

Introduction to Sociology

West Los Angeles College
Department of Sociology
Online Course
Sociology 001: Section 8159
Fall Term 2013

Instructor,
Professor Nori Henk
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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.

Course Objectives:

- To grasp a basic understanding of and confidence in sociology
- To articulate sociological ideas in an informed and logical way
- To develop skills of group collaboration and persuasive speaking
- To establish sociological perspectives of self and others
- To reconsider personal views of the world in light of your newly achieved sociological perspective

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 (8th 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, Oct. 22nd at 11:59 PM. If you wish to complete the course by Dec 15th, 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 Tuesday, Oct 22nd at 11:59 PM**
- Your “everyday” blog 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 what you have learned in class or through your reading. Posts should be about one page long (20 points each). You must submit a blog entry **ONCE** every two 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 Saturday, Nov 2nd at 11:59 PM.** If you wish to complete the course by Dec 16th, 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 Saturday, Nov 9th at 11:59 PM. If you wish to complete the course by Dec 15th, 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%
Total	440	100%

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) Oct 22 – *Discussion Board Post #1*

Lecture 1: Introduction and Lecture Based Assignment 1

Ch. 1: What Is Sociology?

(Sat) Oct 26 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #1*

Lecture 2: What is Sociology? and Lecture Based Assignment 2

Ch. 2: Culture, Society and Diversity

Week Two

(Tues) Oct 29 – *Discussion Board Post #2*

Lecture 3: Culture, Society and Diversity and Lecture Based Assignment 3

Ch. 3: Socialization

(Sat) Nov 2 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #2*

Blog Entry #1

Lecture 4: Socialization and Lecture Based Assignment 4

Week Three

(Tues) Nov 5 – *Discussion Board Post #3*

Lecture 5: Groups and Organizations and Lecture Based Assignment 5

Ch. 4: Groups and Organizations

(Sat) Nov 9 – **Exam #1**

Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #3

Ch. 5: Deviance, Crime and Social Control

Week Four

(Tues) Nov 12 – *Discussion Board Post #4*

Lecture 6: Deviance, Crime and Social Control and Lecture Based Assignment 6

Ch. 6: Social Stratification and Social Inequality

(Sat) Nov 16 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #4*

Lecture 7: Social Stratification and Social Inequality and Lecture Based Assignment 7

Ch. 7: Social Inequality: Race and Ethnicity

Week Five

(Tues) Nov 19 – **Lecture 8: Social Inequality: Race and Ethnicity and Lecture Based Assignment 8**

Discussion Board Post #5

Ch. 8: Social Inequality: Gender

(Sat) Nov 23 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #5*

Blog Entry #2

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

Week Six

(Tues) Nov 26 – **Exam #2**

Discussion Board Post #6

Ch. 9: Family and Human Sexuality

(Sat) Nov 30 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #6*

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

Ch. 11: Religion

Week Seven

(Tues) Dec 3 – *Discussion Board Post #7*

Blog Entry #3

Lecture 11: Religion and Lecture Based Assignment 11

Ch. 12: Education and the Mass Media

(Sat) Dec 7 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #7*

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

Ch. 13: Politics and Economic Institutions

Week Eight

(Tues) Dec 10 – *Discussion Board Post #8*

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

(Sat) Dec 14 – *Discussion Responses to Discussion Board Post #8*

Blog Entry #4

Exam #3

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