Syllabus, Spring 2015

SOC 101 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. These credits count towards the Social Sciences (list C) requirements for graduation. This course satisfies SUNY General Education requirements for Social Sciences.

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 by each student will be measured using the evaluation criteria found in the “Grades” section below.

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


Your textbook is published online for free. In addition to getting the latest version of the book from the link above, it is also available in PDF format on the course website. Textbook content produced by OpenStax College is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. This means that you are free 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. 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.

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 readings for the week and an open mind with questions that contribute to discussion and debate.

Course Website: http://www.morrisville.edu/sociology

Office Location: Crawford Hall 205
Office Hours: M, F: 12:30pm-1:20pm
            W: 1:00pm-1:50pm
            T, R: 2:00pm-2:50pm
            or by appointment

e-mail: reymers@morrisville.edu
web: http://www.morrisville.edu/sociology
Grades:

Attendance and Participation (recorded daily) (10% of final grade)
You are allowed three 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.

Online Activities (weekly assignments) (20% of final grade)
Each week, an online activity will be posted on the course website and you must send your responses to questions regarding the information directly to the professor by email. These questions will be based on supplemental information from the website (they are open book questions). Online activities will be posted weekly and are due almost every Friday at 5pm (see the course schedule). They CANNOT be made up after the due date. They will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Your lowest online activity grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Research Assignments (term paper written during the semester) (30% of final grade)
A written report of roughly five pages on sociological research will be assigned during the semester. The report guidelines are designed to enhance research skills and show your understanding of the themes of sociology that we are covering in the course. They will be graded on a letter basis using a rubric (grading system) that will be provided to you with the assignment. 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. The final exam, given on the last two days of class at the end of the semester, will include an exam on the concepts and ideas of sociology, and a second on applying the concepts.

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<tr>
<th>Grade Distribution:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10% of grade: Attendance and Participation (recorded daily)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20% of grade: Online Activities (weekly writing assignment; graded pass/fail)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30% of grade: Research Assignment (two letter-graded assignments)</td>
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<tr>
<td>40% of grade: Exams (three exams and a final)</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<th>General Percent / Letter / Grade Point Converter:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 to 105 = A = 4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>83 to 86 = B = 3.0</td>
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<td>73 to 76 = C = 2.0</td>
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<td>63 to 67 = D = 1.0</td>
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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.

Class Policies:
- Attendance: Students should make every attempt to attend all classes. Missing any more than three 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 or after the semester break(s), one point will be added to your attendance score.
• **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 Activities:** You cannot make up any online 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 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.
# I. The Main Concepts of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

## Week 1. Jan 14, 16: *The Origins of Sociology*
- Acquire textbook and review course website by Weds.
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 1
- *Quiz on Syllabus and Chapter 1, in class Aug 29*

## 2. Jan 19, 21, 23: *Cultural Sociology*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 3
- do: *Online Activity #1 due Fri by 5pm*

## 3. Jan 26, 28, 30: *Socialization*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 4
- do: *Online Activity #2 due Fri by 5pm*

## 4. Feb 2, 4, 6: *Status, Role & Social Construction*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 5
- do: *Online Activity #3 due Fri by 5pm*
  * *Exam 1: Fri. Feb 6*

## 5. Feb 9, 11, 13: *Sociological Research*
- read *Textbook*, review Chapter 2
- do: *Online Activity #4 due Fri by 5pm*

## 6. Feb 16, 18, 20: *Sociological Theory*
- read *Textbook*, review Chapter 4
- do: *Online Activity #5 due Fri by 5pm*

## 7. Feb 23, 25, 27: *Deviance and Nonconformity*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 7
- do: *Online Activity #6 due Fri by 5pm*

## 8. Mar 2, 4, 6: *Social Groups: Conformity*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 6

## 9. Mar 9, 11, 13: *Social Groups: Bureaucracy*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 6
- do: *Online Activity #7 due Fri by 5pm*
  * *Exam 2: Weds. Mar 11*

~ SPRING BREAK Mar 16-20 ~

# II. Sociology Applied: Status and Institution

## 10. Mar 23, 25, 27: *Social Class and Stratification*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 9
- do: *Online Activity #8 due Fri by 5pm*

## 11. Mar 30, Apr 1, 3: *Race and Minority Status*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 11
- do: *Online Activity #9 due Fri by 5pm*

## 12. Apr 6, 8, 10: *Sex and Gender Status*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 12
- do: *Online Activity #10 due Fri by 5pm*
  * *Exam 3: Fri. Apr 10*

## 13. Apr 13, 15, 17: *Global Stratification*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 10

# III. Global Sociology

## 14. Apr 20, 22, 24: *Human Population & Industrialism*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 20

## 15. Apr 27, May 1: *Urbanization & Environment*
- read *Textbook*, Chapter 20

## 16. May 4: Final Exam