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)

Course Objectives and Outcomes:
The chief goal of this class is to teach you the sociological perspective, which ultimately involves making the connection between the story of your self (biography) to the story of society (history). Your objectives as a student of sociology will be to:

- demonstrate knowledge of dates, events, and places relevant to the origins and history of sociology;
- define major concepts and ideas of sociology (see below for examples);
- interpret past and contemporary society using sociological ideas;
- apply the methods of sociological investigation to understanding one’s society;
- recognize the multiple meanings society has for different people;
- and assess the value of theories and ideas presented in the class.

A few of the main concepts which the sociological perspective employs and which we will study in the class are culture, norms, values, deviance, community, status, role, social institutions, globalization. Another goal of the class is to introduce you to how we know what we know – the process of social research. 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 you reach these outcomes will be measured using the evaluation criteria below.

Required Books and Resources:
You are responsible for purchasing the following resources (available at the Campus Store and online):


☞ One package 3 x 5 index cards.

☐ Notebook, college-ruled.

Other photocopied articles and websites may also offer required readings as well, but you will only be responsible for acquiring and paying for the above books. You are also required to bring your books to class when requested, to bring some paper for notes, a pen/pencil, and an open mind with questions that contribute to discussion and debate.
Grades:

Note: You will be able to check your grades continuously on the course webpage to see how you are doing. Just go to the web address, click “Online Grades,” and enter the password you gave me in class.

Attendance (10%)
Ten percent of the grade will be based on your attendance in class. You have three absences available to you without penalty, but unused absences are credited toward your participation. You can also void one absence by attending on the days immediately before and after spring break and on the last day of class. See the Class Policies section for more information regarding attendance.

In-Class “Spirit of Sociology” (SOS) Reading Quick Quizzes (10%)
Ten percent of the grade will be based on in-class “quick quizzes” for which you should have your index cards and your “Spirit of Sociology” (SOS) reader (they are open book quizzes). Quick quizzes cannot be made up after they are given in class.

Writing Assignments (30%)
Three writing exercises will be assigned and graded on a letter basis. Writing assignments are each worth 10% of your final grade. You should follow the guidelines and instructions outlined on the course website under the “Assignments” link.

Exams (50%)
Three exams during the course will be made up of a variety of questions based on the course material covered in the preceding weeks. The first exams test only the material covered since the previous exam, but the final exam is cumulative and worth more than the semester exams. Study early and be prepared! You are not allowed to use any books, notes or materials during the exam. You will have the entire class period to complete your exams. The first two exams are worth 15% and the final exam is 20% of your final grade.

Grade Distribution:

50% of grade: Exams 1 & 2 (15% each); Final Exam (20%)
30% of grade: Writing Assignments (10% each)
10% of grade: Reading Quizzes (aprx. 10)
10% of grade: Attendance (-1 point for every absence over the 3 allowed)

100%

General Percent / Letter / Grade Point Converter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 to 105</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83 to 86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73 to 76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 to 67</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

62 and below = F = 0.0

Note: Grade systems for every professor are unique.

Class Policies:

Class Participation and 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. There is no such thing as an “excused absence.” The three absences allowed are for athletic events, injuries, accidents etc.: it is expected that the three absences allowed will satisfactorily cover these cases. If they do not, please meet with the instructor to explain your case. To be considered for removal at the end of the course, any documented absences must be given to me in writing (not by e-mail or verbal agreement). Repeated tardiness and absences will be reported to the Dean. Your attendance can be reviewed on the course webpage, under the “online grades” link.
Academic Behavior and Honesty

• You are attending class in a college classroom designed specifically to help you seek knowledge. It is not your living room. It is not the lunchroom. Taking cell phone calls or checking text messages, eating, sleeping, reading outside material, working on other classes’ assignments, using a laptop computer, etc., are examples of unacceptable classroom behavior. Talking in class is ok – however, it should 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).

• Note-taking is a strongly encouraged behavior for which you will be rewarded. Note for laptop/cell users: you will be marked absent for the day if you are found to have your laptop computer running or are on your cell phone (even “just checking messages”) during class time, no matter how briefly. The only exceptions are made for bona fide learning disability needs for laptop note-taking. Even if you just doodle in your notebook during class, you should have it open with pen or pencil in hand.

• Arriving late disrupts the class, as does leaving early – anyone showing up more than 15 minutes after the start of class, or leaving the classroom during class (with the exception of emergencies only) will be asked to leave, marked absent, and not be permitted to (re)enter the classroom again that day. Every three instances of tardiness will translate into an absence marked off of your attendance.

• 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…”), and (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 is failure on the assignment (one offense), failure in the course (two offenses), and expulsion from the college (three offenses).

  Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse for plagiarism.

Late/Make-up Assignment Policy

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. You cannot make up any quizzes. 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 Disabilities

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

  1. Speak with me during the first two weeks of class. (The two week time frame is to encourage students to arrange accommodations early in the semester. Students with disabilities may use 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 email him at symondda@morrisville.edu, or visit him (by appointment, please) at the Academic Enrichment Center (Library).

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 to 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.