

1-2014

SOCI 101S.01: Introduction to Sociology

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Recommended Citation

Sobieszczyk, Teresa R., "SOCI 101S.01: Introduction to Sociology" (2014). *Syllabi*. 941.
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SOCIOLOGY 101.01: Introduction to Sociology

Spring 2014

MWF 10:10-11:00 a.m., SS352

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to the field of sociology. We will examine some of the basic concepts, theories, and tools sociologists use to explain the social world and to interpret social issues including the cultural impact of mass media, poverty and hunger in post-industrial America, the glass ceiling, and the globalization of everything from factory production to shopping malls. Student performance will be evaluated through homework assignments, attendance and participation in class, and four exams.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: During this course, students will successfully:

1. Demonstrate the development of a sociological imagination
2. Explain and apply sociological concepts and theories to social issues and relationships
3. Employ types of questions asked by sociologists and understand and apply disciplinary methods to explore those questions
4. Examine culturally grounded assumptions that influence perception and behavior of individuals and groups.

TEXTS:

All students should purchase Discover Sociology by William J. Chambliss and Daina S. Eglitis (1st edition, 2014). It is available in the Bookstore in the UC, and one copy is on reserve in Mansfield Library. Additional assigned readings, mainly classic articles or chapters on contemporary sociology, will be available through the ERES system (discussed below). A hard copy of the additional readings will also be available at the regular reserve desk in Mansfield Library—you may read or copy them there.

LECTURE NOTES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Additional course readings (denoted with "ERES" in the reading list) and announcements will be posted on ERES system of Mansfield Library. In addition, for most lectures, I will post the most important charts and graphs as Power Point files on ERES. You can access E-RES for this course through the library catalogue under course reserves or at <http://eres.lib.umt.edu>. Click on "Course Reserve." Look up my last name and select SOCI 101 as the course. The password you will need is SOCI101. You may download and print assigned readings not in the main text, as well as selected charts and graphs for your reference in studying for the exams. Go to any computer lab on campus or print from home if you have the necessary file readers and computer programs. Note that the additional readings are also in paper copy at the regular reserve desk. Students who miss a lecture should be sure to print relevant charts and graphs from lectures, review class announcements, and obtain the class notes from the missed lecture from a fellow classmate.

CLASSROOM RESPECT:

I will respect you by dismissing class on time each day. In return, please show your respect for me and your fellow class members by refraining from chatting, reading newspapers, texting, web surfing, or otherwise disrupting class. If you need to leave class early, please let me know before class begins so that I don't worry about you! Be sure to turn off your cell phone when you come to class. If we catch you texting or using a computer for something other than taking notes, we will confiscate your device. Note that we will be talking about some sensitive and potentially controversial issues this term. Please treat each other and each other's ideas respectfully. Keep in mind that the University of Montana forbids discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review on-line at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities of any sort, please identify yourselves to Dr. Sobie as soon as possible to document your disability and arrange for testing and other accommodations.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND PREPARATION FOR CLASS (20%):

You are expected to attend all lectures and to come to class having read and digested assigned readings. Occasionally, we will have small or large group discussions that will draw on your readings or watch videos that introduce new or related topics. Lectures will highlight your readings as well as introduce new materials, both of which will appear on exams. If you miss a lecture, please obtain lecture notes from another student in class and the relevant charts, graphs, and announcements from the E-RES system at Mansfield Library. From time to time, your attendance, preparation, and participation will be assessed through short reading question assignments, short in-class written assignments and discussions, quizzes, or attendance. On "Discussion Days," please bring the assigned articles with you to class and be sure to have read them *prior* to coming to class to make your discussion more effective. In-class quizzes, discussions, writing responses, and attendance may not be made up.

Late homework assignments and reading questions will be accepted up to 7 days after the due date; however the grade will be lowered one letter grade from what the assignment would otherwise have received (e.g. a paper that would otherwise have earned a "B" will earn a "C"). On the 8th day after the due date, the grade for late written assignments will turn into a zero.

Please see the section (below) on "extra credit opportunities," which will count towards your participation grade.

