Sociology 1000: Sociological Principles

“The Stuff of Life”

Fall 2018: August 29-December 10

Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15

Classroom: Classroom Building 129

Professor: Timothy J. (Tim) Nichols, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Wednesdays 8:30-11:30 AM; or by appointment

Office: Arts and Sciences, room 206

Email: tjnichol@uwyo.edu; note: please put “SOC 1000” in subject line of your messages.

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Samuel Brodie

Supplemental Instruction Leader: Carlos Gonzalez

Contact information, timing and location of Supplemental Instruction sessions to be announced.

Course Description: A foundational introduction to the basic principles of Sociology. Topics covered will include social theory, research methods, socialization, deviance, structure, social institutions, and social movements, among other related topics and themes. Our emphasis will be on the personal, practical and ‘real world’ applications of these ideas and concepts. We will endeavor together to develop and enhance our sociological imaginations.

Course Objectives:

As a result of participating in this course, students will:

>Develop foundational understanding of the discipline of Sociology, including social theories, methods, structures, processes, institutions, and other key concepts.

>Demonstrate the ability to apply their Sociological understanding to a range of personal experiences, historical events, and contemporary issues, both locally and globally.

>Reflect on course subject matter, engage material both in an outside class, and enhance their ‘sociological imaginations’ as they go forward.

University Studies Program:

Sociology 1000 fulfills the Human Culture (H) requirement of the University Studies Program, which states that students will understand human behaviors, activities, ideas, and values in different situations and contexts. As such, we will also tend to the outcomes below. Students will:

1. Examine values about human culture and the place of humanity in the world.

2. Explain human ideas and experiences and how those influence societies, human behavior, and human-social interactions.

3. Compare different methods and theories to interpret and explain human events and cultures.

4. Examine the role of diversity in human societies and how diversity impacts global change.

5. Recognize and synthesize multiple perspectives to develop innovative viewpoints.

6. Analyze one’s own and others’ assumptions and evaluate the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.

Text/Required Readings:

Ferris, Kerry and Jill Stein (2018). *The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology.* 6th edition. W.W. Norton, New York.

Additional Materials:

Additional resources, readings, video clips, and web-based information will be posted to the course website, available through WyoWeb.

Students will be responsible for mastery of reading and other posted course materials, not all of which will be explicitly covered during lectures.

Power point lecture slides will be posted/updated on to the course website, typically on a weekly basis. These slides are provided as resources, but are not intended to substitute for lecture attendance.

Students will need a maximum of five blue Accu-Scan sheets to use for quizzes and exams throughout the semester. These are available at the University Bookstore. Students will need a #2 pencil to complete the Accu-Scan sheets.

Supplemental Instruction: Supplemental Instruction (SI) will (tentatively) be provided on a weekly basis throughout the semester. These sessions will be facilitated by a peer student leader and will be designed to enhance students’ understanding of course material. Research indicates that students who regularly attend SI learn more and perform better academically. Your participation in this value-added course supplement is strongly encouraged!

Course Requirements:

Examinations (300):

There will be three (3) 100 point in-class examinations, and one (1) 100 point optional comprehensive final. Exams will include mostly multiple choice and true/false questions. The three exams will take place in class and the final will take place during the university-assigned final exam time. Students are required to bring their university ID to every exam.

* Exams are scheduled for: September 27, October 18, and November 20.
* The final exam is scheduled for: December 17, 10:15 AM-12:15 PM.

Quizzes (50): There will be two in-class quizzes, worth 25 points each. Quizzes will include mostly multiple choice and true/false questions. Students are required to bring their university ID to every quiz.

* Quizzes are scheduled for: September 6 and December 6.

Application Exercises (50): Students will select two (2) of the options below worth 25 points each (50 points total). Application exercises may be submitted throughout the semester; however one must be submitted by October 4, and one by December 11. Late application exercises will not be accepted. These exercises are designed to engage students in the work of sociology and/or the application of key sociological concepts from class.

Descriptions are provided at the end of the syllabus. Students should also be prepared to share the results of their application exercises in class.

