

# General Sociology Online – SOC1130 AAW1 & 2

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 2010

3 Credit Hours

## Professor Fred Nute

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## Office Hours

M-F 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Students are solely responsible for understanding all items and terms described in this syllabus. Any questions regarding the syllabus should be directed to the instructor immediately.

## Course Description:

Introduction to sociology systematically examines social behavior and human groups, particularly the influence of culture, socialization, social structure, stratification, social institutions differentiated by race, ethnicity, gender, class, region, and socio-cultural change upon people's attitudes and behaviors.

## Materials for Course:

- Valid and active Mac-Google Email account (students cannot use personal accounts)
- MyMac Username and Password
- Access to a reliable computer and internet access (high-speed recommended) and back-up plan
- Text --- Sociology: The Essentials, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (2011), Andersen & Taylor. Cengage Publishing.  
ISBN: 978-0-495-81223-4

## Course Competencies:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the basic concepts, processes, and theories that characterize sociology as a discipline.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the quantitative and qualitative methods that sociologists use to explore social reality, including the role of evidence in research.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how societal/structural factors influence individual behavior, including beliefs, values, norms, roles, groups, and basic institutions.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the internal diversities of American society and its place in a global context.
5. Develop critical thinking skills by applying sociological concepts and theory to aspects of everyday life.

## Attendance and Communication:

Attendance in this course is accomplished by visiting the class website frequently, reading the posted announcements and materials on the website, checking email frequently, participating in the discussion forums, turning in paper assignments and taking online exams according to set deadlines. Students are expected to participate in the web-based activities on a regular basis, just as students would in an on campus class.

Your participation and virtual attendance will be essential to your overall success in the class. Each student is expected to logon to this course at least 2 days per week and also check your email for communications by the instructor. It is crucial to the success of this course that there is continual communication between students as well as each student and the instructor. Research shows that students who participate regularly tend to earn better grades than those who do not.

You may communicate with me by sending emails to [fred@mineralare.edu](mailto:fred@mineralare.edu) or call my voice mail at 573-518-2234. Communicating with me by email generally produces the quickest response time. When sending an email make sure to include your **Name, Course, and Section Number**.

Note: I receive a large number of emails from students every day, many of them concerned with questions that are addresses and/or answered in the syllabus, my emails, or via class announcements. Before sending your email, check these sources as you may find your answer and therefore have no need to send an email. I will reply/respond to your inquires unless information you are seeking or answer to your question can be found in the aforementioned sources.

**Note: Students MUST meet the Three-Part, Initial Registration Attendance Requirement as described in the MyMac Registration Instructions or will be automatically withdrawn from the course.**

## Submission of Assignments:

**This is not a self-paced course.** Each activity and assignment has a deadline that must be met. You must keep up with the course assignments and activities just like you would in a regular course. All online assignments must be completed and submitted by the deadline unless otherwise instructed. Once the deadline is passed, the activity (exam, assignment, forum, etc.) will no longer be available at the course site and the student will receive a zero for the activity. It is very important that you login to the course site regularly to check announcements and emails and stay up to date.

## Help!

If you have a problem or concern, contact me ASAP with details. Don't wait 2 or 3 days to report a problem or issue. Do it immediately. Contact with any problems or issues must be made within 24 hours of experiencing the issue. Failure to make contact within this time period means that you forfeit any possible consideration regarding your issue. This also means that some communications are time-sensitive and requires the student to monitor emails more frequently. Contacts should be made by email unless circumstances do not allow. Then contact by phone.

## Course Requirements:

### Class Discussion Forums

It is required that each student participate actively in course discussion forums. This is an important part of the course and will take the place of discussions that students would typically have in the live classroom. Each student must post a minimum of two (2) responses for each topic thread. There will be a total of five topic threads posted by the instructor throughout the semester, each worth up to 10 points (Student Introduction Excluded).<sup>\*</sup> Your first discussion thread posting should be a response to the thread posted by the instructor (This post will be worth 6 points) and consist of at least 150 words. Your second entry should be a reply to one other student's post on the forums (This will be worth 4 points) and consist of a minimum of 50 words. Assigned points will depend on how much thought you put into your postings and whether or not responses are submitted on time. No credit will be given for late postings as these discussion threads are time specific. (See posted announcements). **\*Student Introductions are a mandatory, ungraded, initial attendance requirement for this course. Responses to others' introductions are optional only for this forum thread.**

The forums are located within the Collaboration section of the MyMac webpage. When responding to a specific student you will "reply," and include the student's name in the topic area to ensure that it is clear as to whom you are responding. You should be offering comments and asking probing questions that go beyond a basic statement such as "good job," "I agree," or "interesting." You need to add to what others say and provide some of your own original thoughts on the topics (See the grading Rubric for Online Discussions). I will monitor the discussion and offer input where needed throughout. Note: participation on the discussion board is essential to your success in the class and the points for this assignment play an important role in your overall grade in the class. In addition, it should be noted that timely postings are very important because they promote discussion. Late postings are usually made in isolation and are not well thought out, resulting in less than full credit.