EXAMINATIONS (80%):

There will be three 50-minute preliminary exams held during class period on 2/24/14, 3/17/14, and 4/16/14. The two-hour final examination will be held Friday, May 16, from 10:10-12:10, in our regular classroom. The exams and final will each count 20 percent of your grade. Please mark the exam dates in your schedules and plan your departure from Missoula at the end of term accordingly! Exams will cover material for the preceding section of the course only. Questions for all examinations will be drawn from lectures, readings, and the films shown in class and may include multiple choice, true-false, matching, and/or short answer questions. If you are caught cheating on an exam, you will receive an "F" for the course and the incident will be reported to the Dean.

MAKE UP EXAMINATIONS:

Make up exams will be considered on a case-by-case basis with *advanced* permission. You are not guaranteed the right to make up an exam, though I will try to be flexible given prior notice and reasonable circumstances. I reserve the right to deny a make up exam if the given situation warrants such a decision. If you miss one of the first three exams, they must be made up within one week of the regularly scheduled exam date or they will revert to a zero. Make up exams likely will be a short essay format. The make up exam for the final will be held on Monday, May 12th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at a location to be announced.

REVIEW SESSIONS:

Before each exam, I will provide a study guide and the Teaching Assistant will conduct a review session to be held at a place and time to be announced. The purpose of the review sessions is to clarify concepts, theories, methods, and research findings. Do not expect the T.A. to tell you what will be on the exam or to provide capsule summaries of the lectures you missed. Before each review session you should read all assigned chapters and review your class notes and the study guide to know what topics you need to have clarified.

GRADING:

Exams and final (20% each)	80 percent
Participation, social norms paper, homework, attendance	<u>20 percent</u>
Total	100 percent

A plus / minus system of grading will be employed (e.g. 93+ = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B- and so on). All materials (books, videos) borrowed from Dr. Sobieszczyk must be returned by the final exam for the class or you will earn an 'Incomplete,' which will remain on your record until the materials are returned or replaced. If you are enrolled Pass/Not Pass, you must earn a C-or better to pass.

OFFICE HOURS:

Please feel free to stop by during our office hours to discuss course materials or sociological issues! If you are unable to attend our regularly scheduled office hours, please feel arrange an appointment at an alternative time.

STUDY GROUPS:

I recommend that you participate in study groups to discuss readings and review for exams. Students who meet together in study groups tend to do much better on homework assignments and exams than those who do not. Keep in mind that even if you meet in a study group to discuss an assignment, the work you turn in must be written *individually, in your own words!*

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

This term you will have to respond to a few short homework assignments. These should be approximately 1 ½ - 2 pages long, typed, double spaced.

Citations: Any direct quotations or paraphrasing **MUST** be cited, or you will be plagiarizing, which is a violation of the Student Conduct Code, and will result in negative consequences. Please use the Chicago method of in-text citations (example listed below, all dates of publication are listed in reading assignment list below). For direct quotations, be sure to add the page number(s) where the quotation came from. Examples:

- (1) One of the key principles of Disneyization is merchandising, which refers to “the promotion of goods in the form of or bearing copyright images and logos” (Bryman 2001, 384). *(Note that this is a direct quotation, so I use the author's last name, the year of publication, as well as the page number from the article where I found the quote! The period goes after the citation.)*
- (2) Another principle is emotional labor, which means that workers have to smile and act in a friendly manner, even if they are angry (Bryman 2001). *(Note that this is a paraphrasing of Bryman's idea, but not a direct quotation. I need to acknowledge Bryman with a citation since his idea is unique, but a page number is not necessary. So in this case, I just use the author's last name and year of publication. The period goes after the citation.)*

All assignments are due at the **beginning** of the class on the due date. No need for fancy introductions or conclusions—just answer the questions as clearly and succinctly as possible. I prefer typed papers, though in a worst case scenario, you may submit a handwritten assignment if your printer or computer fails. Please **DO NOT** email your paper to me. However, to save paper, you may print it out on recycled paper or back-to-back. Late assignments will be accepted for up to seven days after the due date, however the grade will be lowered one letter grade from what the assignment would otherwise have received. Beyond seven days, late assignments will revert to a zero. I strongly suggest that you back up your work and print out the assignment the night before it is due to take care of any printing problems.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

Holiday Social Norms Paper (due 2/12/14 at beginning of class)

Write a short, double spaced paper describing the social norms in your family regarding **one** holiday (e.g. Halloween, birthday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hannakah, 4th of July, etc.). Be sure to discuss any gender or age-related norms that your family practices for that holiday.

