only* if documentation is provided. You will have one week from the original due date to turn in makeup group work. Failure to provide proper documentation and complete this assignment within one week of the due date will result in a grade of zero for this assignment.

Extra Credit: You will have 3 chances to receive extra credit throughout the semester. This assignment will only be accepted the day before exams are scheduled. Absolutely no makeup work will be allowed since this assignment is completely voluntary. To receive full credit (5 points), you must develop 5 *original* test questions and provide the correct answers to these questions. Your questions may or may not be used for the exam. Extra credit will be graded in the same way HW assignments are graded. Points for extra credit will be added to your exam grade.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned according to the standard 100 percentage point scale in which the A range is 90%-100%, the B range is 80% to 89%, etc. FSU does not allow an “A+” grade. Please allow one week for grades to be posted for exams, quizzes, and homework assignments.

***I do not change grades. If you feel you have a legitimate complaint, you must write up your rationale for wanting a grade change, give me this rationale, and we’ll schedule a time to discuss it. If you are having problems in the class or are worried about your grades, you need to come see me during office hours. DO NOT wait until the last week of classes!

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D+	66-69

D 63-65
 D- 60-62
 F ← 59

Course Outline

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading Assignment</i>
Part I. The Study of Society		
August 25 th	Introduction to the course Syllabus distribution What is sociology?	
August 27 th	The Study of Society	Chapter 1—p. 1-28
Part II. The Individual and Society		
September 1 st	Labor Day (No class)	
September 3 rd	Basic Sociology Concepts	Chapter 2—p. 39-40; Chapter 3—p. 60-66; Chapter 4—p. 75-79; Chapter 5—p. 101-104 & 113-118
September 8 th	Deviance and Crime	Chapter 6—p. 120-141
September 10 th	Deviance and Crime (Cont.)	
September 15 th	Alcohol and Substance Abuse; HW1 Assigned (Due 9/19)	See BB for reading
September 17 th	Review for Exam; Class Inequality	Chapter 7—p. 144-156
September 22nd	<u>Exam #1</u>	Chapters 1-6 & Any BB readings
Part III. Inequality		
September 24 th	Class Inequality (Cont.)	Chapter 7—p. 156-163
September 29 th	Class Inequality (Cont.)	
October 1 st	Race/Ethnic Inequality	Chapter 8—p. 174-194
October 6 th	Race/Ethnic Inequality (Cont.); HW 2 Assigned (Due 10/10)	See BB for reading
October 8 th	Race/Ethnic Inequality (Cont.)	
October 13 th	Sex, Gender, and Sexuality	Chapter 9—p.197-217
October 15 th	Sex, Gender, and Sexuality (Cont.)	Chapter 9—p. 219-221
Part IV. Social Institutions		
October 20 th	Health and Health Care; HW 3 Assigned (Due 10/24)	Chapter 10—p. 229-242
October 22 nd	Reviw for Exam; Health and Health Care (Cont.)	

October 27th	<u>Exam #2</u>	Chapters 7-9 & Any BB Readings
October 29 th	Family	Chapter 11—p. 245-261
November 3 rd	Problems in the Family; HW 4 Assigned (Due 11/7)	Chapter 11—p. 262-268
November 5 th	Education	Chapter 12—p. 271-281
November 10 th	Education (Cont.)	See BB for reading
November 12 th	Education (Cont.)	
November 17 th	Politics and the Economy	Chapter 13—p. 300-329
November 19 th	Globalization	Chapter 2—p.44-52; Chapter 7—p. 163-171

Part V. The Modern World

November 24 th	Globalization (Cont.); Paper is due; HW 5 Assigned (Due 12/1)	See BB for reading
November 26 th	Thanksgiving Holiday (No class)	
December 1 st	Population and Urban Life	Chapter 14—p. 334-359
December 3 rd	Review for Exam; Population and Urban Life (Cont.)	
December 8th-12th	<u>Exam #3</u>	Chapters 2,7,10-13 & Any BB Readings

Syllabus Change Policy

While this syllabus may be considered a contract between me, the instructor, and you, the student, I reserve the right to amend the syllabus at any time, especially according to class progression through the material. If the syllabus is changed, students will be notified in class and via an announcement on Blackboard.

Incomplete Grades

Missing work is an insufficient reason for a grade of Incomplete (I). An “**I**” will be given under extenuating circumstances at the instructor’s discretion. Note that the College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an “**I**” must be passing the course.

Help and Tutoring

If you find yourself struggling to complete the requirements for this course or not comprehending the material, please contact me. You may come to my office during office hours, schedule an appointment, call or email me, etc. Additionally, there are other resources available to students, listed below.

- Reading and Writing Center (644-6495)
- Strozier Library (644-3278)/(644-2706)
- Center for Retention and Academic Support (644-0387)
- International Student Center (644-1702)
- Center for Intensive English Studies (644-4797)
- Student Counseling Center (644-2003)
- Victim Advocate Program (644-7161)
- Crisis Hotline (211)

Academic Honor Policy

This course will conform to all of the standards set forth in the Honor Policy. This means that all students will avoid any violations of academic integrity such as cheating, plagiarism, hiring others to do work, etc. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” You can find Florida State University Academic Honor Policy at <http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/forms/honorpolicy.pdf>. Please take the time to read the Honor Policy so that you will be in accordance with it. Any student that engages in academic dishonesty may be reported to Florida State University. Consequences may include but are not limited to receiving an “F” or zero for the assignment or course at the instructor’s discretion. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If there are uncertainties, consult the instructor before any questionable work begins.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. *This should be done during the first week of class.*

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact: Student Disability Resource Center, 108 Student Services Bldg., Florida State University Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167, (850)644-9566 (voice), (850)644-8504 (TDD)

E-mail: SDRC@admin.fsu.edu

Website: <http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

Religious Holidays

Students will be allowed to miss class due to observance of religious holidays, but they are still responsible for all materials assigned outside and covered in class on the day(s) missed. You must talk with me in advance of missing a class for religious holiday observance reasons.

Excused Absences

The following and only the following absences are eligible to be excused: *Religious holidays*, as specified in FSU policy; absences due to *representing FSU at official functions*, including intercollegiate debating or varsity sports events; verified *emergencies and/or medical illness*. Medical illness refers to conditions that are serious in nature and require treatment by medical professionals and/or surgical or other treatments.

Documentation is required for an absence to be excused.