Syllabus for SOC113: General Sociology

Mineral Area College, Social Science Department

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Arts and sciences building Office # 9
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INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Fred Nute
OFFICE HOURS: As Announced

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course provides an overview of the fundamental concepts and basic principles in sociology: investigating social behavior, culture, institutions, social interaction and social change.

COURSE GOALS

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content, processes, and methods of scientific inquiry that characterize the nature of sociology as a social science discipline.

2. Assess the role of social structure and institutions in understanding human behavior.

3. Assess the diversities and complexities of the cultural world in which we live.

4. Apply the sociological perspective to personal, social, and organizational issues.

5. Demonstrate the ability to collaborate effectively in groups.
INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURE

Teaching procedure will include lecture, classroom discussions, short in-class writing assignments and small discussion groups. The small discussion groups are an integral part of this class and are designed to provide the student with an opportunity for self-expression and application of sociological concepts to everyday life. Multimedia such as video tapes are also used when applicable.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Participation is important and means that you contribute pertinent information to discussions and listen attentively when other people are talking. It also means that when you are assigned group work in class, you are an active, contributing member of the group.

You are responsible for all information presented in class, even if it is not contained in the textbook. Also, it is your responsibility to find out what happened in missed classes, including any announcements or schedule changes. In addition, students are expected to arrive on time for class and stay until the end of the class period.

Students will be treated with respect and courtesy and I expect the same. In order to create an environment that is conducive to learning, it is critical that your in class behavior contributes to a positive learning environment. Thus, behaviors that are disruptive to me or other students (such as unsolicited talking, coming late, leaving early, activated cell phones, etc.) will not be tolerated and my result in being dropped from the course.

A list of learning objectives (study stems) for each set of topics will be made available in advance to aid your study and preparation for exams and classroom discussions. You should pre-read the assigned chapters in the text as indicated on the course schedule so that you are adequately prepared to participate in group discussions and class activities.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE IN THE COURSE, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT EARLY. SOME OF YOUR OPTIONS INCLUDE THE USE OF THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER, TUTORING, OR CONSULTING ME DURING OFFICE HOURS.
COURSE OUTLINE

The schedule below shows the sequence of topics to be covered for this course. You will receive an additional schedule which provides the specific dates for assigned topics to be covered in class as well as for exams.

Chapter 1 The Sociological Perspective and Research Process
Chapter 2 Culture
Chapter 3 Socialization

EXAM 1 - CHAPTERS 1, 2, and 3

Chapter 4 Social Structure and Interaction in Everyday Life
Chapter 5 Groups and Organizations
Chapter 6 Deviance and Crime

EXAM 2 - CHAPTERS 4, 5, and 6

Chapter 7 Global Stratification
Chapter 8 Social Class in the United States

EXAM 3 - CHAPTERS 7 and 8

Chapter 9 Race and Ethnicity
Chapter 10 Sex and Gender

EXAM 4 - CHAPTERS 9 and 10

Chapter 11 Families and Intimate Relationships
Chapter 12 Education and Religion
Chapter 13 Politics and the Economy in Global Perspective
Chapter 14 Health, Health Care, and Disability

EXAM 5 - CHAPTERS 11, 12, 13, and 14

Chapter 15 Population and Urbanization
Chapter 16 Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change

FINAL EXAM - CHAPTERS 15 and 16
COURSE POLICY

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Your grade in this class will be based on your performance on Six unit tests. Unit tests will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions (each worth 2 points) and will be given during regular class periods. The final exam (6th Unit exam) will also consist of 50 multiple-choice questions; it will NOT be comprehensive. Each exam, including the final, is worth a total of 100 points.

GRADING SCALE FOR EXAMS:

A = 90 to 100 percent
B = 80 to 89 percent
C = 70 to 79 percent
D = 60 to 69 percent
F = Below 60 percent

All Exams will count toward your final grade; i.e. NO EXAMS WILL BE DROPPED. Thus, your final course grade will be calculated on a 600 point total using the following scale:

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\begin{align*}
540 - 600 &= A \\
360 - 419 &= D \\
480 - 539 &= B \\
000 - 359 &= F \\
420 - 479 &= C
\end{align*}
\]

Please NOTE that the FINAL EXAM is NOT optional and MUST be taken individually. Also, the time and date are not optional or open to change. That is, the final must be taken by everyone at the scheduled time as per the college calendar. Failure to take the final exam will result in an automatic F for the course.

EXTRA CREDIT

There will be six pop quizzes given during the class. These will be unscheduled and at the instructor’s whim. Each quiz will be made up of 10 multiple-choice questions, each worth ½ point. Thus, each quiz is worth a total of 5 points. NOTE: There will be NO MAKE-UPS for the quizzes. The extra credit points you earn will be added to your point total.
TANDEM TESTING OPTION

You have the option of taking the first five scheduled unit exams on an individual basis or in tandem with one other person. The tandem procedure is a form of cooperative learning in which two students are given one copy of the test and then work together answering the questions. You hand in one answer sheet with both your names on it and thus get the same grade. Scoring is done immediately following the test to allow the student or pair to examine any missed items. The pairs are formed by students and no more than two students will be allowed to test together. If you feel that a partner is not pulling her weight, you can find a new partner or take the remaining exams individually. PLEASE NOTE that the Final Exam Must be taken individually; the pop quizzes (for extra credit) can only be taken on an individual basis as well. A one page crib sheet of notes (front & back) can be used while taking the scheduled exams; no notes, however, can be used for the pop quizzes.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable academic behavior and will result in an automatic (F) in the course. The academic dean will be notified of all instances of cheating.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

There are no UNEXCUSED ABSENCES! If a student is absent, he or she is simply absent. Six or more absences may result in a lower grade or your being dropped from the class. A five (5) point bonus will be added to final grades for those who have Two or fewer absences for Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes and One or less for Tuesday, Thursday classes. Three consecutive absences will result in an automatic drop for M, W, F classes and two for T, R classes.

TARDINESS

Two tardies = one absence. “Tardy” is defined as coming in the classroom after I have started the class. Tardiness therefore can result in your being dropped from this class.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you need special assistance or support due to special circumstances such as a physical and/or learning disability, please contact me as soon as possible.

MAKE-UP EXAMS

Make-up exams will only be given for valid and clearly documented reasons. You must have a very strong justification and instructor approval to be eligible to take make-up exams. If you fail to take a scheduled exam, you will have three days to contact the instructor to address the issue. Failure to contact the instructor within the prescribed time frame will result in an automatic zero for that exam. All make-ups must be taken individually and will consist entirely of essay questions. The date and time for make-ups will be per the instructor’s discretion.