Class Participation (50):

Students are expected to attend every class session in order to master the key concepts, and to engage course material with the instructor and their classmates. In-class activities will sometimes be collected as participation points. These will not be announced ahead of time and cannot be made up without approved university absences and prior communication with the instructor.

Course Grading:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Item | Points Possible |
| Exams/Final: 3 @ 100 points each | 300 |
| Quizzes: 2 @ 25 points each | 50 |
| Application Exercises: 2 @ 25 points each | 50 |
| Participation (points taken throughout semester) | 50 |
| Total | 450 |

\*Extra credit opportunities may be presented throughout the semester.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Percentage | Points |
| A | 93-100 | 418-450 |
| A- | 90-92.99 | 405-417 |
| B+ | 87-89.99 | 391-404 |
| B | 83-86.99 | 373-390 |
| B- | 80-82.99 | 360-372 |
| C+ | 77-79.99 | 346-359 |
| C | 73-76.99 | 328-345 |
| C- | 70-72.99 | 315-327 |
| D+ | 67-69.99 | 301-314 |
| D | 60-66.99 | 270-300 |
| F | <59.99 | 0-269 |

Missed/Late Assignments: Missed exams or quizzes and class participation points may not be made up, except in the case of a documented university-excused absence, and when I have been notified and arrangements have been made prior to the absence. Timing for excused absence exams and quizzes will be set by the instructor. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Classroom Environment: With ‘the stuff of life’ topics that we will cover in Sociology 1000, it is essential that we maintain an inclusive, accepting, respectful classroom environment that will help us all learn the subject matter and grow together. This means participating, listening carefully and thoughtfully, and offering your own insights and perspectives.

Academic Honesty: UW Regulations 6-802. The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated. Teachers and students should report suspected violations of standards to the instructor, department head, or Dean. Other university regulations may be found at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/new-regulatory-structure/index.html>.

Accommodations: If you have a physical, learning, sensory or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO room 330 Knight Hall. We will work together to help you be successful.

Class Resources:

Supplemental Instruction (SI):

SI (Supplemental Instruction) is a series of out-of-class study sessions led by a student who has successfully taken the class before.  It's a great way to practice the material and work with other students to learn the content.  SI will be offered in this class this fall, led by Carlos, who will announce days/times in-class early in the semester.

  Generally, 90% of students who attend SI at least 3 times receive a passing grade in the class.  For students who do not attend SI, 69% receive a passing grade.  What does this mean for you? SI makes a difference in grades, and works best if you attend the whole semester, not just before exams. I encourage you to take advantage of this valuable resource!

Tentative Course Schedule

August 30 Introduction (1-2)

September 4 & 6 Theory, Research, Culture (1-3)

 Quiz 1 September 6

September 11 & 13 Self and Society (4)

September 18 & 20 Social Groups (5)

September 25 & 27 Deviance (6)

 Exam 1 September 27

October 2 & 4 Social Class (7)

 October 4: Deadline for submitting first application exercise

October 9 & 11 Race/Ethnicity (8)

October 16 & 18 Gender and Sexuality (9)

 Exam 2 October 18

October 23 & 25 Politics, Education and Religion (10)

October 30 & November 1 Work (11)

November 6 & 8 Family (12)

November 13 & 15 Health (14)

November 20 Exam 3

November 22 Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27 & 29 Populations and Everyday Life (13, 15)

December 4 & 6 Social Movements (16)

 Quiz 2 December 6

December 11 Course review, application presentations, and evaluations

 December 11: Deadline for submitting second application exercise

December 17 Optional final comprehensive exam (10:15 AM – 12:15 PM)

Teaching and learning is a dynamic process! As such, I may need to make changes to the course schedule as the semester unfolds. These changes will be announced in class and posted to the course website.

SOCIOLOGY 1000 Fall, 2018, Nichols

APPLICATION EXERCISES EXPLANATION

From the syllabus…

Application Exercises (50): Students will select two (2) of the options below worth 25 points Each (50 points total). Application exercises may be submitted throughout the semester; however two must be submitted by October 4 and one by December 11. These exercises are designed to engage students in the work of sociology and/or the application of key sociological concepts from class.

