

# Introduction to Sociology

West Los Angeles College  
Department of Sociology  
Online Course  
Sociology 001: Section 8134  
Spring Term 2015

Instructor,  
Professor Nori Henk  
henknj@wlaac.edu  
Online Office Hours:  
Tuesday 12:00 PM-1:00 PM  
(Or by appt.)

## **Course Description:**

This online course is designed to familiarize students with core subjects and concepts found within the field of sociology. You are required to be put in a total of 6 hours and 30 minutes each week, which will include online lectures, textbook reading, online assignments, and exams. Moreover, this course is an invitation to students to explore social problems, social diversity, social change, in particular, with a critical thinking approach. Finally, this course fulfills the Social and Behavioral Science General Education requirement for the Associate Degree.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

- Recall and define sociological terms and concepts to use in the analysis of social institutions such as the family, religion, politics, economics and healthcare.
- Describe, compare and contrast major theoretical perspectives in sociology such as Functionalism, Conflict Theory and Interactionism.
- Describe and apply theories of social stratification including those that address social inequality based on factors such as race, gender, ethnicity and social class.

## Required Reading

I expect you to complete all of the assigned readings on the day the chapter is first scheduled, as class discussion depends on your having read the material. You will read one to two chapters a week. Each chapter should take between 30-60 minutes to complete. It is advised to take notes while reading. The following book is required reading for this course and you can find it at the West Los Angeles College bookstore:

Sullivan, Thomas. 2009. *Sociology: Concepts and Applications in a Diverse World*. Boston: Pearson (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.)

You will also be required to read articles online. The links to these articles will be posted on the course website.

## Lectures and Lecture Based Assignments

- Expect to read and listen to Lectures once or twice a week. Each lecture is roughly 30 minutes each and are connected to Lecture Based Assignments, which are meant to be done as you are listening/reading the lecture. These may include a writing response or exercise. These assignments are to prepare you further for the exam, and often will complement assigned readings. The Lectures can be found in the **Module** section and the Lecture Based Assignments in the **Assignments, Tests and Surveys** section. Please see due dates to see when lectures and related assignments are due. However, I do allow some wiggle room (no more than a week) to get the assignments done. **Pay attention to the due dates and time of submission so as not to be penalized. Your first Lecture Based Assignment is due by Tuesday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM. If you wish to complete the course by June 7<sup>th</sup>, follow the course schedule as posted below.** It is advised that you take notes while reading/listening to the lecture. Each lecture and its related assignment should take 1 hour to complete.

## Online Assignments

There are two primary *Online Assignments*, discussion boards and your “everyday” blog.

- You will participate in online discussion through the discussion board. You will be graded on your post to the discussion topic as well as at least two responses to another student’s post. You must submit **ONE** post for each discussion topic (about one page long) and **TWO** responses to another person’s post on each discussion topic (about a paragraph) each week (See Calendar Below). Each post is worth 10 points and each response is worth 2.5 points, and should take approximately 1 hour to complete.
  - Due Dates: the course schedule below indicates when assignments are due. There is no wiggle room to get the discussion posts and responses done since your classmates’ responses are dependent on the timeliness of your posts. **Pay attention to the due dates and time of submission so as not to be penalized. Your first discussion post is due by Saturday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM**
- You will have four blogs that will be your own posts, that only the instructor will see, about what you observed in your everyday life and how it is directly related to the assigned reading. Posts should be about one page long (20 points each). You must submit a blog entry **ONCE** every four-five weeks. (See calendar below). Each blog should take approximately 1 hour to complete
  - Due Dates: the course schedule below indicates when assignments are due. However, I do allow some wiggle room (no more than a week) to get the assignments done. **Pay attention to the due dates and time of submission so as not to be penalized. Your first blog is due by Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59 PM.** If you wish to complete the course by Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, follow the course schedule.

\*As you are expected to be in class, be respectful and courteous in your online discussions\*

## Exams

- Three non-cumulative exams will be given based on lectures, in class readings and assigned readings from *Sociology: Concepts and Applications in a Diverse World*. They are open book and timed exams (one hour), and should be completed alone. No group work, if you are caught working with another person on the exam, you will receive a failing grade. Exams will consist of true and false questions, multiple-choice questions.
- Due Dates: **Pay attention to the due dates and time of submission so as not to receive a 0.** Your first exam must be completed by Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM. If you wish to complete the course by June 7<sup>th</sup>, follow the course calendar.

## Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please email me as soon as possible.

## Class Policies

- Expect to read every module and to turn in your assignments in on the due date (by 11:59 PM of the day it is due). You may turn in work any time up to the due date. Every Friday, the next week's work will be available to you.
- Late assignments will incur a deduction of a full grade for each day after the due date. If there is a legitimate excuse for late work such as an extreme situation, please contact the instructor immediately.
- Plagiarism (defined as: copying, paraphrasing or summarizing someone else's words without proper citation of the source and/or using someone else's ideas as your own) will result in failure of the assignment. Cheating in any form is not tolerated and will result in failure of the exam or quiz (multiple cases will result in the failure of the course.)
- No make-ups for exams will be allowed unless there is an extreme situation. Please contact the instructor immediately if such an occasion arises. If you know that you will miss an exam, or if you have a documented excuse for missing an exam, please let me know *beforehand*, so that we can make arrangements. If you are absent without a documented excuse and have not completed the exam, you will receive a "zero" for that exam.