Reading Questions #1 (due 2/19/14 at beginning of class)

1. Based on the article by Crow Dog and Erdoes, discuss how Native American boarding schools helped re-socialize Native American students into the dominant Anglo-American culture.
2. Based on the article by Kozol, list and explain **two (2)** of the *most important* factors that help explain why the differences between white suburban schools and inner-city African American schools exist in American society.

Reading Questions #2 (due 2/26/14 at beginning of class)

1. Based on Ritzer's article, "The McDonaldization of Society," list and briefly define the **five (5)** key principles of McDonald's that have come to dominate American society.
2. Based on your understanding of Bryman's article "The Disneyization of Society," discuss **two (2)** reasons why the "Disneyization" of American society is problematic.

Reading Questions #3 (due 3/12/14 at beginning of class)

1. Based on your understanding of Chambliss's article "Saints and Roughnecks," explain **three (3)** reasons why the "Saints" received different treatment for their deviance than the "Roughnecks."
2. Based on Domhoff's chapter "Who Rules America? The Corporate Community and the Upper Class," discuss how (a) education and (b) social clubs contribute to the dominance of members of the upper class in American society.

Reading Questions #4 (due 3/24/14 at beginning of class)

1. Based on your understanding of Padavic and Reskin's article "Gender Differences in Moving Up and Taking Charge," list and briefly explain **two** of the most important factors that tend to block women's upward mobility into management jobs.
2. Based on your understanding of Rosser's article, "Too Many Women in College?," explain why Rosser thinks that the real issue is the widening education gap between rich and poor Americans, rather than the gap between male and female enrollment.

Reading Questions #5 (due 4/21/14 at beginning of class)

1. Journalist Barbara Ehrenreich tried to make it as a minimum wage worker. Based on your understanding of the excerpt from her book "Nickel-and-Dimed," discuss **three (3)** difficulties that minimum wage workers in America experience.
2. Consider Thottam's article "Where the Good Jobs are Going." Based on your understanding of this article, discuss (a) why American businesses are outsourcing jobs overseas and (b) how this overseas outsourcing impacts American workers.

*******EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES*******

- (1) Earn 3 extra credit points towards your participation grade by coming in to introduce yourself to Dr. Sobie and ask her a sociological question. When you come in, please remind her to award you the extra credit.
- (2) Earn 5 extra credit points towards your participation grade by participating in one of our Stratification Monopoly game nights to be held during Week 6 and Week 7. The location and exact time will be announced. Please be sure to arrive ON TIME. Late comers will not be allowed to play. In small groups, students will play a special social stratification version of Monopoly and then spend a few minutes writing up a ½ page reaction to their experiences playing the game. Plan on spending 70 minutes for the session.
- (3) Earn 5 extra credit points towards your participation grade by participating in the Na Za Na Za Simulation, to be held at a place and time to be announced. Sign up with Dr. Sobie as space is limited. You must be able to stay for the entire 2 hour session to earn extra credit points!

SOC 101.01 Spring 2014 Reading/Assignment Schedule (subject to change)

Assignments from the Chambliss and Eglitis text are denoted with "C & E." Readings denoted with "ERES" are available through Mansfield Library's ERES system or in paper copy at the regular reserve desk in Mansfield Library. Films denoted with "TS" are in Dr. Sobie's own collection; films with "ML" are available from the Mansfield Library Reserve Desk. Readings listed for a given date should be completed **PRIOR** to class as we will be covering them in class. Any assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed. All films listed will be watched in class, so there is no need to view them prior to coming to class.

