

Sociology 101 (Late Start) –Introduction to Sociology

Winter 2009

Instructor: Shawna Miller

Class Meets: Tuesdays 6:00-7:40 & online

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Class Location: C164

Course Description:

Sociology is an exciting and constantly evolving field of study. Sociology is the study of relationships between and within groups of people. We will be using our books and our online and in-class discussions and activities to explore social roles and relationships from a number of sociological perspectives. In this class you will be exposed new ways of looking at your everyday experiences and to ideas about the world you live in; some of these ideas may make sense to you right away and others may be difficult to grasp and even seem alien—it is your job as a student challenge yourself by suspending your own ideas and assumptions and opening your mind to new ways of looking at the world you live in. Students are expected to attend all classes and students are expected to come to class having completed the reading and prepared to ask and answer questions. This class is an interactive project; it is not possible to pass this class without reading critically and to participating actively in class.

Course Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course students will be able to:

- Question the obvious
- Distinguish between factual statements and value judgments
- Put aside personal ethnocentric attitudes; become culturally relativistic
- Describe the sociological imagination
- Critically evaluate various theoretical perspectives in terms of their strengths and weaknesses
- Ascertain cause and effect as well as correlation
- Formulate logical conclusions
- Apply sociological knowledge to real-life situations
- Describe how a person's social location impacts their life chances and choices

Required Readings:

Lisa J. McIntyre. *The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology (TPS)*, and
The Practical Skeptic: Core Readings in Sociology (Reader)

Grade Weighting

Participation in class including quizzes and group work	20%
Participation online	20%
Paper #1	30%
Paper #2	30%

Total: 100% **Grading Policy:**

Attendance and participation in the weekly grounded sessions is mandatory, you can earn up to half of your participation points by attending these sessions and actively participating. Your participation in the online sessions is likewise mandatory—you are expected to regularly visit the discussion boards regularly and to contribute to the online discussions in addition to posting your paper drafts and responding to the drafts posted by your classmates.

Reading Schedule:

Week 1 1/27-2/2	UNIT 1: Introductions -- post your self introductions this week. Read Part 1 in "Readings in Sociology" (RiS) and Chapter 1 in "Core Concepts" (CC) Unit 1 postings due by Friday @11pm; Unit 1 responses due by Monday @ 11pm
Week 2 2/3-2/9	UNIT 2: Read Chapter 2 (CC) & Part 2 (RiS) Unit 2 postings due by Friday, Unit 2 responses due by Monday
Week 3 2/10-2/16	UNIT 3: Read Chapters 3-4 (CC) & Part 3 (RiS) Unit 3 postings due by Friday, Unit 3 responses due by Monday
Week 4 2/17-2/23	UNIT 4: Read Chapters 5-6 (CC) & Part 4 (RiS) **Final Draft of Paper #1 due online by 11 p.m. 3/27/09** Unit 4 postings due by Friday, Unit 4 responses due by Monday

Week 5 2/24-3/2	UNIT 5: Read Chapters 7-8 (CC) & Part 4 (RiS) Unit 5 postings due by Friday, Unit 5 Responses due by Monday
Week 6 3/3-3/9	UNIT 6: Read Chapters 9-10 (CC) & Part 5 (RiS) Unit 6 postings due by Friday, Unit 6 Responses due by Monday
Week 7 3/10-3/16	UNIT 7: Read Chapters 11-12 (CC) & Part 6 (RiS) Unit 7 postings due by Friday, Unit 7 Responses due by Monday
Week 8 3/17-3/23	UNIT 8: TPS: Chapter 13-14 (CC) & Part 7 (RiS) Unit 8 postings due by Friday, Unit 8 Responses due by Monday
Finals 3/24-3/31	**Final Draft of Paper #2 due online by 11 p.m. on 12/8/08 ** NO CLASS MEETING THIS WEEK