**SOCIOLOGY 1 – Introduction to Sociology at Los Angeles Valley College**

**Course # 1186 Winter 2017**

Professor: Robert Wonser

Class Time and Place: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 11:00 am - 1:35 pm Room: BSC 103

Office Hours: Mon/Wed: by appointment only

Office: BSC 111b

**Email:** [**wonserrg@lavc.edu**](mailto:rgwonser@gmail.com)

**Website for course materials and updates: http://cheerfulrobot.com/Intro\_to\_Sociology.html**

**\* Important Note: This course outline is tentative. It can and even may change as the semester progresses. Some lectures will go longer than others or anticipated. It is your job to attend class regularly as these changes will be announced verbally in class.**

This class will serve as your introduction to the discipline of Sociology; you are in for a treat! Sociology is the best subject! Literally, it is the best. I am not kidding; the best. Everything you are interested in, sociology has something to offer. We'll look at some fascinating topics in this class including (but not limited to) the big three: race, class and gender. But there is so much more. Using your newly discovered sociological imagination everything you knew is open for scrutiny and the mundane becomes extraordinary. Enjoy!

**Required Text:**

*Thirty Readings in Introductory Sociology, Second Edition* Edited by Kenneth A. Gould Sutherland and Tammy Lewis. ISBN: 0190277602. Available in the bookstore or online.

**Recommended Text:**

*Free Text* Available here: http://www.canyons.edu/faculty/wonserr/Intro\_to\_Soc.htm

The free open source textbook is on the course website listed above. This text is not required for success in this course; it is useful and helpful; hence recommended but not necessary.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have the: Ability to use a societal framework in order to analyze any given situation rather than an individual analysis.

**Course Description:**

Students examine the social behavior of human beings and organization of society including subjects such as culture, deviance, sexuality, media, social stratification, and the institutions of the family, religion, education, politics, and the economy.

This course is applicable towards CSU GE area D - IGETC area 4.

Prerequisite: None.

Recommended: English 28, English 363, or placement into English 101.

**Course Presentation:**

This course will utilize lectures, discussions and films throughout the semester. Exam questions will come from all three sources. Additionally, there will be project(s) assigned pertaining to course material. Details will be discussed later in the session.

**Course Requirements:**

Attendance is imperative for success in this class. I trust you all are responsible students and this won’t be a problem. Therefore, *missing more than three classes may result in the lowering of one letter grade*. Reading the textbook is also important; assigned readings must be done by the day in which they are posted on the syllabus. Grades will be based on the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Points Possible | Points you Earned: |
| Assignment: Doing Nothing | 30 |  |
| Assignment: The Other Me | 30 |  |
| Participation in class | 15 |  |
| Final Project | 75 |  |
| Exam 1 | 50 |  |
| Exam 2 | 50 |  |
| Final Exam | 50 |  |
| **Total** | **300** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 300** |

**DISCUSSION DISCLAIMER**

I encourage class discussions, however, sociology deals with issues people hold strong opinions about. At all times we must have an environment conducive to learning, therefore, everyone will have respect for each others ideas. Along with this comes the recognition that our own views may not be the only or correct views about these issues. Please be respectful to your fellow classmates as well as the instructor. We will engage in frequent in class discussions which are meant to encourage dialogue about course materials, NOT debates. You are sharing *sociological analyses* and interpretations, not trying to prove yourself right and others wrong.

**GENERAL GUIDELINES ABOUT THE COURSE**

In this course you will be expected to keep up with your attendance, readings and class assignments. It is your job to come to class everyday, read ALL of your assigned readings (on time) and pay attention and participate in class discussions. Doing so will ensure yours and the rest of the class’ learning experience is optimal. It is also you responsibility to keep up with your grade throughout the course. DO NOT wait until the end of the semester to panic about your grade and inquire about extra credit. *I cannot stress this enough; if you do not plan to take this course seriously then I urge you to strongly consider dropping this course.*

**CLASS CONDUCT**

Any behavior that is rude, distracting or disrespectful in any way to anyone in the class (including me) will NOT be tolerated! To make sure we are clear this includes all of the following (and anything else related that I forgot to mention); NO: iPods, cell phones (texting, talking, playing games, internet whatever), no laptops (unless for the sole purpose of taking notes – you must run this past me before using), no arriving late (once or twice is ok, after that it will become a problem and you will have to talk with me about it), no leaving early, no packing up before the class is dismissed, no studying/reading for another class, no talking with your neighbor, and sleeping etc. Please note this list does not include everything possible. Use common sense and common courtesy. If you don’t want to be here then don’t come; there are other students who would like to have your spot.

NO ‘packup gaming’ either!

