

Introduction to Sociology

SO 131 Section A Hybrid
Spring 2008

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Office: HR 100

Office Hours:

In HR 100: MW 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

On Blackboard: R 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Class Time: MW12:50 – 1:50

Classroom: H108

Required Materials:

Sociology Matters (3rd ed.)

Richard T. Schaefer

The Engaged Sociologist

Korgen and White

Blackboard access

Microsoft Word

Microsoft PowerPoint

Catalog Description

An overview of the field of sociology. Emphasis is placed on the practices and institutions which humans develop in the processes of social maintenance and change. No prerequisites required.

Course Objectives

Introduction to Sociology is an introductory course designed to familiarize students with various aspects of social life. We will examine the factors that make up society and develop an understanding of how we perceive the world around us. Discussions will include culture, socialization, interaction, deviance, stratification, gender, class, race, family, and other topics. The methods and procedures of social science research will also be introduced. Specific chapter objectives for *Sociology Matters* can be found in Chapter Objectives on the Blackboard Learning Management System.

At the conclusion of the semester, students are expected to:

- Relate sociological concepts to society in general and to individual experience.
- Understand how social differences, such as social class, race, and gender, impact individuals and the societies they live in.
- Recognize various social institutions, such as the family, education, and religion, and summarize how the structure of these social institutions affects both individuals and their societies.

- Develop an appreciation for how variations in social structure and social institutions contribute to differences and similarities of various social groups and societies.
- Identify and assess societal challenges and the effects of social change in society.

Course Requirements

The format of this course includes lectures, readings, PowerPoint presentations (on Blackboard), in-class activities, and discussion. Course evaluation will be based on two exams (a midterm and final), four assignments, and class participation. Each exam will count as 20% of the final grade (40% of the total grade), assignments will count as 10% each of the final grade (40% of total grade) and participation will count as 20% of the final grade.

Technology

Technology is an integral part of this course. All students are required to use the Blackboard Learning Management System. Assignments and exams will be available only through Blackboard. Students will be required to submit their completed assignments and exams on Blackboard and graded papers will also be returned electronically. Paper copies of student work will not be accepted. It is the **student's** responsibility to learn how to use Blackboard and to check Blackboard regularly for announcements, assignments, and exams. Due dates will not be extended because of failure to properly use or visit the course site.

Exams (40% of final grade)

Material for the exams may come from the texts, PowerPoint presentations, discussions, or assignments. The exams may consist of any combination of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. An exam schedule has been provided on this syllabus and on Blackboard.

Assignments (40% of final grade)

Assignments may consist of homework, in-class exercises, short answer questions, essays, research assignments, group exercises, and/or quizzes. For most assignments, students will be given a choice of two topics. Students are to choose which assignment topic they prefer and complete only that one. Only one topic per assignment will be accepted for credit. An assignment schedule has been provided on this syllabus and on Blackboard. A rubric (located in Blackboard Course Information) has been provided for guidance in composing assignments. All assignments will be graded in accordance with the rubric.

Assignments submitted late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero. Additionally, assignments must be submitted via the Assignments link on Blackboard. Do not use email or Blackboard Communication tools to submit assignments. Any assignment not submitted properly via the Assignments link will receive a zero.

Blackboard is incompatible with several word processors and different versions of word processors. As a consequence of this, students are required to submit assignments in Word 97-2003. Assignments submitted in any other format will receive a grade of zero.

Students with unexcused absences on days with in-class exercises will not be allowed to make up the exercise. Over the course of the semester, seven assignments will be given. Students are required to complete four assignments and may submit a fifth for extra credit. After five assignments have been completed, students will be unable to access additional assignments.

Class Participation (20% of final grade)

Participation is an integral part of this course and counts for 20% of the final grade. Attendance will be taken and points deducted for tardiness and absenteeism. Being in class and on time, however, does not fully satisfy participation requirements. Students are expected come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings, related current events, and/or any information pertinent to the topic.

The classroom is the forum for disseminating what has been learned, what is not understood, and for sharing ideas. Ideally, students will read the material and make notes regarding the content, including areas that need further clarification. Opinions are welcome, but bear in mind that deference will be made to the expertise of the scholars who researched and prepared the material.

Students who have not read the material should refrain from making uninformed comments. I can tell when you haven't read and so can your peers. If classroom discussions degenerate because of unsubstantiated or unsupported comments, getting off topic, or because of flippant or frivolous remarks, participation points will be reduced.

At the end of the semester, you will be asked to evaluate your performance in this class. A paragraph or two explaining how many participation points you think you earned and how you earned them can be submitted. Final determination of participation points, however, resides solely with the instructor.

Attendance/Absences

Class attendance is mandatory. This course will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays in HR108. This does not mean that students have Fridays off. Fridays are reserved for course work and/or exams on Blackboard.

Documentation must be provided for excused absences (college activities, illness, or other emergencies) within **one week** of the absence. Students involved in college sponsored activities are responsible for providing documentation. Should an illness or emergency require an extended absence, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Documented emergency situations will be handled on an individual basis. Students with six or more unexcused absences may be dropped from the class at mid-term.

Point Distribution:

Exams (2 @ 20 pts. each)	40 points
Assignments (4 @ 10 pts. each)	40 points
Participation	20 points

	100

Grade Distribution:

A = 90% or higher
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 59% or less

Other Concerns

This course requires a substantial amount of reading. Students need to pace their reading time accordingly. Waiting until the last minute to read the material will likely result in poor work quality, a lack of participation in the classroom, and consequently, lower exam and participation grades. Students are expected to have read the material prior to coming to class. This means that reading required for any week should be accomplished **before** coming to class on Monday of that week. A reading schedule has been provided on this syllabus and on Blackboard.