### Grading Rubric—Online Discussions

0-30%

- No original postings (replies do not count as original postings)
- Too long/rambling/unorganized thoughts
- Lack of respectful consideration of classmates' opinions (**see the Core Rules of Netiquette**)
- Grammar and spelling errors detract from expression of thought
- Incomplete response and failure to meet the 150/50 word requirement
- Postings clustered all on one day (give some thought about topic before you reply)

40-60%

- Appropriate, basic original posting with at least one appropriate reply to classmate (replies must go beyond social comments such as "good idea" or "I agree")
- Includes all information asked for by instructor, including minimum word requirement and some supportive evidence
- Spelling and grammar do not detract from meaning of post

70-100%

- Original posting contributes to overall learning and knowledge of the class
- Includes supportive evidence and possible links to additional web resources on the topic
- Replies expand upon classmates' contribution (student Introduction excluded)
- Succinct and to the point (50 word minimum), yet complete (no meaningless rambling)
- Two or more postings spread throughout the available time window for topic
- Meets the 150/50 word requirement

## Exams

There are five (5) exams required for this class. Each exam will consist of 50 questions, mostly multiple choice with some true/false items covering three chapters in the textbook. The exams are administered and graded online (see course schedule for dates and window) with a one-time only attempt provided for each exam. The exams must be completed in one setting with a 50 minute time limit. The testing program is set to automatically submit exam scores once the time limit has expired whether or not the exam has been completed---Be mindful of the time! There will be a one point deduction for every two minutes exceeding the time limit should the test program fail to submit results automatically. To take exams, you will go to your MyMac course homepage > Click on the Coursework link in the menu located on the left-hand side of page > Click on the hyperlink for the title of the scheduled exam > Click on "Take The Test." Questions will be presented one at a time (see guidelines for cheating). **Never hit the Back Button on the web browser when using MyMac, as this will through you out of the system. Always navigate forward or backward using prompts within the system.**

**Self-Check Quizzes:** During the semester, 5 short quizzes (10 multiple-choice questions) will be administered online to ensure that students are keeping up with the assigned reading and preparing for the scheduled exams. Quizzes are worth 10 points and will be timed for 10 minutes. Quizzes will only be available for a 3 day window (see schedule and posted announcements for dates). Absolutely no make-ups quizzes are allowed.

Your reading assignment includes the following chapter topic in the order that appears below. You are Expected to read and study each chapter in conjunction with the test review objectives for each exam.

### Exam 1

1. The Sociological Perspective
2. Culture and the Media
3. Doing Sociological Research

### Exam 2

4. Socialization and the Life Course
5. Social Interaction and Social Interaction
6. Groups and Organizations

### Exam 3

7. Deviance and Crime
8. Social Class and Social Stratification
9. Global Stratification

### Exam 4

10. Race and Ethnicity
11. Gender
13. Families and Religion

### Exam 5

14. Education and Health Care
15. Politics and the Economy
16. Population, the Environment, and Social Change

**Note: There is a Companion Website for our textbook.** The Companion Website is an Online Study Guide for our text. It can be accessed by going to [www.cengage.com/sociology/Andersen](http://www.cengage.com/sociology/Andersen). Once on the site, locate the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of our textbook and click on the "companion" link to access. The website is free and unrestricted to all students. It includes several components such as flashcards, puzzles glossary, Internet exercise, web links, and tutorial practice quizzes for each chapter.

## Papers

There will be two papers due during the course of the semester (see the course schedule and posted announcements). Each paper will be worth 50 points and the directions for the paper assignments will be posted on MyMac in the Coursework and Handout sections. You will submit the paper assignments using the File Exchange application within MyMac or you may submit your paper document as an attachment to fred@mineralarea.edu. These papers are meant to measure your understanding of the course material, your ability to apply and connect information in a meaningful fashion, and your effort to produce quality work. Note: I will only accept papers that are created in the following applications: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works, and WordPerfect. Microsoft Word is my preference. (see Guidelines for cheating/plagiarism).

