

**Introduction to Sociology**

Instructor: Kalisha Grandison, MSW Email: kalisha.grandison@reedleycollege.edu

Course: **SOC-1A-55633 INTRO TO SOC** Time: **W 6:00-8:50PM**

Room: **Classroom Complex I, Room 204**

**TEXTBOOK:**

Essentials of Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach 10th Ed. by James M. Henslin.

**BASIC SKILLS ADVISORIES:**

Eligibility for English 125 and 126

**Course Description:**

Sociology 1A promotes the understanding of human society and social behavior. Not only are positive human relationships an essential part of a civilized society; how we interact with each other is important so that we may find answers to questions and solve problems in our world. Sociology teaches us to look at life in a scientific and systematic way. The way that we view the world comes from what we learn in our everyday activities. The values, beliefs, lifestyles of those around us, as well as historic events help to mold us into unique individuals who have varied outlooks on social reality. This course deals with the social atmosphere that helps to make us who we are and how we behave. Sociology will cover topics such as culture, violence, deviance, social control, socialization, personality, group behavior, social class, and social institutions.

The key component of this course is to study ourselves and the society that influences our behavior. The purpose of this course is to help you develop a sociological imagination. This course will introduce you to sociology’s theoretical perspectives and central concepts. Lastly, this course is designed to cultivate the skills necessary to be a good critical thinker.

**Course Organization and Approach:**

This course uses a participatory, learner-centered, adult education approach. An adult education approach recognizes that YOU are responsible for your own learning. The instructor can only provide opportunities to learn, but cannot force you to learn. Course material is presented in readings from the text, current topic readings drawn from news outlets, lecture, and student-led class discussions. You are expected to work hard in this course, meaning that for every hour of class time, you should spend at least two to three hours outside of class preparing by completing required readings, assignments, studying for quizzes and exams, and thinking about the course material.

You are expected to take responsibility for the success of the course. Specifically, you should take an active interest, not just in the course material, but in the course itself, making it a success for all participants. Factors such as interest, motivation, creativity, and initiative are important elements in evaluating your performance in the course and assigning you a grade.

**Course Objectives:**

*After you successfully complete this course, you will be able to:*

1. Explain, evaluate, and analyze the three major sociological orientations: Conflict Theory, Structural Functionalism and Symbolic Interaction Theory.
2. Evaluate sociological findings using the concepts, theories, and methods developed by sociologists from their study of society.
3. Explain social behavior from the macro-level and micro-level perspectives.
4. Demonstrate comprehension of the need for cultural relativism in a multicultural society.
5. Recognize the different methods of collecting research and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
6. Identify and describe norms and values of American culture.
7. Display knowledge of the influence of socialization on individual behavior.
8. Identify and describe the different types of groups and their influence on individual behavior.
9. Explain the relativity of deviance and its relation to crime.
10. Recognize inequalities based on race and ethnicity.
11. Recognize inequalities based on sex and gender.
12. Identify the role of family, education, and religion in the lives of others.

These objectives contribute to the overall course goals:

1. **Developing critical thinking skills**. The discussions, readings, writing assignments, and quizzes are designed to encourage you to develop and use higher order thinking skills; including analytical, synthetic, and applied thinking.
2. **Understanding the social structures and processes that condition our lives**. A basic goal of all sociology courses is to help you understand the nature and workings of these social structures. Further identifying how they open opportunities and impose constraints on individuals operating within these structures.

**Important Dates:**

Jan 19- Martin Luther King Day (Campus Closed)

Jan 30- Last day to add full term class

Feb 1 – Last day to drop to avoid a “W”

Feb 6 – Last day to change to “Pass” or “No Pass”

Feb 13- Lincoln’s Day (Campus Closed)

Feb 16- Washington’s Day (Campus Closed)

Mar 13 -Last day to drop a full-length class

Mar 30-April 2- Spring Recess

April 3- Spring Holiday

May 8-12 – ***FINALS WEEK***

**CANCELLED CLASS POLICY:**

If a class session is cancelled, I will let you know ahead of time, if possible. Furthermore, there will be an official school notice of the cancellation on the door.

**Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken every class period. It is **your** responsibility to make sure you are marked present. Two absences will be considered excessive and may result in being dropped from the class at the discretion of the instructor. In addition, being late to class three times will be equivalent to one absence.

**Drop Policy**:

It is the **student’s** responsibility to officially drop a class in which he/she no longer wishes to be enrolled, although I may drop those students who miss several classes in a row. If you want to drop the class, **do not depend on me to do it!!!**

**Late Assignments**:

Students are responsible for turning in all assignments before the time and date they are due. If some emergency prevents you from turning in the assignment on time, you must notify me and get prior approval **in advance of the due date** that your assignment will be late. Otherwise, it will not be accepted. Be prepared to submit written documentation (e.g. doctor’s note) when requesting an extension of the due date.

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

**Accommodations**: Students having a verifiable need for academic accommodations or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should contact me as soon as possible.

**Writing Standards:**

It is assumed that students will perform professionally in preparing work required for this class and will submit all assignments by the appropriate due date. All documents are to be spell-checked and grammar-checked and follow general APA requirements (i.e. numbering, paragraphs, citing references, etc.) as appropriate for the assignment. Information about the APA requirements is freely available on the internet, (Purdue Owl is a great resource).

**Plagiarism and Cheating:**

Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences. Cheating and plagiarizing are serious academic offenses and can result in an **automatic fail** in this course.