Learning Activity	Points	Percentage of Total Grade
Lecture Based Assignments	120	24%
Discussion Posts	80	16%
Discussion Responses	40	8%
Everyday Blog	80	16%
Exam #1 (online)	40	12%
Exam #2 (online)	40	12%
Exam #3 (online)	40	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100%</b>

Point Scale	Percentage Scale	Absolute Grade
394-440	90-100	A
350-393	80-89	B
305-349	70-79	C
262-304	60-69	D
0-261	0-59	F

### Meaning of Grades

A=Completion of all assigned work and shows superior understanding of course material

B=Completion of all assigned work and shows full understanding of course material

C=Partial to full completion of all assigned work and shows some to full understanding of course material

D=Partial completion of all assigned work and shows some understanding of course material

F=No completion to partial completion of all assigned work and shows little to some understanding of course material

(Note: online grades are computed in total (What you have done is divided by the total possible points in the class, 500 points). If you want to know your exact grade, add up your actual points accumulated and divide by the possible points for the work you have actually completed.)

## Schedule of Readings, Lectures, Assignments and Exams

### **Week One**

- (Tues) Feb 10 – *Discussion Board Topic: Introduce Yourself*  
**Lecture 1: Introduction and Lecture Based Assignment 1**  
(Sat) Feb 14 – *Discussion Board Post #1*

### **Week Two**

- (Tues) Feb 17 –  
**Lecture 2: What is Sociology? and Lecture Based Assignment 2**  
Ch. 1: What Is Sociology?
- (Sat) Feb 21 –  
**Lecture 3: Culture, Society and Diversity and Lecture Based Assignment 3**  
Ch. 2: Culture, Society and Diversity

### **Week Three**

- (Tues) Feb 24 – *Discussion Board Post #2*  
(Sat) Feb 28 –  
**Lecture 4: Socialization and Lecture Based Assignment 4**  
Ch. 3: Socialization

### **Week Four**

- (Tues) March 3 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #1 and #2*  
*Blog Entry #1*  
(Sat) March 7 –  
**Lecture 5: Groups and Organizations and Lecture Based Assignment 5**  
Ch. 4: Groups and Organizations

### **Week Five**

- (Tues) March 10 – **Exam #1**  
(Sat) March 14 –  
**Lecture 6: Deviance, Crime and Social Control and Lecture Based Assignment 6**  
Ch. 5: Deviance, Crime and Social Control

### **Week Six**

- (Tues) March 17 –  
**Lecture 7: Social Stratification and Social Inequality and Lecture Based Assignment 7**  
Ch. 6: Social Stratification and Social Inequality  
(Sat) March 21 – *Discussion Board Post #3*

### **Week Seven**

- (Tues) March 24 – *Discussion Board Post #4*  
(Sat) March 28 –  
**Lecture 8: Social Inequality: Race and Ethnicity and Lecture Based Assignment 8**  
Ch. 7: Social Inequality: Race and Ethnicity

### **Week Eight**

- (Tues) March 31 – NO CLASS  
(Sat) April 4 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #3 and #4*  
*Blog Entry #2*

## **Week Nine: SPRING BREAK**

### **Week Ten**

(Tues) April 14 – *Discussion Board Post #5*

(Sat) April 18 –

**Lecture 9: Social Inequality: Gender and Lecture Based Assignment 9**

Ch. 8: Social Inequality: Gender

### **Week Eleven**

(Tues) April 21 – *Discussion Board Post #6*

(Sat) April 25 – **Exam #2**

### **Week Twelve**

(Tues) April 28 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #5-6*

(Sat) May 2 –

**Lecture 10: Family and Human Sexuality and Lecture Based Assignment 10**

Ch. 9: Family and Human Sexuality

### **Week Thirteen**

(Tues) May 5 – *Blog Entry #3*

(Sat) May 9 – *Discussion Board Post #7*

### **Week Fourteen**

(Tues) May 12 –

**Lecture 11: Religion and Lecture Based Assignment 11**

Ch. 11: Religion

(Sat) May 16 –

**Lecture 12: Education and the Mass Media and Lecture Based Assignment 12**

Ch. 12: Education and the Mass Media

### **Week Fifteen**

(Tues) May 19 – *Discussion Board Post #8*

(Sat) May 23 –

**Lecture 13: Politics and Economic Institutions and Lecture Based Assignment 13**

Ch. 13: Politics and Economic Institutions

### **Week Sixteen**

(Tues) May 26 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #7-8*

(Sat) May 30 –

*Blog Entry #4*

### **Week Seventeen**

(Tues) June 2 – **Exam #3**

\* This syllabus may be subject to change if needed. You will be given advanced notice of any changes.