

Introduction to Sociology Sociology 131 ~ Fall 2011

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Required Textbook
Sociology: Understanding a Diverse Society (4th Edition)
by Margaret Andersen & Howard Taylor

Course Description

Sociology 131 introduces the sociological approach to understanding behavior. We'll examine how a society's culture and social organization shape actions and influence everyday life. Connections between the individual and society are explored in relation to all aspects of social life.

Course Packets (Instructions)

Every period of the course has a packet of materials that contains instructions for what you need to do.

Each packet indicates what you need to read, the items you need to submit (assignments, discussion boards, exams), and the due date for each item.

To see a packet click on the Course Materials link that will be on the far left of your screen.

Then click on Packets and the name of the packet for the period we're in (for example, Weeks 01 & 02).

Course Requirements

8 Discussion Boards (80 total points, 16% of final grade)
Due Mondays at 10:00 a.m. eastern time

Messages on a graded discussion board, worth 10 points, must be posted by Monday at 10:00 a.m.

To view a discussion board, click on the Discussion Board link that will be on the far left of your screen.

The question to answer (the 'Opening Question') can be found on the graded board at the beginning of the week, along with instructions for completing board participation.

The 10 points possible on each graded discussion board are based on the following:

6 points for posting a thorough and accurate response to the Opening Question

4 points for posting 2 solid responses to messages posted by other students

In other words a minimum of 3 posts are required on *each* board to be eligible for the full 10 points

It is important that students **post their response to the opening question at least 48 hours before the final board due date.**

In other words, to earn full credit your opening question response should be posted by Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Students who do not post their opening question response by Saturday at 10:00 a.m. will not earn the full 10 points.

Students who miss the Saturday 10:00 a.m. opening question deadline more than once will see an increasing number of points deducted from their board scores.

On all posted messages the key is to demonstrate an understanding of the concept, theory, or issue being discussed.

For example, a discussion board might ask students which classical sociological theorist had the best ideas. While a student is free to select any of the classical theorists as their answer, the explanation must show a good understanding of that theorist's ideas in order to earn full credit.

Also, keep in mind that this is a college course. You might use terms or abbreviations when sending text messages (LOL, btw, u, or i) but to earn full credit requires writing in complete sentences and using correct grammar.

Graded discussion boards are deactivated at the Monday 10:00 a.m. due date.

Posting messages after a board closes Monday at 10:00 a.m. is not possible.

**3 Assignments (180 total points, 36% of final grade)
Due every fourth Monday at 3:00 p.m. eastern time**

A written assignment, worth 60 points, is due Monday at 3:00 p.m. at the start of Weeks 04, 08, and 12.

Because students have several weeks to complete each written assignment late submissions are not accepted.

A student who does not submit an assignment by the due date receives a zero.

Do not wait until the last day to start working on an assignment. Each assignment requires several pages of writing. Make full use of the period that is provided.

Detailed instructions for assignments are explained on each assignment page.

To view an assignment click on the Assignments link that will be to the far left of your screen.

Be sure to save a file of all your assignment answers just in case there is a technical problem when you submit something on the course website.

Save a file of all your work in online courses for the same reason – technical problems can occur.

4 Exams (240 total points, 40% of final grade)

Due every 4th week at 10:00 p.m. eastern time

A 30-question multiple choice exam worth 60 points will be given during Weeks 04, 08, 13, & 16.

Exact due dates for the four exams can be found on this syllabus and in the class calendar.

Exams can only be entered and submitted once.

Do not enter an exam unless you are ready to take and submit it.

Each exam has a 40-minute time limit.

3 points are subtracted for each minute an exam is submitted late.

Each exam will be available for several days so late submissions are not accepted.

Do not wait until the last hour to take an exam, just in case you encounter a technical problem.

A student who does not submit an exam by the due date receives a score of zero.

Grading Scale

A+ 98%-100% 490-500 points	A 90-97% 450-489 points	A- 88-89% 440-449 points
B+ 85-87% 425-439 points	B 80-84% 400-424 points	B- 78-79% 390-399 points
C+ 75-77% 375-389 points	C 70-74% 350-374 points	C- 68-69% 340-349 points
D+ 65-67% 325-339 points	D 60-64% 300-324 points	
	E 0-59% 0-299 points	

Withdrawals & Incompletes

Withdrawal Deadline: November 11 is the last day to withdraw from class. A student who simply stops submitting work—but does not officially withdraw—has not dropped the class and receives a letter grade based on the total amount of points earned.

Late withdrawals are granted only in unusual circumstances, such as a serious long-term health problem that prevents a student from finishing the class. Documentation of the reason for the inability to finish the class (such as a doctor's letter) will be requested.

Incomplete (I) Grades: This online course gives students tremendous flexibility as to when work can be completed. While there are regular deadlines there are no specific days or times when you must be online. Incomplete grades are not given.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, either in the form of cheating or plagiarism (copying from another source) is a serious offense. Because this is an online course it is of the highest importance that students do their own work and complete the course in an honest manner. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a severe consequence—a grade of E in the course, as well as letters being sent to the college Registrar and the appropriate Dean.

Academic dishonesty refers to any activity that is designed to improve a student's grade in a fraudulent manner. It includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Plagiarism, using of another person's work without acknowledgement. For example, *you cannot copy or paraphrase material from a website, the textbook, or another student and submit it as your own.*

- Cheating on an examination (such as copying from another student's work or having someone else assist you while taking an exam).
- Unauthorized acquisition of tests or alteration of grades (such as the theft of tests, test keys, or faculty grade books, as well as the purchasing of tests, test keys, or faculty grade books).
- Permitting another person to take a test in the student's place or receiving unauthorized assistance with any work for which academic credit is received.
- Revision of graded work in an attempt to receive additional credit fraudulently.
- Any other conduct intended to obtain academic credit fraudulently or dishonestly.

