

SOAN 190 – SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY – Spring 2014

SOAN 190, Section 01
crn 1200

T, Th 9:00 am to 10:20 am
Barnett Hall Room # 1211

PROFESSOR: Paul Shapiro

MY OFFICE: Barnett 2201

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OFFICE HOURS: M/W 10:30am – 12 noon; T/Th 3:00 – 4:00 pm; and by mutual appointment.

Teaching Aaron Albrecht: aca6412@truman.edu

Assistants Elizabeth Ward: ekw2476@truman.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This introductory course provides an overview of sociology as a discipline, including emphases on sociological concepts, perspectives, and areas of substantive concern. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology will range from social theory to research methodology -- and includes the examination of culture, socialization, social structure, social groups, gender, race, class, family, deviance, religion, and social change. During the course of the semester I would expect students to improve their critical thinking and analytical skills; and I would hope that you will come to see that the society we commonly accept as being naturally occurring is actually socially constructed. It is expected that upon the conclusion of this class students will view the world in a different, more enlightened, and self-aware manner.

DEPARTMENT-SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES:

1. Being a successful participant in an academic discipline requires that students are taught the expectations of the discipline.
2. It is necessary to have knowledge to think with.
3. It is necessary to learn skills to read, evaluate, and craft arguments.
4. It is necessary to learn skills to identify and collect appropriate data, perform analysis, and report results.
5. It is important to encourage students to participate in activities that require them to apply and engage the knowledge and skills they learn in classes.

COURSE-SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES: The student will:

1. Understand the major theories and perspectives in sociology.
2. Understand the major concepts in sociology such as Values, Norms, and Ethnocentrism.
3. Understand key substantive areas in sociology such as: Culture, Socialization and Social Structure.
4. Be able to apply sociological perspectives and critical thought to issues of Race, Gender, Social Class, Religion, and Family.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Henslin, James M. 2013. *Essentials of Sociology: A Down-To-Earth Approach*. 10th edition.
(FYI: The 9th edition of the text would also be ok.)

ADDITIONAL READINGS:

There may be additional articles and/or supplemental materials which will either be put on reserve at the library or made available on-line or in class.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Three Examinations. These exams will be in-class, with multiple choice type questions. While the examinations are not “technically” cumulative there will be some repetition of questions from one exam to another. Make sure to bring two number 2 pencils. Be on time. (**Note:** Only documented medical emergencies, university-sponsored activities, or grievous situations justify the taking of a make-up exam and still require professor pre-approval.)

First exam:	February 25 th	~ 60 points/questions
Second exam:	April 10 th	~ 70 points/questions
Final exam:	May 8 th	~ 90 points/questions

2. Three Written Assignments. These papers will be take-home, essay-type questions. Assignments will be based on the readings and in-class discussion. Paper topics/questions will be assigned in class on specified days and will be collected in class on specified days. Papers should be approximately 3 to 4 pages typed. Papers are worth 15 points each. Be advised: spelling, grammar, and punctuation count. **You need to proofread your work!** Duplicated sentences, pages that are out of order, misaligned, or upside-down will result in a mandatory 5 point deduction. So pay attention! (**Again:** Only documented medical emergencies, university-sponsored activities, or grievous situations justify the acceptance of a late paper; and that still requires professor pre-approval.)

3. Random Response Papers. At the professor’s flighty whims occasional short response (or reaction) papers will be assigned during the semester. Typically these are 1-page (or less) responses that will be assigned as either in-class or take-home tasks. (**Seriously:** You must be in class to qualify for these points. No exceptions!)

4. Current Events News Quizzes. A few times scattered throughout the semester there will be current events news quizzes taken from that week’s *New York Times*. (**I’m not kidding:** You must be in class to qualify for these points.)

GRADING SCALE:

3 exams worth ~ 220 points	A range: 90% and above
3 homework papers worth ~ 45 points	B range: 80% - 89%
3 or 4 response papers worth ~ 15 or 20 points	C range: 70% - 79%
3 or 4 <i>NY Times</i> Quizzes ~ 30 points	D range: 60% - 69%
(Flexible) Total = ~ 310 points	F range: 59% or less

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is your responsibility. However, please remember that a substantial portion of the exam material will be derived from the lectures. You are responsible for material covered in the lectures that is not covered in the text. You are also responsible for material from the text that may not be covered in the lectures. Response and reaction papers cannot be made up.

