

Bergen Community College
Division of Business, Social Sciences & Public Services
Department of Social Sciences

Departmental Policy Syllabus

SOC-101 Sociology

Date of Most Recent Syllabus Revision: March, 2009

Course Typically Offered: Fall ___ Spring ___ Summer ___ Every Semester ___x___ Other _____

Syllabus last reviewed by: BCC General Education Committee _____ Date: _____

(Most courses need review Ad Hoc Committee on Learning Assessment _____ Date: _____

by only one of the following) Curriculum Committee: _____ Date: _____

An individual classroom syllabus for this course must include as much of the following information as is applicable:

Basic Information about Course and Instructor

Semester and Year:
Course and Section Number: [e.g., SOC-101-001]
Meeting Times and Locations:

Instructor:
Office Location:
Phone:
Departmental Secretary: [optional]
Office Hours:
Email Address:

Course Description

SOC-101 –Sociology is an examination of the culture and structure of human societies. The course focuses on social groups and institutions, their norms and controls, and how and why they change. Topics of discussion will include the family, education, deviance, race and ethnicity, sex roles, societal change, and social inequalities.

3 lectures, 3 credits

Prerequisites: None
C-requisites: None
General Education Course

Student Learning Objectives/Means of Assessment

Objectives: Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:	Means of Assessment: This outcome will be measured by one or more of the following:
1. describe concepts and terminology that is used by contemporary sociologists.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
2. describe the complex patterns of human social interaction.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
3. describe the unique features of the culture and society in which we live, and the interrelated roles that they and others perform in daily routines.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
4. Identify the major social institutions in the United States, the functions of those institutions and the inequalities that exist within them and that are supported by them.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
5. explain the scientific basis of sociology, the difficulty of being objective in social investigations, and the problems of developing scientific laws in respect to social phenomena.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments
6. describe the cultural, racial, gender and economic diversity that exists in the United States from a sociological perspective.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral reports, class discussions, and writing assignments

Course Content

Topics headings that are preceded by an asterisk (“*”) are considered essential topics in this course. The coverage of additional topics in this class is at the discretion of the individual instruction instructor. The sequence in which these topics are covered in class is suggested by the following outline, but instructors are free to rearrange the suggested sequence.

- *1. Introduction
 - A. The Sociological Perspectives
 - B. The History and Development of Sociology
 - C. The Sociological Imagination

- *II. Science and Methods in Sociology
 - A. The Nature of Science
 - B. Science and Sociology
 - C. Ethics and Sociological Research

- *III. Social Structure
 - A. Levels of Social Structure
 - B. Elements of Social Structure: Status and Roles
 - C. The Impact of Social Structure

- *IV. Culture
 - A. The Elements of Culture
 - B. Cultural Universals and Cultural Diversity
 - C. The Culture of the United States
 - D. Culture Against People

- *V. Socialization
 - A. Biology, Culture, and Socialization
 - B. The Self and Socialization

- *VI. Social Groups
 - A. What are social groups?
 - B. Primary and Secondary Relationships
 - C. The Search for Intimacy and Community

- VII. Organizations and Bureaucracy
 - A. Formal Organization
 - B. Modern Bureaucracies
 - C. Meeting Organizational Goals
 - D. Total Institutions

- *VIII. Social Stratification
 - A. The Dimensions of Stratification
 - B. The Consequences of Poverty
 - C. Theories of Social Stratification
 - D. Social Mobility

- *IX. Power and Politics
 - A. The Basic Dimensions of Power and Politics
 - B. Theories of Political Power
 - C. The Organization of Power in America

- *X. Racial and Ethnic Minorities
 - A. Ethnic Diversity in America
 - B. Prejudice and Discrimination
 - C. Patterns of Ethnic Relations

- XI. Collective Behavior
 - A. Forms of Collective Behavior
 - B. Social Movements
 - C. Rumors, Public Opinion and Persuasion

- XII. Deviance and Social Control
 - A. What is Deviance?
 - B. Explanations of Deviance
 - C. Social Control

- XIII. Population and Health
 - A. Studying Population
 - B. The Population Explosion
 - C. Population Growth in the United States and in the World
 - D. Health in the United States

- *XIV. The Family
 - A. Defining the Marriage and the Family
 - B. Examine the Family from a Cross-Cultural Perspective
 - C. Diversity and Universals in Family Life in the United States

- *XV. Education
 - A. Education from a Functionalist and Conflict Perspective
 - B. The Educational System in the United States
 - C. The Social Structure of Schools
 - D. The Future of Education

- XVI. Religion
 - A. Religion Defined
 - B. Functionalist and Conflict Analyses of Religion
 - C. Religion and Social Change
 - D. Religion and the Individual
 - E. The Future of Religion

- *XVII. Social Change
 - A. Theories of Social Change
 - B. Modernization
 - C. The Future

Special Features of the Course (if any) [to be designated by the instructor]

E.g., the use of learning technologies in the course (Internet, PowerPoint, etc.); the inclusion of technological literacy and/or information literacy learning in the course; etc.

Course Texts and/or Other Study Materials

Required Text: Schaefer, Richard, Sociology, McGraw-Hill, 2008.

Additional Readings:

There are no other required readings for this course, however all faculty have the freedom to assign the student study guide that accompanies the Schaefer text or any other articles or books of the instructor's choosing that are appropriate for an introductory level course. Preferably, instructors will make the online learning center created by the publisher available to students, which is free, rather than expecting them to buy the study guide.

Research, Thinking, Writing, and/or Examination Requirement(s)

Writing Activity:

All students in the Sociology course will be expected to engage in one or more written assignments. These assignments may be essay questions on one or more tests, an essay test, or a short written report based on outside readings or activities.