### ■ Annotated Bibliography – Topic Information

For this paper assignment, you will select a relevant topic in sociology that is interesting to you and find out what information on the topic is available on the internet and at the library. You may use your text as a guide in choosing a topic. Your paper will consist of a minimum of six (6) “Informative-Descriptive” annotated references from different sources using the APA writing style. Sources will include two professional journal articles on the topic, two magazine articles (e.g., Psychology Today) and, two books from the library. Your task is basically to explore several sources on your topic (e.g., Schizophrenia) via the internet and library and select six that you want to use for this assignment.

This paper assignment will be typed and saved as a document file and submitted via the MyMac File Exchange or as an email attachment. Each annotated source should have at least 5 to 8 sentences to summarize the main ideas of the article, book, etc. Paper should be 5-6 pages in length; Times New Roman or Arial and 12-point font. Margins should be standard 1.25 and should have a cover page that includes your name, class title, and date. You must include your Last Name as part of the text file for your paper document. Please see the “Rubric for Papers” for information on grading this assignment.

**NOTE: All topics must be approved by the instructor via email.**

For examples of annotated bibliographies and information on how to prepare an annotated bibliography APA style, go to the following websites:

[www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm](http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm)  
<http://lib.calpoly.edu/research/guides/bibliography.html>

[www.lesley.edu/library/guides/citation/APAanno.pdf](http://www.lesley.edu/library/guides/citation/APAanno.pdf)  
[www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citapa.htm](http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citapa.htm)

### **You must provide the following elements in your annotated bibliography paper:**

1. **Six sources**—2 professional journal articles, 2 magazine articles, and 2 books. All sources must have an identifiable author (s).
2. Create an **Annotated reference** for each source using APA style
3. Identify the location of your sources (Name of library for books; electronic sources will be included as part of APA reference style source documentation)
4. Provide a quality **summary of 5-8 sentences** for each source that provide the main ideas of topic.
5. **Personal Immersion Affect:** At the end of your bibliography, briefly state how your topic combined with your new knowledge of psychological ideas and concepts influenced your way of thinking about yourself and human behavior in general.

## ■ Applying Sociological Principles to Film

This assignment will require you to apply sociological principles outside the virtual classroom. You are required to integrate class content with movie material in a cohesive fashion by applying your critical thinking skills. Note: This assignment is probably the one that students fail more than any other. Make sure you develop your ideas with evidence from the movie and clearly explain and connect sociological ideas, principles, concepts, and theories.

You will select one of the movies from the table list below. Your work should be descriptive and illustrative. Paper should be a minimum of 4-5 pages in length; Times New Roman or Arial and 12-pont font; and number all pages in the upper right-hand corner. Margins should be standard 1.25 and should have a cover page that includes your name, class title, and date. **Remember: The task of the assignment is to connect the course material, NOT to Summarize the movie!**

**\*Students are to select and watch one of the following movies:**

Minority Report (2002)	Forrest Gump (1994)	The Pursuit of Happiness (2006)
Borat (2006)	Paradise Now (2005)	American History X (1998)
The Wedding Crashers (2005)	Monster (2003)	Miss Congeniality (2000)
Shake Hands with the Devil (2004)	Bowling for Columbine (2002)	Traffic (2000)
Sweet Home Alabama (2002)	Titanic (1997)	Doubt (2008)
Crash (2005)	Hotel Rwanda (2004)	My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002)
Brokeback Mountain (2005)	American Pie (1999)	The Departed (2006)

\*If you select a movie that you have already seen, it is recommend that you watch the movie again so as to have the content is fresh in mind.

Possible Topic Areas to Consider in Each Movie				
Culture	Socialization	Social Stratification	Race & Ethnicity	Gender
Groups	Subculture	Technology	Family & Religion	Deviance & Crime
Politics & Economy	Social Change	Rural-Urban	Bureaucracy	Others (soc-related)

You must provide the following elements in your paper:

1. Which of the **three major theories** in the text (Functionalist, Conflict, Symbolic) correspond to the movie? You must clearly explain and justify why a particular theory applies.
2. Which of the Sociological Topic Areas in the above table correspond or could correspond to the movie? You must select at least **three (3) topic areas** to apply and justify why and how they correspond to the movie.
3. Identify (underline) **four (4) key concepts** in your paper that you think relate significantly to your movie and integrate these concepts into your discussion.
4. Lastly, you need to add a **Personal Immersion affect** into your paper. That is, to state how your personal experience combined with your new knowledge of sociological theory and concepts may change your future behavior. How did this writing assignment about your movie influence your thinking about human behavior?

## Course Grading System:

The course is NOT graded on a curve. Term grades will be based on a cumulative total of points earned on the regularly scheduled exams, participation in discussion forum threads, and paper assignments. There is no extra credit. Grades will only be based on existing course requirements. No grades or assignments are dropped. Everything counts toward your final course grade.

