

# General Sociology Online – SOC1130 AAW1 & 2

Course Syllabus Fall 2009

3 Credit Hours

## Dr. Fred Nute

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## Office Hours

MTWRF

9:00 – 10:00 AM

**Description of Course:** 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:

- A. Sociology: The Essentials, 5th edition, Andersen & Taylor. Thomson Publishing, 2009
- B. WebTutor Cardboard Folio with Access Code for registration
- C. Internet access and valid email account.

## Course Goals:

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts, processes, and theories that characterize the discipline of sociology.
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of the quantitative and qualitative methods sociologists use to explore social reality, including the role of evidence in research.
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of how societal/ structural factors influence individual behavior, including beliefs, values, norms, roles, groups, and basic institutions.
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of the internal diversities of American society and its place in a global context.
- E. Demonstrate an ability to apply sociological concepts and theory to aspects of everyday life.

## Course Content:

Chapter 1:	Sociological Perspectives and Research
Chapter 2:	Culture
Chapter 3:	Socialization and the Life Course
Chapter 4:	Social Interaction and Social Structure
Chapter 5:	Groups and Organizations
Chapter 6:	Deviance and Crime
Chapter 7:	Social Class and Social Stratification
Chapter 8:	Global Stratification
Chapter 9:	Race and Ethnicity
Chapter 10:	Gender
Chapter 12:	Families and Religion
Chapter 14:	Politics and the Economy
Chapter 15:	Population, Urbanization, and the Environment
Chapter 16:	Social Change and Social Movements

## Organization of the Course:

This course is divided into 14 chapters, each corresponding with a chapter in the Text (Note: chapters 11 and 13 will not be covered in this course). It is to your benefit to read each assignment chapter two or three times as part of your preparation for the online tests. You will also be presented with a description of and directions for completing your writing assignments. These writing assignments are part of the graded requirements for the course. You will also have practice tests available that will help you prepare you for the scheduled exams (see Course Process below). Points on practice tests and exercises are not included in your grade for the course.

**Course Process:** The best way to work through the course and use the online Content is to follow the steps below:

1. Study the “**TEST REVIEWS** on the WebTutor website (**click on Course Information tab**—then select the desired chapter. **NOTE:** If you are unable to access the reviews, you may obtain hard copies from me at the college.
2. Read the assigned chapter in the Andersen/Taylor text and review the chapter outline on the website in course documents
3. Go to the corresponding chapter on the website (click on Course Documents and utilize the online interactive activities as part of your preparation, including tutorial quizzes.
4. As you identify gaps in your learning through this process, go back to the textbook and review the information.

## Student Evaluation:

### Grading Scale:

90 – 100%	= A
80 – 89%	= B
70 – 79%	= C
60 – 69%	= D

### Assignments:

You are required to complete **three (3) writing assignments**. The first assignment covers Chapters 1, 2, and 3. The second assignment relates to Chapters 4, 5, and 7. The last assignment is involves Chapters 7, 8, 9,10, and 14. Each assignment is worth 30 points and will require you to integrate text material (**check the course schedule frequently for Due Dates Announcements for any changes**). **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Make sure to include your **name** on the **upper left** corner of the paper you submit, as well as to include your last name as part of the file name you save the document to. Also number your pages in the upper right corner. Papers should be at least 2 to 3 pages in length. Make sure to read the posted assignment very carefully. (**2 points will be taken off each paper that does not comply with these standards**). **Note: If you await the deadline and have computer problems such that you are unable to send your paper, you will automatically lose 30 points for the assignment. Due dates are as follows: Thursday, September 17, October 15, and November 12 by 11:00AM.**

Your writing assignments will be posted on the **Assignment Content Area** on the WebTutor blackboard website. Complete the assignment outside of WebTutor in an application such as Microsoft Word. Save your document and return the file for grading by using the assignments content area. Click the assignments navigation button in the course menu and then upload your assignment in a file to the course. You can view your grades by clicking the Tools button in the course menu and then clicking View Grades. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to submit your writing assignment through the process outlined above, you may send me an email with your assignment as an attachment. Papers will not be accepted in any other way than as previously described. Papers are assessed based on content, grammar, and following the assignment instructions. **Good planning and efficient time management are essential for this class.**

Assignment Points	Grading Rubric
27 - 30	Indicates your assignment is very well thought out, has meaningful content, addressed all the assignment components, made good use of key concepts, and clearly conveys your thinking, ability to integrate information, and completely understand the topics.
24 - 26	Assignment has good thought behind it, but the connection to the topic is somewhat vague in areas. One or two assignment components are missing or are not adequately addressed. Your thinking is unclear on some points and does not fully demonstrate an understanding of some of the concepts being studied.
21 - 23	Assignment components are missing and much of your thinking on the topic is unclear and very vague. Your understanding of how to apply key concepts or integrate the material doesn't come through.
18 - 20	Several assignment components are missing. While you are able to state your opinions about the topic, it seems you don't fully understand how to apply or integrate key concepts and relevant topic content.
17 points or less	Most assignment components are missing and much of what you've written does not demonstrate that you truly understand the nature of the assignment and topic.