Critical Thinking:

Students should be encouraged through classroom activities to think about, analyze, and use basic sociological concepts. Memorization of key concepts and theories should be thought of as the first, not the final, stage of learning significant course materials.

Student Evaluation:

In determining a student's semester grade, a minimum of three, and preferably more, grading mechanisms should be employed. Multiple choice, matching, fill-in and essay questions are appropriate; true-false questions are not. Term projects and research reports are not necessary at this level, but essay tests based on outside readings should be considered.

Grading Policy

In determining a student's semester grade, a minimum of three, and preferably more, grading mechanisms should be employed. Multiple choice, matching, fill-in, true/false, and short answer questions are appropriate. Term projects and research reports may be utilized, as well as essay questions based on outside readings should be considered. If a web site for the course is developed (this is encouraged), students may also be evaluated on the basis of their participation in online discussions. Online exams are acceptable, if they are one of several assessment tools.

Grading System:

Students will be presented with a grading system for the course on the first day of the semester. The grading system will include, at a minimum, two or three components:

1. A scale for determining grades A-F, such as the following:
 - a. A = an average of 90 or higher
 - b. B+ = an average between 87 and 89
 - c. B = an average between 80 and 86
 - d. C+ = an average between 77 and 79
 - e. C = an average between 70 and 76
 - f. D = an average between 65 and 60
 - g. F = an average lower than a 65

2. An explanation for the value of course components can include as per the following:
 - a. 3 tests: each test represents 25% of the final grade for a total of 75%
 - b. 1 short paper: represents 20% of final grade

- c. attendance/participation represents 5% of final grade, or if online,
- d. 5 online discussions: each discussion is 20% of final grade for a total of 100%

Attendance Policy

BCC Attendance Policy:

All students are expected to attend punctually every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies and sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

Sociology Discipline Attendance Policy:

The discipline has agreed to leave attendance policies up to the discretion of each course instructor.

Attendance Policy in this Course:

To be determined by the instructor

Other College, Divisional, and/or Departmental Policy Statements [optional but recommended]

Examples:

- Code of Student Conduct.
- Statement on plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty.
- ADA statement.
- Sexual Harassment statement.
- Statement on acceptable use of BCC technology.
- Statement on the purpose and value of faculty office hours.

Student and Faculty Support Services [optional but recommended]

List support services, e.g., the Writing Center, the Math Lab, the Tutorial Center, Online Writing Lab (OWL), Office of Specialized Services, etc.

Include a statement on the BCC Library.

Example:

Student and Faculty Support Services

The distance Learning Office-for any problems	Room C-334	210-612-5581 psimms@bergen.edu
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you may have access- ing your online courses		
Smartthinking Tutorial Service	On Line at:	www.bergen.edu/library/learning/tutor/smart/index.asp
The Tutoring Center	Room L-125	201-447-7908
The Writing Center	Room L-125	201-447-7908
The Online Writing Lab (OWL)	On Line at:	www.bergen.edu/owl
The Office of Specialized Services (for Students with Disabilities)	Room S-131	201-612-5270 www.bergen.edu/oss
The Sidney Silverman Library	Room L-226	201-447-7436

Include a Course Outline and Calendar

The Course Outline and Calendar must include all of the following elements;

- A daily or (at least) weekly schedule of topics to be covered.
- Dates for exams, quizzes, or other means of assessment.
- Due dates for major assignments-e.g., due dates for the paper(s), due dates for the project(s) etc.
- Any required special events-e.g., a lecture by a visiting speaker, a dramatic performance etc.
- A note to students stating that the course outline and calendar is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class.

Sample Format for Course Outline and Calendar

UNIT #	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Week 1	Introduction A. The Sociological Perspectives B. The History and Development of Sociology C. The Sociological Imagination	
Week 2	Science and Methods in Sociology A. The Nature of Science B. Science and Sociology C. Ethics and Sociological Research	
Week 3	Social Structure A. Levels of Social Structure B. Elements of Social Structure: Status and Roles C. The Impact of Social Structure	
Week 4	Culture A. The Elements of Culture B. Cultural Universals and Cultural Diversity C. The Culture of the United States D. Culture Against People	Exam #1

Week 5	Socialization A. Biology, Culture, and Socialization B. The Self and Socialization	
Week 6	Social Groups A. What are social groups? B. Primary and Secondary Relationships C. The Search for Intimacy and Community	
Week 7	Organizations and Bureaucracy A. Formal Organization B. Modern Bureaucracies C. Meeting Organizational Goals D. Total Institutions	Exam #2
Week 8	Social Stratification A. The Dimensions of Stratification B. The Consequences of Poverty C. Theories of Social Stratification D. Social Mobility	
Week 9	Power and Politics A. The Basic Dimensions of Power and Politics B. Theories of Political Power C. The Organization of Power in America	
Week 10	Racial and Ethnic Minorities A. Ethnic Diversity in America B. Prejudice and Discrimination C. Patterns of Ethnic Relations	Exam #3
Week 11	Collective Behavior A. Forms of Collective Behavior B. Social Movements C. Rumors, Public Opinion and Persuasion	
Week 12	Deviance and Social Control A. What is Deviance? B. Explanations of Deviance C. Social Control	
Week 13	Population and Health A. Studying Population B. The Population Explosion C. Population Growth in the U.S. and in the World D. Health in the United States	

Week 14	The Family A. Defining the Marriage and the Family B. Examine the Family from a Cross-Cultural Perspective C. Diversity and Universals in Family Life in the United States	
Week 15	Education A. Education: Functionalist and Conflict Views B. The Educational System in the United States C. The Social Structure of Schools D. The Future of Education	
Week 16	Wrap Up	Exam #4

Note to Students: This Course Outline and Calendar is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class.