**Email Tips:**

I teach several sections of this course, therefore, when emailing me please do include the following:

* Your name
* section number and meeting time (e.g. T/TH 7-8:15)
* an appropriate subject in the subject line (e.g. questions about Marx)

Please expect **up to 72 hours** for an e-mail response. I’m available through email Monday through Friday during business hours (not on weekends). I encourage you to exchange contact information with at least two other students in the class. It is your responsibility to find out what you miss in the event of an absence.

**Participation**

Participation accounts for 15 points towards your final grade, while this may not seem like a lot it is often the difference between letter grades. More importantly, this class is discussion based. It works better when more people contribute and you learn more through discussion than through passive listening alone. 15 out of 15 in participation points is for the person who attends regularly and contributes *meaningfully* to the discussion. These are not random comments or stories that detract from learning but rather insightful comments that enhance learning. Disruptive behavior bodes negatively for your participation grade.

**Grading System:**

Final grades will be based on the following breakdown. There will be no curve. Additionally, there is no haggling over your grade. The grade you get will be the grade you earn. Please do not wait until after grades are posted to ask me about an issue. I will do my best to return your papers and exams in a timely fashion so you will have access to the same information concerning your grade that I do (do hold onto these returned papers and exams until after the semester ends). I am always free during the semester to assist you in any way.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| If you scored between: | Then you earned an: |
| 269 - 300 | A |
| 239 - 268 | B |
| 209 - 238 | C |
| 179 - 208 | D |
| 178 and below | F |

**Exam Format:**

There will be three exams in this class, two mid-terms and one final. Material covered in **class readings, films and lectures** will be on these exams. The final will be non-cumulative. Exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false. You will need a scantron form 882E.

*\* Note: If you do not attend class regularly I can almost assure you will not perform well on these exams.*

***There will be no make-up exams***. If you know in advance that you will not be able to take the exam on exam day let me know ahead of time and we will make arrangements for you to take it an earlier date during office hours. Students must give advance notice if an exam schedule conflicts with other obligations.  Should a student not be able to take a test on the scheduled date, the examination may involve an alternate evaluation technique, such as an oral exam.  Note, forgetting an exam is not considered a valid reason for missing an exam. Additionally, as soon as the first person leaves the room I will no longer allow anyone to start, because the questions are then out in public circulation.

**Assignment Policy:**

All work in this course must be your own. They are to be worked on independently and individually.

Unless noted otherwise, all assignments are to be submitted *by the* assigned due date (early is ok) to me in person. **Absolutely NO LATE PAPERS will be accepted**. There are no excuses for late papers. You can always turn them in early, but not late. Additionally, there is no emailing of assignments. If by some chance I allow you to email me an assignment it will be subjected to the email penalty (10% deduction).

* Always retain graded assignments and exams just in case!

**Course Assignments:**

The class will have two papers due throughout the semester at the beginning of class. They are listed in the syllabus. Assignments will be due at the beginning of class the day listed on the syllabus. Essays will be approximately 750-1,000 words (3-4 double spaced pages) in length (unless specified otherwise in the assignment!), 12-pt Times New Roman (or similar) font, 1” margins and double-spaced.

You will not be getting physical handouts on these but the guidelines will be available on the course website listed above for download.

**→** I highly encourage you to format your paper the way the guidelines are presented. That is, if there are three parts to the handout, your paper should have the corresponding three parts. Every question asked of you in the handout should be addressed in the paper. Don't lose crucial points by not addressing them and labeling them in your paper.

**Cheating Policy:**

Plagiarism is the use of others' words and/or ideas without clearly acknowledging their source. When you incorporate those words and ideas into your own work, you must give credit where it is due. Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is considered academic dishonesty and is not tolerated. Anyone found to be plagiarizing or cheating on assignments will (1) receive a zero on the assignment and (2) be referred to the VP of Student Services for further disciplinary action, following due process.

For further info on plagiarism go to the Writing Center website: www.lavc.edu?WCweb/plagiarism.html and the college website:

www.lavc.edu/catalog/policies.pdf and refer to the STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND

DISCIPLINARY ACTION in the current Schedule of Classes and Catalog.

**Citations:**

Always cite your sources! There’s no excuse not to give credit through citations *in the text* (Wonser 2015) **and** *at the end* of the document in the works cited page using a recognized format, like ASA. A rule of thumb for whether or not you need to cite is if you use ideas that aren’t your own, quote someone else or even paraphrase someone else’s words, you need to give them credit through a citation. More info on ASA style can be found here:

http://www.asanet.org/documents/teaching/pdfs/Quick\_Tips\_for\_ASA\_Style.pdf

When in doubt, search for the answer. You can check the syllabus, course website, google or lastly, email me for guidance. The answers are out there, there’s no reason not to always cite properly.

Students enrolled in this course are encouraged to use The Learning Center and the Tutoring Center services to support their efforts in this class. The Learning Center and Tutoring Center, located Room 1604 (Next to Life Science Building) and Room 1613 (Next to Life Science Building), will provide tutorial services and supplemental instruction based on course goals. For further information call The Learning Center 818-710-2572 or 818-710-4257 and the Tutoring Center 818-719-6414.