### Tests:

- There will be 14 tests, each covering one chapter consisting of a combination of 30 True/False and Multiple-Choice questions.
- Tests will be given online -Click the Chapter Exams Button on the course menu
- Each test will be timed. You will be allowed 35 minutes to complete each test. One point will be deducted for each minute that a student exceeds the scheduled time limit. **Do not start the test until you are prepared and ready to complete it. It will not allow you to restart once your total time is up.**
- Tests will be made available to take on Thursday's at 8:00 a.m.(fall/spring only) and will remain available until midnight Saturday of the same week **(See Course Schedule for Test Dates)**
- The questions will appear one at a time and you will only be allowed to review each question once. Once answered, you will not be allowed to return to that to that question.
- Tests use a Forced Completion Format. That is, you must complete the test the first time it is launched. Once you click out, you will not be able to get back in. Your grade will then be based on what you have completed up to that point.
- Your scores will automatically be posted. Click "Course Tools" to view grades.

## Course Grades:

Grading will be based on the points you earn on your written assignments and tests. NO Scores are dropped. The comparative values of each graded item toward your course grade is as follows:

Graded Item	Point for each item	Number of items in the course	Total points possible
Paper Assignments	30	3	90
Tests	30	14	420
<b>TOTAL</b>		17	510

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

459 to 510 = A

408 to 458 = B

357 to 407 = C

306 to 356 = D

0 to 305 = F

### Email:

Contact me directly through the MAC Google email system at [fred@mineralarea.edu](mailto:fred@mineralarea.edu). Do Not try to email me thru the WebTutor website. I only use the MAC system to receive email. Also, if I should not respond to an email, contact me per phone at 573-518-2234—ASAP. NOTE: If you use your personal email address such as hotmail or yahoo, there is the possibility it may be blocked out and not received because it is identified as spam. Sometimes this has to do with what you put in the subject box. If email problems arise, you will need to use your MAC email address. All students have a MAC email address and you can call 518-2137 to get help with this. If you change your email address you will need to make sure you also change your email on the WebTutor Site. Again, you have the responsibility to recognize that certain communications may be time-critical with this kind of course. Failure to do so may result in negative consequences.

**Technical Difficulties:** [WebTutorService@cengage.com](mailto:WebTutorService@cengage.com) or [Sam.sherr@contractor.cengage.com](mailto:Sam.sherr@contractor.cengage.com)

Contact me first by phone or email with any difficulties you may have.

### Extra Credit: Discussion Board

Additional points can be earned by participating in Discussion Board Forums. Discussion Board is a communication tool that allows students to participate in course-related discussions on different topics (threads) created by the instructor. To access the discussion board on the website, click "Discussion Board" on the menu and then click on the topic, and then click add thread. The availability discussion threads will be posted on the website announcements and via email. Once posted, your responses on the board will be available to both the instructor and other classmates for review. A total of 45 points may be earned through discussion board participation. \*Points will be assigned as follows:

<u>Board Threads &amp; Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>
Student Introduction	5
1 <sup>st</sup> Topic Thread (posted response must be meaningful and incorporate sociological concepts; a minimum of 15 lines of text required)	10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Topic Thread (same as first thread)	10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Topic Thread & Web Search (a minimum of 30 lines of text required with a substantive posted response)	20

\*Discussion thread points are not automatic. Posted responses must meet the above criteria for credit. If a student response is not considered adequate, I will send an email with an explanation. The student will then need to post another, modified response for credit. Failure to check email and respond to thread deadlines will result in no credit.

**Online Etiquette Policy:** When taking a course online it is important to remember several points of etiquette that will smooth the communication between students and their instructors.

1. **Avoid language that may come across as strong or 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 online, appropriate classroom behavior is still mandatory. Respect for fellow students and the instructor is as important as ever whether communicating via email or the discussion board forum. For example, when communicating via the discussion board, many different ideas are presented. While you may not 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, etc. to classmates or the instructor.
4. **Breach of Etiquette.** Any violations of these policies may result in any number of negative consequences, including reduce or zero credit for an assignment or board posting, a lowered course grade, an F 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 offices for disposition.

### **Special Policies:**

- A. **Attendance & Drop Policy.** This course is a web based course. Just as in a traditional classroom regular attendance is expected. Regular attendance is measured in this course as regularly checking posted announcements, turning in class assignments, taking tests as assigned, and contacting the instructor for assistance if needed. If a student plans to withdraw from the course, it is his/her responsibility to officially withdraw from the class. **The instructor will automatically drop students after two weeks of nonattendance, which includes failure to complete ANY two scheduled tests and/or assignments.**
- B. **Assignment Due Dates:** The due date of each assignment will be posted in announcements. No credit will be given for work that is late.
- C. **Missed Tests or Assignments: Missed tests or assignments may not be made up.**

- D. Saving Tests:** Tests are to be taken in one setting for a total of 35 minutes. You May Not save a test and take the remaining questions at a later time. If this occurs, your score will be based only on the completed items on the first attempt and will result in a lower score.
- E. Academic Honesty:** Cheating and Plagiarism are not acceptable academic behavior and will result in an automatic zero for the test or assignment involved. The academic dean will be notified of all instances of cheating or plagiarism. More than one instance of cheating or act of plagiarism will result in an F for the course.
- F. Use of College Open Labs:** Students may use only college software. No personal software is allowed in the labs. No college software will be illegally copied for personal, education, or business use. No college software or hardware may be removed from the labs. Personal, non-educational use of lab equipment and supplies is to be restricted. No food or beverages allowed.
- G. Special Needs:** Mineral Area College complies with guidelines set forth in the Americans Disabilities 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.

**This syllabus represents the planned objectives, content, learning experiences, assessment process, and competencies. The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus as needed.**