

S0CL 100: INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

John Musalia

Summer: July 2015 Online Course.

General Contact: Use BlackBoard - Discussion Board "Q & A" forum for course questions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Sociology is the scientific discipline that studies how social groups influence human action and interaction. We will learn the methods of inquiry sociologists utilize to examine the influence of gender, race, class, region of the country, and type of community, on an individual's values, behavior, and expectations. Students will explore the difference and similarities among cultures within the United States and the world. We will focus on the contribution of social institutions like family, education, the economy, and the polity make in shaping a society's knowledge. Through discussion of these sociological issues the course will enable you to think critically about the social world in which we live.

This course fulfills part II of the Explorations section of the Colonnade (Social and Behavioral Sciences) general education requirement. Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- a. Explain the theoretical perspectives and research methodologies used in Sociology.
- b. Illustrate how an individual's race, class, and gender affect his/her experiences in the social world.
- c. Explain the role of social institutions such as the family, education, the economy, religion and the polity in shaping our experiences in society.

Specifically, at the end of this course you should:

1. Be familiar with the central concerns and key concepts of Sociology
2. Think sociologically about personal experiences and public issues,
3. Be sensitive to social and cultural influences upon human activities and opinions,
4. Understand that social issues can be explained from multiple perspectives, rather than from a single point of view,
5. Take a position on a social issue and to convincingly justify that position,
6. Realize that learning, knowing, and understanding involve critical thinking and its application, rather than simply memorizing facts and definitions.

REQUIRED TEXT/MATERIALS:

Shepard, Jon. 2013. Sociology (11th edition). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Used texts might be found at www.half.com or www.amazon.com.

PC: You should have a modern computer with consistent internet access. You should also have storage facilities such as USB or other storage media that you can use to store your class documents.

Teaching Methods:

- Lectures: We will use “On-Demand” lectures, which you can view and listen to whenever and wherever you want and as often as you want. The e-Lectures will be used to introduce chapter material, define terms, relate information etc.
- Exams: You will have a total of five tests in the course. Considering that this is a three week class, you should expect to digest a lot of information within a short time. You will be examined after every three chapters. To be clear, Test 1 will cover materials from Chapters 1-3; Test 2 will cover materials from Chapters 4-6; Test 3 will cover materials from Chapters 7-9; Test 4 will cover materials from Chapter 10-12 and Test 5 will cover Chapters 13, 15 & 17. See the schedule below for details. **Exams will be open from 8am – 11 pm on test dates.** No extension will be allowed beyond the times specified. You will only be allowed to take the test once so you have to be sure you have mastered the material before taking the test.

Study Tip: Here is a study tip from a former student. I quote him verbatim. “This is what I do for studying, I read the chapter for the day and highlight anything that at that point and time I feel is important. Then I print out the slides for the particular chapter and listen to the eLecture while making notes in my slides. I then try and answer the practice review questions on my own and double check my answers afterwards. After listening to the eLecture and doing the review questions I go back to the book and highlight the information that I missed the first time around. I review all of my highlighted portions of the book and Powerpoint before the test. So far this has really worked well for me.” Tad Phelps, 2012.

Internet: All material will be distributed on the Internet. Class notes, instructional material, and exams will be posted on Blackboard. Students are responsible for their own Internet access. Your professor cannot troubleshoot connections or computer problems for you. The class website can be found at <https://blackboard.wku.edu>.

Grading: Your grade is earned through your performance on exams. As the instructor, I only record the grade that you have earned.

The following will be your grade distribution:

- Exams (5 of them) 100 points each.
- Grade distribution will be as follows:

A = 90.00 – 100.00%	C = 70.00 – 79.99%
B = 80.00 – 89.99%	D = 60.00 – 69.99%, Else F

Examinations: Exams will be completed using the testing capabilities of the Blackboard learning management system and will consist of multiple choice questions. Students must take the exam at the scheduled date/time. Exams will be timed – giving well-prepared students ample time to

answer all questions. Exams are scored immediately upon completion – no waiting in suspense to see how well you did.

Class Attendance/Participation: There is limited “class attendance” in the traditional sense of the word. Students are free to manage their own schedules within the due-dates of the various deliverables.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and **will** result in an F for the course. For more information, refer to the "Academic Dishonesty" policy in the University Catalog.

Class Schedule: For your convenience, a tentative class schedule has been prepared and is located at the end of this document. It is recommended that you print and post a few copies in places where you will logically refer to them (e.g., on the refrigerator, at the office, a copy in your car, etc.). Deliverables are noted in bold. Changes to the calendar may be made to accommodate the class. Such changes will be formally announced on Blackboard. If a change is made, please immediately update your schedule(s).

E-Mail Formatting: E-mail is the most common way for students to contact me. For ease of identification, your email should be formatted as:

Subject: Socl 100, *YourLastName*, *A Brief Subject Statement*

Example: Soc 100, Musalia, A question about next week’s deliverable

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

This is an introduction to Sociology, online course, concentrated into 3 weeks. Research indicates that **learners** prefer focusing upon subjects within *short* time frames. This can facilitate a strong immersion into the material, but there are costs. By more than “doubling up” on the schedule, you must be willing to devote a lot of your time and energy to this concentrated course during these weeks.

This schedule indicates the days each chapter is covered and exam dates. You may have questions about the schedule, the tests, or other things relating to this concentrated Online Socl 100 course. I will be glad to respond to you on the “Q and A” Discussion Board forum. The question you have may be of interest to your colleagues.

KEY to the schedule

“Ch” stands for Chapter - indicating that you need to read that chapter. *I strongly advise you to read ahead considering the compressed nature of the course.*

JULY 2015

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday						
	6 Read Ch. 1	7 Read Ch. 2	8 Read Ch. 3	9 Test 1	10 Read Ch. 4	11 Read Ch. 5
12 Read Ch. 6	13 Test 2	14 Read Ch. 7	15 Read Ch. 8	16 Read Ch. 9	17 Test 3	18 Read Ch. 10
19 Read Ch. 11	20 Read Ch. 12	21 Test 4 Start reading Ch.13	22 Read Ch.15	23 Read Ch. 17	24 Test 5	

Caveat: Just so that you know that there is a possibility that I may need to make modification to this syllabus and if that happens, I will let you know of such changes by posting a notice under ANNOUNCEMENTS on our Blackboard site.