Date	Day	Topic	Reading Assignments
Week 1			
1/27/14	M	Introduction to the Course & Study Tips	
1/29/14	W	The Sociological Perspective & Class Discussion	C & E Chapt. 1
1/31/14	F	Puzzles, Paradigms, & Understanding the Social World	
Week 2			
2/3/14	M	Sociological Research, Part 1	C & E Chapt. 2
2/5/14	W	Sociological Research, Part 2	
2/7/14	F	Culture & Society	C & E Chapt. 3
Week 3			
2/10/14	M	No Socialization, No Society	C & E Chapt. 4
2/12/14	W	DVD: "The Amish: A People of Preservation" (ML/TS) Holiday Norms Paper due at beginning of class	
2/14/14	F	Discussion of dvd; Education as High Stakes Socialization	
Week 4			
2/17/14	M	President's Day – NO CLASS	
2/19/14	W	Education Articles Discussion Reading questions #1 due at beginning of class	(1) Crow Dog and Erdoes (1990) "Civilize Them with a Stick" (ERES) (2) Kozol (1991) "Savage Inequalities" (ERES)
2/21/14	F	Groups, Organization, & Bureaucracies	C & E Chapt. 5
Week 5			
2/24/14	M	Exam #1 (includes materials 1/27/14 – 2/19/14 only)	
2/26/14	W	The McDonaldization & Disneyization of Society: Discussion Day Film Clip: "The McDonaldization of Society" (TS) Reading questions #2 due at beginning of class	(1) Ritzer (1983) "The McDonaldization of Society" (ERES) (2) Bryman (2001) "The Disneyization of Society" (ERES)
2/28/14	F	Deviance & Crime	C & E Chapt. 6
Week 6			
3/3/14	M	Social Control	
3/5/14	W	Introduction to Social Stratification	C & E Chapt. 7
3/7/14	F	Perspectives on U.S. Socioeconomic Stratification	
Week 7			
3/10/14	M	DVD excerpt: "People Like Us: Social Class in America" (TS/ML)	
3/12/14	W	Film and Reading Discussion Day Reading questions #3 due at beginning of class	(1) Chambliss (1973) "Saints and Roughnecks" (ERES) (2) Domhoff (1998) "Who Rules America? The Corporate Community and the Upper Class" (ERES)
3/14/14	F	Look Who Is Hungry! Hunger in the U.S. DVD excerpt: "A Place at the Table"	
Week 8			
3/17/14	M	Exam #2 (includes materials 2/21-3/14)	

3/19/14	W	Oh Brother, Where Art Thou? Race in Contemporary America	C & E Chapt. 8
3/21/14	F	Racial & Ethnic Stratification in the U.S. Film Clip: "Brown Eyes, Blue Eyes" (TS) & discussion	
Week 9 3/24/14	M	You've come a long way baby! Gender & Work in the U.S.	C & E Chapt. 9
3/26/14	W	DVD excerpt: "Tough Guise 2" (TS/ML)	
3/28/14	F	Class discussion of articles and dvd Reading questions #4 due at beginning of class	(1) Reskin and Padavic (2001) "Sex Differences in Moving Up & Taking Charge" (ERES) (2) Rosser (2005) "Too Many Women in College?" (ERES)
Week 10		SPRING BREAK! Enjoy!	
Week 11 4/7/14	M	Families in a Changing America	C & E Chapt. 10
4/9/14	W	Gender and Family Issues Film: "Chore Wars" (TS) & discussion	
4/11/14	F	Political Sociology & The Power Elite: Who Rules America Now?	C & E Chapt. 13
Week 12 4/14/14	M	Film: "A Village Called Versailles" (TS) & discussion	
4/16/14	W	Exam #3 (includes materials 3/19-4/14)	
4/18/14	F	Work and the Global Economy	C & E Chapt. 14
Week 13 4/21/14	M	Work & the Global Economy Discussion Reading questions #5 due at beginning of class	(1) Ehrenreich (1999) "Nickel-and-Dimed" (ERES) (2) Thottam (2003) "Where the Good Jobs are Going" (ERES)
4/23/14	W	Are 9 Billion People Coming to Dinner? Population & Resources	C & E pp. 416-427
4/25/14	F	DVD: "How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth?" (ML) & discussion	
Week 14 4/28/14	M	Introduction to Social Change & Social Movements	C & E Chapt. 18
4/30/14	W	Environmental Sociology & Social Movements: The Love Canal Case & the Superfund	C & E pp. 434-440
5/2/14	F	Issues of Environmental (In) Justice	Bullard et al. (2007) "Executive Summary" (ERES)
Week 15 5/5/14	M	DVD excerpt: "Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action" (ML/TS)	
5/7/14	W	Discussion of film & Bullard et al. reading	
5/9/14	F	Course Conclusion, Evaluations, and Review	
5/16/14	F	Final Exam 10:10-12:10 (includes materials 4/16-5/9 only) <i>I realize that this exam date is late. Please arrange your departure from Missoula accordingly!!!</i>	Good luck!!