The following scale will be used: **A = 90% B = 80% C = 70% D = 60 % F = below 60 percent**

Graded Items	Points for each Item	Number of Items	Total Points possible
Exams	50	5	250
Papers	50	2	100
Discussion Forum	10	5	50
Quizzes	10	5	50
TOTAL			<b>450</b>

**360 to 400 = A**            **280 to 319 =C**            **Below 240 = F**  
**320 to 359 = B**            **240 to 279 = D**

Rubric used to grade Papers 1 and 2

### Annotated Bibliography

Appropriate Sources	12 points
APA format	12 points
Annotated Summary	12 points
Personal Immersion	14 points

### Application to Film

Theoretical Application	12 points
Topic Areas	12 points
Use of Concepts	12 points
Personal Immersion	14 points

## Course Policies:

**Student Drops:** Students who decide to drop the course must complete a drop form and turn it in to the registration window prior to the drop deadline. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "F." The instructor will automatically drop students after failure to complete any combination of three assignments regardless of their performance on quizzes, exams, papers, or discussion board.

**Missed Tests and Assignments:** No make-up exams or Re-take will be given and no late work (papers, forum threads, etc.) will be accepted for grading. No Exceptions! Please note that computer breakdown, freeze, crashes; browser problems; ISP and connection problems; your failure to download required plug-ins and maintain up-to-date antivirus software; not following instructions--pressing a wrong key, etc., are not accepted as an excuse for not taking online exams and/or completing/sending any exam/assignment on time. It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to an Internet connected functioning computer, with all the required features that meets course website/server requirements. You must have a "backup computer/internet" plan, just in case!

**All exams, assignments and activities Must be completed and submitted during the Window dates and times;** open window for completing all exams and assignments is long enough to accommodate everyone in terms of schedule and circumstances. Only under very exceptional circumstances (such as a MyMac server break down or an extended prolonged maintenance /shut down period) and at my discretion, window date/time may be extended.

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to be honest and behave with integrity. There will be no questions asked nor explanations accepted for plagiarism, cheating, or any other acts that suggest that you have not fulfilled your responsibilities. Any evidence of academic dishonesty and plagiarism may result in a grade "F" for the course or for a particular activity. All instances of dishonest behavior will also be reported to the college administration.

#### **A. Netiquette Policy**

- 1. Avoid language that may come across as strong and offensive.** Language can be easily misinterpreted in written communication. If a point must be stressed, review the statement to make sure that an outsider reading it would not be offended, then post the statement. Humor and sarcasm may easily be misinterpreted as well, so try to be as matter-of-fact and professional as possible. This includes language of the internet---e.g., do not write using all capital letters because it may appear as shouting.
- 2. An online classroom is still a classroom.** Though the course may be virtual in nature, appropriated classroom behavior is still mandatory. Respect for fellow students and the instructor is as important as ever whether communicating via email or the discussion forums. For example, when communicating via the discussion forum, many different ideas are presented. While you may not always agree with some of them, it is nonetheless important to respect these differences.
- 3. No inappropriate material.** Do not forward any chain letters, jokes, pornographic material, or use the discussion forums to for personal communications.
- 4. Breach of Netiquette.** Any violations of these policies may result in any number of negative consequences, including zero credit for an assignment or forum posting, a lowered course grade, "F" grade for the course and/or academic probation. If a violation occurs, the instructor will contact the student for a face-to-face meeting and/or referral to the academic dean's office for disposition.

**B. Cheating and Plagiarism:** For this online class, forms of cheating and plagiarism include, but are not limited, to the following examples:

Online exams are not “open book” and you are expected to answer questions without use of textbook and/or notes

Having someone other than the student take an online exam

Attempting to supply a test question to another student

Collaborating with others, by any means, during an exam or exam window

Attempting to download or distribute any exam materials to others

Making a false claim of a loss of power or disruption of server connection or begin allowed a retake

Exceeding the posted time limit

Attempting to save a test and resume taking at a later time

Copying whole papers or passages from another student or from any source

Allowing another student to copy or submit one’s work

Buying or obtaining a paper from any source and submitting that paper or passages as one’s own

Pasting a passage from the internet or any computer source into one’s paper or forum posting

Submitting a paper that one wrote during a previous semester or from another class

Improper citation of any sources used—e.g., failure to quote or attribute passages to actual source

Fabricating or falsifying a bibliography

**Special Needs :** Mineral Area College complies with guidelines set forth in the Americans Disabilities Act of 1990. 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 to discuss appropriate accommodations.

**The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed at any time. You will be notified of any updates and/or changes to the syllabus.**