Syllabus, Fall 2015

SOCL 101-P  Introduction to Sociology
Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Course Description: Introduction to sociological concepts, with description and analysis of the structure and dynamics of human society. Consideration of contemporary social institutional trends and of the reciprocal relationship between individuals and institutions. 3 credits (3 lecture hours), fall or spring semester. This course satisfies SUNY General Education requirements for Social Sciences and counts toward Liberal Arts credits for degree conferral.

Course Outcomes:
The chief goal of this class is to teach you the sociological perspective, which involves understanding the connection between self and society. The outcomes of the course for you, the student, will allow you to:

- demonstrate knowledge of dates, events, and places relevant to the origins and history of sociology;
- define major concepts and ideas of sociology;
- write in your own words about the sociological ideas learned in the classroom;
- represent your understanding of the meaning of the sociological perspectives presented in class.

A few of the main concepts which the sociological perspective employs and which we will study in the class are culture, norms, values, structure, conflict, symbols, deviance, community, status, role, social institutions, and globalization. Expected outcomes of the course include, but are not limited to, obtaining demonstrable knowledge of the main concepts and issues that are covered, proving an ability to compare and contrast sociological perspectives and to apply sociological concepts to everyday life, improving skills of critical analysis of your relationship to society, and enhancing information literacy and writing skills. The extent to which these outcomes are obtained will be measured using the evaluation criteria found in the “Grades” section below.

Paired Course
You are part of a paired course. This means you and your fellow students have been hand-chosen by COMP 101 Professor Efimenko and I to participate in a pair of courses that meet back to back in the same room. In these courses our readings and discussions will reflect on both the practice of written communication and expressing the meaning of the sociological perspective. Written reflection will be a major component of the course and your performance will be reviewed comparatively by both Professors. You will receive individual assignments and grades for each class, but thematically we will be covering the same ideas.

Required Books and Resources:
You are responsible for accessing the following FREE resources:


Your textbook is published online for free. The latest version of the book can be found at the link above, in both web-based and in PDF format. Textbook content was produced by OpenStax College and is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License to use the materials contained in this work for any purpose as long as credit is given to the authors. The book is NOT AVAILABLE AT THE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE. **Doing the required readings listed on the course schedule (roughly one to two chapters a week) will tremendously enhance your understanding of the topic of the weekly class sessions.**

- **Electronic reserve articles (online media).** Available on the course website (address at top of page). **These readings can be found on the course website and will be required reading to supplement weekly topics.**

- Notepad, pen/pencil: It is required of you to bring to class some paper for notes and a pen/pencil to take notes. It will be to your benefit to also bring with you the assigned readings for the week and an open mind with questions that contribute to discussion and debate.

Course Website: [http://www.morrisville.edu/sociology](http://www.morrisville.edu/sociology)

Office Location: Crawford Hall 205  
Office Hours: T, R: 10:30-11:20am or by appointment  
e-mail: reymers@morrisville.edu  
web: [http://www.morrisville.edu/sociology](http://www.morrisville.edu/sociology)
Grades:

Attendance and Participation (recorded daily) (10% of final grade)
You are allowed two absences available to you without penalty, but unused absences are credited toward your participation. See the Class Policies section of this syllabus for more information regarding attendance. Participation can involve contributions in class, attending tutoring sessions, seeing me during my office hours to discuss the course, or other behaviors indicating your involvement in the course.

Group Activities (participatory sociology) (10% of final grade)
You will be required to complete at least two group activities during the time of this course. The nature and objective of these activities will be sociological and they will involve role participation investigating social phenomena. Group activities cannot be performed individually or made up after the fact. Several opportunities will exist to participate in group activities.

Online Media (weekly homework assignments) (20% of final grade)
Each week, an online media assignment will be posted on the course website and you must send your individual responses to questions regarding the assignment directly to the professor by email. These questions will be based on supplemental information from the website (they are “open book” questions). Online media will be posted weekly and are generally due Friday at 5pm (see the course schedule). They CANNOT be made up after the due date; there are no exceptions to this rule. They will be graded on a pass/fail (1/0) basis. Your lowest online activity grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Research Assignment (term paper written during the semester) (20% of final grade)
A compilation of your writing assignments during the semester will be gathered into a final portfolio. The portfolio should demonstrate your understanding of the themes of sociology that we are covering in the course. They will be graded on a letter basis. See the “Late Paper” policy section below for late submissions.