CLASS BEHAVIOR:

Tardiness and leaving class early are distracting to other students and is strongly discouraged. I recognize that Barnett Hall is a trek from some parts of campus; but that's no excuse for not making every effort to be punctual. If you cannot make it on time please enter the classroom as quietly and as unobtrusively as possible. Students who are habitually late, or disturb the class upon their entry, after being warned may be administratively withdrawn.

If you must leave early, please let me know in advance, and sit close to the exits to depart as quietly as possible.

CELL PHONES:

Turn off all cell-phones and electronic communication devices when in class. Under no circumstances should any student ever answer a cell phone in class or check a phone for messages or numbers. If your cellular device goes off during class you will be asked to leave. Repeat offenders may be given an 'F' for the semester and administratively dropped from the course.

There will be no "texting" in this class. Students caught texting or attempting to read or send text messages will be asked to leave. Repeat offenders may be given an 'F' for the semester and administratively dropped from the course.

Unless you have documentation from the Disability Services office, students are not permitted to wear headsets, ipods, earpieces, or other electronic equipment.

ADA COMPLIANCE:

The university is committed to making every possible effort to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Disability Services office (x4478) as soon as possible.

WRITING CENTER:

The Writing Center in McClain 303B (x4484) is open from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, and is a good resource for improving your writing. They can help you to brainstorm, adjust style(s), fix grammar, references, citations, and the like. Never be too embarrassed or ashamed to seek out help.

ACADEMIC (DIS)HONESTY:

The documented policies of Truman State University concerning cheating and plagiarism will be strictly enforced in this class. Anyone engaging in plagiarism, cheating, or any other forms of academic dishonesty should be prepared to fail this course, and possibly be expelled. So don't do it.

TRUVIEW ACCOUNTS:

Your Truview student e-mail account is the official communications mechanism for this class. Any official notifications that require e-mail contact will be made through your Truview account. So please check it regularly.

DISCLOSURE OF GRADES:

As a matter of policy I am NOT permitted to discuss or release grade information via e-mail or phone. You must come to my office to discuss your grades.

SENSITIVE SUBJECT MATERIAL:

This course will explore some controversial topics and sensitive material. It is our goal to examine complex issues from multiple perspectives. The cornerstone of higher education is the freedom to discuss competing theories and ideas in the classroom. **It is also important to remember that examination does not equal endorsement.** To fully understand our social world, unpopular or alternative viewpoints must be studied. While free expression, spirited interactions, and disagreements are encouraged, personal attacks and disrespect of your fellow students will not be tolerated.

CONCERNS, PROBLEMS, QUESTIONS:

If you have a concern about any issue, in or out of class, please come by my office, call, or e-mail me and we can discuss it. You don't need to make an appointment. If I'm around Barnett Hall my door will usually be open. Be assured that anything told to me in confidence will remain in confidence unless I am required by law to disclose it.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

This is a general guide. Unless changes are identified in class, or via Truview e-mail, please follow this schedule. I reserve the right to change, alter, adjust, or otherwise tinker with the schedule as I see fit.

(**Note:** I strongly encourage you to read the assigned materials prior to the start of the week.)

For the week of:

Henslin

1/16	Intro to course, Syllabus, History	
1/23	Theories / Methods	Ch. #1
1/30	Culture	Ch. #2
2/6	Socialization	Ch. #3
2/13	Social Structure and Interaction	Ch. #4
2/20	Catch-Up, Review, Extra Lecture Topic	TBA
2/25	EXAM #1 [No class 2/27: University Conference]	
3/6	Social Groups and Organizations.	Ch. #5
3/13	No Classes This Week: Midterm Break	
3/20	Deviance.	Ch. #6
3/27	Global Stratification, Social Class	Ch. #7, #8
4/3	Race and Ethnicity	Ch. #9
4/10	Catch-Up, Review, EXAM #2	
4/17	[No class 4/15: Student Research Conf.] Gender/Age	Ch. #10
4/24	Gender. Marriage and Family	Ch. #10, #12
5/1	Population, Urbanization, Social Change. Review	Ch. #13, #14, #15
5/8	FINAL EXAMINATION (Thursday, May 8th, 7:30am to 9:20am)	