Take some time to navigate the course site on Blackboard, keeping in mind that more course content will be added as we progress through the semester. Many student tools are included for your convenience and use. Blackboard offers help topics associated with all of its functions. Refer to Blackboard help before contacting the instructor. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of training offered by Academic Computing including face-to-face instruction and online tutorials.

Do not wait until the last minute to complete and submit exams and assignments. Assignments and exams will close and be unavailable to students once the specified time has expired. The time indicated on Blackboard is the **only time** used for this course. Do not attempt to claim that Blackboard did not allow for submission although the time on your watch or computer was different. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. Therefore, do not send assignments after they are due. They will not be accepted.

Plan to be on time for class and to pay attention while in class. Silence cell phones, remove headsets, put away outside reading material, and hold private conversations outside.

Students at Bethune-Cookman University are expected to dress appropriately when on campus. Failure to follow the dress code will result in being asked to leave class.

Discussions in this class may include controversial topics. Please honor the opinions of others. If you disagree, do so in a respectful manner.

Students are expected to uphold college policy regarding academic honesty. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will fail the class and be subject to disciplinary action.

There will be no exam retakes, make-up exams, or additional extra credit.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary.

Reading Schedule

Items in normal text indicate readings from Sociology Matters.

*Items in italics indicate readings from **The Engaged Sociologist**.*

Date	Title	Chapter
Week 1	<i>The Engaged Sociologist</i> Sociological Perspectives <i>Founders and Foundations of Sociology</i>	<i>Chapter 1</i> Chapter 1 (p. 1-20) <i>Chapter 2</i>
Week 2	Sociological Investigation <i>How Do We Know What We Think We Know?</i> <i>Sociological Methods</i>	Chapter 1 (p. 20-33) <i>Chapter 3</i>
Week 3	Culture <i>Creating Civic Engagement Versus Creating Apathy : Culture</i>	Chapter 2 (p. 36-52) <i>Chapter 4</i>
Week 4	Socialization <i>Learning How to Act in Society</i> Social Interaction, Groups and Social Structure	Chapter 2 (52-68) <i>Chapter 5</i> Chapter 3

Week 5	Deviance and Social Control <i>Deviant Behavior and Social Movements</i>	Chapter 4 <i>Chapter 8</i>
Week 6	Stratification in the United States and Global Inequality <i>Big Money Doesn't Always Win: Stratification</i>	Chapter 5 <i>Chapter 9</i>
Week 7	Inequality by Race and Ethnicity <i>What Does a "Typical American" Look Like Today?: Race and Ethnicity</i>	Chapter 6 <i>Chapter 11</i>
Week 8	Inequality by Gender <i>Sex, Gender, and Power</i>	Chapter 7 <i>Chapter 10</i>
Week 10	Social Institutions <i>Social Institutions</i> Families The Family Religion <i>Religious Institutions</i>	Chapter 8 (p. 194-199) <i>Chapter 6 (73-76)</i> Chapter 8 (p. 199-206) Chapter 6 (76-78) Chapter 8 (p. 206-214) <i>Chapter 7 (95-104)</i>
Week 11	Education <i>Educational Institutions</i> Government: Power and Authority	Chapter 9 (p. 217-228) <i>Chapter 7 (91-95)</i> Chapter 9 (p. 229-234)
Week 12	The Economy <i>The Economic System</i> Population Communities and Urbanization	Chapter 9 (p. 235-242) <i>Chapter 6 (78-87)</i> Chapter 10 (245-249) Chapter 10 (250-258)
Week 13	Health and Illness	Chapter 10 (258-269)

Week 14	The Environment	Chapter 10 (269-274)
Week 15	Social Movements, Social Change, and Technology <i>The Engaged Sociologist in Action</i>	Chapter 11 <i>Chapter 12</i>

NOTE: Week 9 is Spring Break.

Assignment Schedule

Assignments will become available at 9:00 a.m. on the date available and will be due at 11:00 p.m. on the due date. Students are strongly advised to review and begin work on assignments when they become available. Once the availability time ends, the assignment will be locked.

Blackboard is incompatible with several word processors and different versions of word processors. As a consequence of this, students are required to submit assignments in Word 97-2003. Assignments submitted in any other format will receive a grade of zero.

Assignment	Points	Date Available	Date Due
Research Methods Informed Consent	10	January 11	January 20
Culture or Socialization	10	January 25	February 3
Deviance or Social Stratification	10	February 8	February 17
Race and Ethnicity or Gender	10	February 22	March 2
Family or Religion	10	March 14	March 23
Education or Government	10	March 28	April 6
Environment or Social Movements	10	April 11	April 20

Exam Schedule

Students may take an exam at any time during the availability period. Once an exam is started, however, it must be completed. Do not attempt to exit an exam and return to it at a later time or on a different computer. Failure to complete an exam once it has begun will result in either a lower grade or a grade of zero.

Students will have two hours to complete exams. When Blackboard prompts that one minute remains, the exam must be submitted within that minute or a grade will not be returned and the student will receive a zero.

For all exams, the questions are randomized, answers within questions are randomized, and questions may not be revisited. This means:

1. Students will not take the same exam.
2. If a student receives the same question on an exam, the answers may not be in the same order.
3. Each question must be answered before moving on to the next question because there is no backtracking.

THERE WILL BE NO RETAKES OR MAKE-UP EXAMS.

Students are strongly advised to take the practice exam (which can be taken up to five times). Actual exams will only be administered one time.

Availability Period	Exam	Basis
9:00 a.m. February 21 to 11:00 p.m. February 24	Midterm	<i>Sociology Matters</i> Chapters 1-6
9:00 a.m. April 17 to 11:00 p.m. April 20	Final	<i>Sociology Matters</i> Chapters 7-11