Exams (four multiple choice tests spread out through the semester) (40% of final grade)
Three major exams will be given during the course, including a two-part final exam - study weekly with the schedule provided, use the review notes and web materials, and be prepared to get the most out of this portion of your grade. You are NOT allowed to use any books, notes or materials during the exams. You will have the regular class period to complete exams.

Grade Distribution:
10% of grade: Attendance and Participation (recorded daily)
10% of grade: Group Activities (two activities, minimum)
20% of grade: Online Activities (weekly writing assignment; graded pass/fail)
20% of grade: Research Assignment (two letter-graded assignments)
40% of grade: Exams (three exams and a final)

General Percent / Letter / Grade Point Converter:
93 to 105 = A = 4.0
83 to 86 = B = 3.0
73 to 76 = C = 2.0
63 to 67 = D = 1.0
90 to 92 = A = 3.67
80 to 82 = B = 2.67
70 to 72 = C = 1.67
62 and below = F = 0.0
87 to 89 = B+ = 3.33
77 to 79 = C+ = 2.33
68 to 69 = D+ = 1.33
Note: Grade systems for every professor are unique.

Class Policies:
• Attendance: Students should make every attempt to attend all classes. Missing any more than two classes impedes your work and may result in a lower grade. Attendance is taken daily and recorded. The absences allowed are for athletic events, serious and contagious illness or injury, family emergencies, snow days, car accidents, etc. There are no “excused” or “unexcused” absences. It is expected that the absences allowed will satisfactorily cover the cases where absence is necessary. If they do not, please meet with the instructor during his office hours to explain your case. If you have too many absences and would like to have your case considered, please provide documentation of the reason for your absence, including date, evidence and explanation of the absence, in writing (not by e-mail or verbal agreement). As an incentive for good attendance, for each of the absences you are allowed that go unused, you will earn an extra bonus point toward the final grade. Also, if you attend each class before and after the November semester break, one point will be added to your attendance score.

Asking about grades:
Feel free to ask your professor in person about your grade in the course at any point during the semester. However, I will not respond to email messages inquiring about specific grades on semester exams, papers, or (particularly) the final exam. This is due to the fact that email is not a confidential medium.
• **Classroom Norms:** You are attending class in a college classroom designed specifically to help you seek knowledge. *Being on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, etc., playing games, texting and calls from friends or family, eating, sleeping, reading outside material, working on other classes’ assignments, using a laptop computer outside of class purposes, etc., are examples of unacceptable classroom behavior.* Talking in class is ok – however, it should be public, relate directly to the class conversation, should take the form of civilized argument or a relevant question, and should never preempt another speaker (one speaker at a time, please). RESPECT for the space of the classroom (this includes professor and fellow students) and the exercise of SELF-CONTROL is expected from ALL STUDENTS. If the norms of respect are not being observed (for example, if you continually talk to a friend to the point that it disturbs the students around you) the professor reserves the right to take disciplinary action(s) against the offender(s), including but not limited to affecting the grade and the asking you to leave the classroom. Please note that, in general, attendance of college classes is directly correlated to the grades that students receive, despite that it may not be noticeably or regularly enforced. If you want a higher grade, come to class and recognize these guidelines.

• **Tardiness Policy:** Arriving late disrupts the class, as does leaving early. Showing up LATE to class (after I have taken the attendance for the day, which I do on the classroom viewscreen) will earn you an L (late) in the gradebook. Every three instances of tardiness will result in one absence marked on the attendance sheet. People showing up VERY LATE (15 minutes or more), or leaving the classroom during class (with the exception of emergencies or prearranged circumstances only) will be marked as absent for the day.

• **Plagiarism Rule:** Academic honesty promotes continued academic and occupational success. Maintenance of academic honesty and quality education is the responsibility of both faculty and students. Any written assignment (including all electronic media) submitted by a student must be **original authorship.** Representation of another’s work as his or her own shall constitute plagiarism. See the student handbook for more information.