**Special Accommodations**   
If you have a learning, attention, or physical disability that may require classroom or test

accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please

register with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). SSD is located in the Student Service

Center, first floor. You can contact SSD via e-mail at SSD@lavc.edu, or call (818) 947-2681.

Verification from SSD is required before any classroom or testing accommodation can be made.

**For Your Information:**

Should you need to get in contact with the chair of this department their contact info is listed below:

Dr. Keidra Morris

Office Location: BEH 111

**Tentative Topic Outline and Reading Assignments**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WEEK** | **DAY** | **TOPIC** | **READINGS** | | **ASSIGNMENT DUE** |
| 1 | Tuesday January 3, 2017 | Orientation, Introduction to the Course | Syllabus (you should read it thoroughly to make sure you do not have any questions about the course requirements) |  | |
|  | Wednesday January 4, 2017 | What is Sociology? | Reading 1: C. Wright Mills, Excerpt from The Sociological Imagination (1959), Mills' can also be found on course website and Reading 3: Bruce Western, Excerpt from Punishment and Inequality in America (2006) |  | |
|  | Thursday January 5, 2017 | Theory | Reading 10: Max Weber, Excerpt from The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (2009) and Reading 4: Emile Durkheim, Excerpt from Suicide: A Study in Sociology (1951) [1897] |  | |
| 2 | Monday, January 9, 2017 | Research Methods | Reading 6: Joel Best, Excerpt from Damned Lies and Statistics (2001) and Reading 5: Charles Ragin, Excerpt from Constructing Social Research (1994) | #1: Doing Nothing (from course website) | |
|  | Tuesday January 10, 2017 | Culture | Reading 7: Howard Becker, Excerpt from Doing Things Together (1986) and Reading 9: Juliet Schor, Excerpt from Born to Buy: The Commercialized Child and the New Consumer Culture (2004) |  | |
|  | Wednesday, January 11, 2017 | **Exam 1 (What is Soc, Theory, Methods and Culture; this includes all lecture/discussion and readings!) and** *Film* | |  | |
|  | Thursday January 12, 2017 | Self and Socialization | Reading 8: Debra Van Ausdale and Joe R. Feagin, Excerpt from The First R: How Children Learn Race and Racism (2001) |  | |
| 3 | Monday, January 16, 2017 | **Martin Luther King Jr Day: No Class** |  |  | |
|  | Tuesday January 17, 2017 | Group Life | Reading 23: Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward, Excerpt from Poor People's Movements: Why They Succeed, How They Fail (1979) | #2: The Other Me (from course website) | |
|  | Wednesday, January 18, 2017 | Deviance and Conformity | Reading 7.1: The Caped Crusader: What Batman Films Tell Us about Deviance (link on course website) |  | |
|  | Thursday January 19, 2017 | Social Class and Inequality | Reading 16: Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Excerpt from The Communist Manifesto (1848) and Reading 17: Rachel Sherman, Excerpt from Class Acts (2007) / Reading 18: Rubén G. Rumbaut, "English Plus: Exploring the Socioeconomic Benefits of Bilingualism in Southern California" (2014) |  | |
| 4 | Monday, January 23, 2017 | **Exam 2 (Self and Social Interaction Life in Groups, Deviance and Conformity, Social class; this includes all lecture/discussion and readings!) and** *Film* | |  | |
|  | Tuesday January 24, 2017 | Race and Ethnicity | Reading 15: Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton, Excerpt from American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass (1993) / Reading 13: W.E.B. DuBois, Excerpt from The Souls of Black Folk (1903) and Reading 14: Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Excerpts from Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the US (2003) |  | |
|  | Wednesday, January 25, 2017 | Gender and Sexuality | Reading 19: Candace West and Don H. Zimmerman, "Doing Gender" (1987) and Reading 20: Patricia Hill Collins, Excerpt from Black Feminist Thought (2000) |  | |
|  | Thursday January 26, 2017 | Family | Reading 21: Mignon R. Moore, "Gendered Power Relations among Women: A Study of Household Decision Making in Black, Lesbian Stepfamilies" (2008) and Reading 12: Andy Cherlin, The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage (2004) |  | |
| 5 | Monday, January 30, 2017 | *Film* |  |  | |
|  | Tuesday January 31, 2017 | *Film* |  |  | |
|  | Wednesday, February 1, 2017 | Popular Culture | Reading 11: Charles Derber, Excerpt from Corporation Nation (1998) and Reading 2: Andrew Szasz, Excerpt from Shopping Our Way to Safety: How We Changed from Protecting the Environmental to Protecting Ourselves (2007) | Final Project and EC Due | |
|  | Thursday February 2, 2017 | **Final Exam (race, gender, family, pop culture and readings!)** | |  | |