Brief descriptions are provided below, along with rubrics for each assignment option. Students should also be prepared to share the results of their application exercises in class. Students should consult the instructor as suggested below and any time they have questions as they approach, plan for and execute their application exercises.

**Application Exercise Options:**

* + Think Piece: For this exercise, you will be required to write a three-page essay in which you apply one or more sociological concepts (e.g. conflict theory, gender, deviance, work, etc.) to your personal life experiences.

Rubric for Think Piece

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points Possible |  |
| Think piece demonstrates understanding of sociological concept under examination. | 10 |  |
| Relevant information from text and other sources provided on topic for think pieces | 5 |  |
| Personal connections and examples provided  | 5 |  |
| Well organized and written | 5 |  |
| Total | 25 |  |

* + Film/Play/Book/Television Sociological Review: For this assignment you will be required to write a three-page essay in which you review a favorite film, play, book, or television show from a sociological perspective.

Sociological Review of Film/Play/Book/Television

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points Possible |  |
| Review provides concise summary of film/play/book/TV show under examination | 5 |  |
| Analysis includes sociological dimension, and makes multiple connections to sociological topics and class themes. | 10 |  |
| Review demonstrates understanding of key concepts and connections to piece under review | 5 |  |
| Well organized and written | 5 |  |
| Total | 25 |  |

* + Social Event Attendance and Analysis: For this assignment, you will be required to attend a social event (e.g. family gathering, college party, athletic competition) and observe it from a sociological perspective. This is your chance to practice observation research! You will submit a three page essay encompassing your sociological analysis of the experience.

Rubric for Social Event Attendance and Analysis

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points Possible |  |
| Event is of appropriate size, scope, and venue | 5 |  |
| Analysis of event includes sociological dimension, and makes multiple connections to sociological topics and class themes. | 10 |  |
| Essay provides detailed ‘thick description’ of event | 5 |  |
| Essay is well written and organized, and includes discussion of group members’ contributions | 5 |  |
| Total | 25 |  |

* + Current Event Report and Analysis: For this assignment, you will be required to review a current event from a respected news source and to analyze this event from sociological perspective. Consider what would sociologists have to say about this contemporary piece of news or current event? You will submit a three page essay encompassing your sociological analysis of the current event.

Rubric for Current Event Analysis

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points Possible |  |
| Review provides concise summary of appropriate news event, including sources of information | 5 |  |
| Analysis of event includes sociological dimension, and makes multiple connections to sociological topics and class themes. | 10 |  |
| Review demonstrates understanding of key concepts and connections to piece under review | 5 |  |
| Well organized and written | 5 |  |
| Total | 25 |  |

* + Sociological Mask: Construct a mask (literally) that reflects your sociological identity. Incorporate class concepts and your personal experiences. Be creative and inclusive. Include a brief paper (two pages) that explains your mask.

Rubric for Sociological Mask

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points Possible |  |
| Sociological mask is presented in thoughtful, creative way | 5 |  |
| Mask includes sociological components and makes multiple connections to sociological topics and class themes. | 10 |  |
| Mask conception and construction reflects significant academic and artistic effort  | 5 |  |
| Accompanying paper is well organized and written | 5 |  |
| Total | 25 |  |

* + Service Learning Project (team or individual exercise, up to four participants): For this assignment, you will be required to contribute a minimum of two hours of service to an approved community agency or program. In addition, you will submit a written summary of your experience and reflect upon it from a sociological perspective. Note: students interested in this experience should meet with the instructor to obtain approval and guidance prior to their experience. *Of further note, if students/teams do not appropriately fulfill their service obligations to partner agencies, as determined by agency personnel and course instructor, this experience will not be eligible for use for class credit.*

Rubric for Service Learning Project

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Points Possible |  |
| Concise summary of appropriate service experience | 5 |  |
| Analysis of service experience includes sociological dimensions, and makes multiple connections to sociological topics and class themes. | 10 |  |
| All obligations to service agency are performed in meaningful and appropriate ways | 5 |  |
| Accompanying essay is well organized and written | 5 |  |
| Total | 25 |  |