**Classroom Etiquette:**

**Cell phones are not to be used in class for any reason whatsoever. This includes photographing the board instead of taking notes, texting, social media, clock functions, etc. Please ask permission to audio tape class lectures and discussions. No videotaping is allowed.**

**Students who violate this course policy will receive a grade deduction of all participation points.**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner whenever they are on campus or representing the college in any activity. Specific rules and regulations have been established in Board Policy 5500. A copy of this policy is available in the college library, the Admissions Office, the Vice President of Student Services’ office, the Student Activities Office, and Office of Instruction. Conduct standards are designed to perpetuate the college’s educational purposes, allowing students to enjoy the right of freedom to learn. Failure to adhere to the accepted standards will result in disciplinary action. Also, please do not engage in side conversations or excessive chatter while class is in session. Entering and leaving the classroom during class time is a distraction to other students and the instructor.  A student’s need or desire to be in contact with the outside world through electronic devices does not override basic classroom etiquette and the use of these devices is a disturbance to the learning environment. Lastly, I do not mind if people bring a drink and a snack as long as it is not disruptive and students clean up after themselves. However, if food and drink in the classroom cause any problems I may revoke this policy.

**Top Ways to Succeed in this Class:**

* **Read the syllabus prior to contacting the instructor for questions. Most of the information you need (schedule of readings and assignments, etc) is in the syllabus.**
* The Buddy System: Students should exchange contact information with at least two other students in the class. Phone numbers, emails, Facebook, etc. are great ways to stay on top of what is going on in class.
* If you are going to miss a class follow these steps: 1) email the instructor 2) contact your classmate for notes and announcements 3) stay on track for the next session
* Make Sure to take notes: This is a discussion and lecture-based class! A large portion of the information will appear in exams and quizzes.
* Use Microsoft Word to compose all written assignments. The spelling and grammar check functions are very useful. Use dictionaries and reference materials as you read course materials.
* Edit your papers before you turn them in. All writing errors lead to point deductions. If you have difficulties with writing, allow yourself plenty of time to work on assignments. Also, you should make an appointment with the Reedley College Tutorial Center if you are in need of additional help.
* Do the assigned reading **before** you come to class and be prepared to discuss the readings.

**Grading:**

Grading Scale:

90-100% =A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

59 & Below = F

**Grading**: Points will be awarded for coursework as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class Participation | 50 points |
| Group Presentation | 100 points |
| 2 Critical Thinking Papers | 100 points each (Total: 200) |
| 3 Exams | 100 points each (Total: 300) |
| Cumulative Final Exam | 100 points |
| **Total** | 700 points |

**PARTICIPATION**………………………………………………………………………………………………..50 pts.

Participation throughout the semester involves answering and asking questions and joining class discussions. It is the instructor’s perception and discretion of how many points a student will earn based on his/her participation throughout the semester. Any student who is responsible for an electronic interruption of class may be penalized points. Talking/texting/reading messages on your cell phone prevents participation.

**GROUP PRESENTATION**……………………..…………………………………………………………100 pts.

Students will be placed into small groups and asked to work together collaboratively. Each group will present on a social topic provided by the instructor for 15-20 minutes.   
Points: A maximum of 80 points for the group and 20 points to each individual student. Students will be evaluated by the instructor and also by the students within each group. The group must also be prepared for a question and answer session after the presentation. Specific guidelines will be provided.

**(2) CRITICAL- THINKING PAPERS**…………..……………………………………………….…100 pts. Each

By questioning accepted tenets of truth, morality, and the status quo in general, these papers are designed to assist you in examining your social world from a critical perspective. These critical-thinking papers are your opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of the material in specific parts of the course. Students will compose two critical-thinking papers throughout the semester to prompts provided. Specific guidelines will be provided and students will have several choices of topics.

These written assignments will consist of 3 to 4 typed pages with a minimum of 3 references, APA, using font size 12, and double-space. You will be graded on how well you illustrate your knowledge of the subject with effective application of relevant sociological concepts, examples, and theories. Proper grammar and spelling will also be taken into account when assessing a grade. (Please see the detailed writing guide on etudes for detailed guidance).

**EXAMS** ………………………………………..………………………………………100 pts. Each, Final- 100 pts

The exams will reflect the reading, lecture notes, and class discussions. All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and the final will be cumulative. Prior to each exam, there will be a review.

***Extra Credit Opportunities***…………………………………………………………………………..

During the semester there will be opportunities to earn extra credit. The instructor will assign these opportunities depending on social events, videos, course topics, and class discussions.

**Tentative Course Schedule: Instructor reserves the right to alter this schedule.**

***Weekly Reading, Assignments, and Tests***

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Week 1: 1/14 Welcome and Syllabus review

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Week 2: 1/21 *The Sociological Perspective:* Ch.1 and Ch.2

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Week 3: 1/28 Ch. 3

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Week 4: 2/4 Ch. 4

**Review for Exam #1**

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Week 5: 2/11 *Social Groups and Social Control:* Ch. 5

*Exam #1 on Ch.1-4*

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Week 6: 2/18 Ch. 6

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Week 7: 2/25 *Ch*. 7

***Critical Thinking paper 1 due***

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Week 8: 3/4 Ch. 8

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Week 9: 3/11 Ch. 9

Review for Exam#2

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Week 10: 3/18 Gender and Age: Ch.10

**Exam #2 on Ch.5-9**

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Week 11: 3/25 Ch. 11

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Week 12: 4/1 **SPRING RECESS**

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Week 12: 4/8 Ch. 12

***Critical Thinking paper 2 due***

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Week 13: 4/15 Ch. 13

**Review for Exam#3**

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Week 14: 4/22 Ch.14

**Exam #3 on Ch.10-13**

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Week 15: 4/29 Ch. 15

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Week 16:5/6 **Project Presentations**

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Week 17: 5/13 **Project Presentations**

Review for Final Exam

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Week 18: 5/20 **Final Exam**

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