Students may be required to provide an on-campus writing sample to verify they are completing their own work.

If a student fails the course due to Academic Dishonesty the professor will notify the student in writing and will also provide copies to the Registrar.

Online Conduct Policy

Students are expected to show respect for the rights of others, the educational mission of the College, and to maintain standards of personal integrity.

Students working online will be held to the same behavioral standards as students in a traditional classroom.

Please be aware that discussions will be observed and reviewed. Students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Personal correspondence should be conducted elsewhere.
- Treat and respect others as you would like to be treated.
- Flaming, an angry series of words or comments used to attack others, is not permitted.
- Review the tone, language, word choice, spelling, and grammar of any correspondence before sending it.
- HFCC's computer use policy is in effect. The policy can be found at <http://www2.hfcc.edu/resources/policy.htm>

- Students are responsible for completing their own course work.

UCompass Support & Instructional Technology

If you require assistance accessing UCompass online courses, please contact someone from HFCC's Instructional Technology department:

Glenn Gaddis
313.845.9759
gagaddis@hfcc.edu

Kristin Olin-Sullivan
313.845.6469
kolin@hfcc.edu

Victoria Signorelli
313.845.6433
signorelli@hfcc.edu

You can also visit Instructional Technology's office on campus: Room 202 in the library (to the right @ the top of the stairs).

Computers @ HFCC

The Media Center, located on the second floor of the library, is an open access computer lab where students can make use of computers in order to work on assignments and papers, access the internet, and check email. The Media Center can be reached at (313) 845-6386.

If you do not have a reliable, high speed internet connection at home, it is strongly recommended that you make use of a computer at HFCC when taking exams in this course. Taking an exam with a dialup—or any other unreliable internet connection—means you risk having the connection lost during the exam and being locked out of the ability to take it.

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Textbook Reading	Discussion Boards	Assignments	Exams
1	Aug 25 to	Sociological Perspective	Chapter 1	Board 01 Due Mon,		

	Sep 4			Sep 12		
2	Sep 5 to Sep 11	Sociological Research	Chapter 2	10:00 a.m.	Assignment 1 Due Mon, Sep 19 3:00 p.m.	Exam 1 Due Sun, Sep 25 10:00 p.m.
3	Sep 12 to Sep 18	Culture, Socialization, & Social Structure	Chapters 3, 4, 5	Board 02 Due Mon, Sep 19 10:00 a.m.		
4	Sep 19 to Sep 25	Exam 1				
5	Sep 26 to Oct 2	Organizations	Chapter 6	Board 03 Due Mon, Oct 3 10:00 a.m.	Assignment 2 Due Mon, Oct 17 3:00 p.m.	Exam 2 Due Sun, Oct 23 10:00 p.m.
6	Oct 3 to Oct 9	Deviance & Crime	Chapters 7 & 8	Board 04 Due Mon, Oct 10 10:00 a.m.		
7	Oct 10 to Oct 16	Social & Global Stratification	Chapters 9 & 10	Board 05 Due Mon, Oct 17 10:00 a.m.		
8	Oct 17 to Oct 23	Exam 2				
9	Oct 24 to Oct 30	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 11	Board 06 Due Mon, Oct 31 10:00 a.m.	Assignment 3 Due Mon,	
10	Oct 31 to Nov	Sex and Gender, Sexuality	Chapters 12 & 13	Board 07 Due Mon, Nov 7 10:00 a.m.		

	6				Nov 14 3:00 p.m.	Exam 3 Due Wed, Nov 23 10:00 p.m.
11	Nov 7 to Nov 13	Government	Chapter 19	Board 08 Due Mon, Nov 14 10:00 a.m		
12	Nov 14 to Nov 20	Health Care	Chapter 20			
13	Nov 21 to Nov 27	Exam 3				
14	Nov 28 to Dec 4	Review				
15	Dec 5 to Dec 11	Review				Exam 4 Due Thur, Dec 15 10:00 p.m.
16	Dec 12 to Dec 18	Exam 4				

Core Course Objectives

A student who successfully completes SOC 131 will be able to:

- A. Introduction to the Sociological Perspective/Imagination
 1. describe what it means to use the sociological perspective.
 2. describe what it means to say that reality is socially constructed.
 3. distinguish between different approaches/theories in sociology.

B. Culture

1. illustrate ways that culture influences human behavior.
2. define and recognize basic components of culture (e.g. values, norms, symbols, language)
3. describe ethnocentrism

C. Social Structure

1. define and illustrate statuses and roles
2. describe characteristics of social structure at the micro level, e.g. social groups
3. describe characteristics of social structure at the macro level, e.g. organizations or social institutions

D. Research Methods

1. describe the characteristics of participant observation/ethnographic methods
2. describe the characteristics of experimental methods
3. describe the characteristics of survey research methods

E. Social Stratification and Social Class Inequality

1. describe social stratification
2. identify social classes in the United States
3. distinguish social stratification from social mobility

F. Gender Inequality

1. distinguish between sex and gender
2. illustrate the process of gender role socialization
3. describe patterns of gender inequality in the United States

G. Racial/Ethnic Inequality

1. distinguish between race and ethnicity
2. identify historical patterns of racial/ethnic inequality
3. identify contemporary patterns of racial/ethnic inequality

H. Critical Thinking Learning Objective*

1. demonstrate the use of a sociological perspective, by explaining and illustrating the application of sociological concepts in the analysis of a reading, video or classroom activity. Introduction to the Sociological Perspective/Imagination
2. describe what it means to use the sociological perspective.