  Plagiarism means theft of intellectual property, obtained from a print or electronic medium. A person has plagiarized if s/he quotes three or more words in sequence from a source and (1) doesn’t use quotation marks (“The quick brown fox…”), or (2) doesn’t identify the source (what is known as “citation”). A person has also plagiarized if s/he records or cites ideas, information, or other material from a source that is not identified, or if the individual paraphrases information from a source that is not acknowledged. The penalty for plagiarism could be failure on the assignment, failure in the course, or even expulsion from the college. **Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse for plagiarism.**

**Late, Make-up Assignment, Extra Credit Policy**

**Exams:** Make-up exams will not be given, unless you make arrangements with me more than **48 hours (2 days)** in advance of the exam. If you miss an exam without making arrangements to make it up, you will receive NO CREDIT for that particular exam.

**Online Media:** You cannot make up *any* online media activities after the due date. There are no exceptions to this rule. Online activities can be submitted at any time before the due date/time. Inability to access the website to complete the activity is NOT a valid excuse for missing an assignment. Be prepared to complete the activity prior to the due date.

**Research Papers:** Research papers will be due as scheduled, but may be turned in up to ONE WEEK after the due date with a penalty of ONE LETTER GRADE (or 10 points on a 100 point scale). No written assignments will be accepted for course credit after the one week late period.

**Extra credit:** I do not give extra credit assignments to individuals – any extra credit will be on a class-wide basis (and there is no guarantee of ANY extra credit assignments in any given semester).

**Students with Learning and/or Physical Challenges**

If you are a student with a documented disability, who wishes to use academic accommodations you should:

1. **Speak with me during the first two weeks of class.** This two-week time frame is to encourage students to arrange accommodations early in the semester. Students with disabilities may arrange accommodations at any point during the semester.

2. **Talk with David Symonds,** Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities to arrange your test accommodations. You may reach him at his office (by appointment please) in the Academic Enrichment Center (in the Library).

3. **Using Test Accommodations:** If you wish to use test accommodations for an exam please speak with me the class before each exam. Doing this will help me accommodate you. All tests must be completed the same day the test is scheduled. Any other arrangements must be made by agreement between the student and the instructor.
# SOCI 101 – Introduction to Sociology, Fall 2015

Course Schedule v.1

Note that this schedule is tentative and subject to change – check the website to find out what changes are made.

http://sociology.morrisville.edu/   > Intro to Sociology   Questions? e-mail reymers@morrisville.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. The Main Concepts of Sociology</th>
<th>II. Sociology Applied: Status and Institution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquire textbook and review course website by Weds.</td>
<td>review Textbook, Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>read Textbook, Chapter 1</td>
<td>do: Online Media #7 due Fri by 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz on Syllabus and Chapter 1, in class Jan 16</td>
<td>* Exam 2: Weds. Oct 21</td>
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| Week 2. Aug 31, Sept 2: Cultural Sociology | |
| read Textbook, Chapter 3 | **Week 10. Oct 26, 28: Social Class and Stratification** |
| do: Online Media #1 due Fri by 5pm | read Textbook, Chapter 9 |

| read Textbook, Chapter 4 | read Textbook, Chapter 11 |
| do: Online Media #2 due Fri by 5pm | do: Online Media #9 due Fri by 5pm |

| Week 4. Sept 14, 16: Role & Social Construction | **Week 12. Nov 9, 11: Sex and Gender Status** |
| read Textbook, Chapter 5 | read Textbook, Chapter 12 |
| do: Online Media #3 due Fri by 5pm | do: Online Media #10 due Fri by 5pm |

| Week 5. Sept 21, 23: Sociological Research | **III. Global Sociology** |
| read Textbook, review Chapter 2 | **Week 13. Nov 16, 18: Global Stratification** |
| do: Online Media #4 due Fri by 5pm | read Textbook, Chapter 10 |

| read Textbook, review Chapter 4 | read Textbook, Chapter 20 |
| do: Online Media #5 due Fri by 5pm | November Break, Nov 24, 25, 26 |

| read Textbook, Chapter 7 | read Textbook, Chapter 20 |
| do: Online Media #6 due Fri by 5pm | |

| October Break, Oct 12, 13 | **Week 15. Weds. Dec 9: Final Exam** |
| **Week 8. Oct 14: Social Groups: Conformity** | |