

## **SOCI 1301 Introductory Sociology SPRING 2012 Syllabus and Schedule**

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### **Course Description:**

Introduces the student to sociological concepts, theories and new ways of thinking about social issues such as poverty, inequality and deviance. It allows the student to examine various social institutions and their contributions to social life; identifies the social groups that make up society; and explores the significance of culture and social structure for understanding human behavior. Internet course is also available. (SCANS 6,9)

### **Course Objectives:**

After completing this course, the student will:

1. Understand the sociological perspective and the scientific method;
2. Understand the nature of society and culture and their role in shaping human thought and behavior;
3. Understand the socialization process of humans from birth to death;
4. Understand the nature of social groups and organizations and their importance for individuals and society;
5. Understand the nature of deviance and social control;
6. Be able to explain stratification as a characteristic of all societies and the bases for stratification, including economics, race/ethnicity, gender and age;
7. Be able to identify and understand the functions of the major societal institutions;
8. Have knowledge of Demography and the consequences of human population growth;
9. Understand the dynamics of social change;
10. Understand the concept of globalization and its implications for individuals, society and the world;
11. Be familiar with numerous organizations and websites that are relevant to the field of sociology.
12. Have enhanced Information and Communication Technology skills.

**Required Material:**

Maciones. J. (2010). Society: The Basics (11<sup>th</sup> ed). Prentice Hall: New Jersey.

**Schedule**

Week of	Module (see Weekly Modules button on course menu)
<b>January 17</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>January 22</b>	<b>1, 2</b>
<b>January 29</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>February 5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>February 12</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>February 19</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>February 26</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>March 4</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>March 11</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>March 18</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>March 25</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>April 1</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>April 8</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>April 15</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>April 29</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Final Thoughts</b>

The course is designed in a modular format. Each week includes one module that contains assignments for that week. "Week" will be from Sunday to Sunday. See Weekly Modules button.

**Module 1** will be open until Sunday, January 29 (for 2 weeks) so that everyone has time to get a great start in the course.

For the rest of the semester, however, your work/assignments for each Module are posted on Sunday of the week indicated and all work must be completed by midnight the *following* Sunday (1 week).

So, as you can see, Modules 1 and 2 BOTH must be completed by Sunday, January 29.

**Please note however, that Module 1 runs for the first 2 weeks of class and therefore overlaps with Module 2.**

**Important dates for the OC semester can be found at <http://www.odessa.edu/college-calendar11-12-b.pdf>**

**Computer skills:**

Students should be able to navigate the Internet and conduct required research, create word processing documents and navigate the course web site. Students must also be able to use email, attach files and use various features of Blackboard.

**Your final grade is determined by the following:**

1. The Orientation	50 points
2. Learning Styles Assessment	50 points
2. Introduction Post	10 points
3. Multiple choice quizzes (8 at 30 points each)	240 points
4 .Written assignments/essays (6 at 75 points each)	450 points
5. Small group discussion (5 at 40 points each)	200_points
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<b>1000 points</b>	

There is no final exam per se in this class; **MODULE 16 serves as your final exam.** Even if you are satisfied with your points at this time, you must complete the entire module! If you do not complete these, you will fail the course as per the OC policy that any student who does not take the final exam fails the course.

**Grading Scale:**

- 880 - 1000 points = A
- 780 - 879 points = B
- 680 - 779 points = C
- 580 - 679 points = D
- under 579 points = F

## **Specific Policies and Procedures:**

**Checking in to the Course** – students are required to check in to the course at least 3 times each week. The course entry page is the Announcements page. Students should also check their OC email accounts and the General Discussion Board at least 3 times each week. You should read all posts there.

**Submitting assignments** – writing assignments will be prepared in word processing documents and saved in files that are submitted through Blackboard. They will NOT be accepted by email. All documents should be double spaced and have your name of them. You should also conduct a spell – check on all assignments. Save a copy of all assignments on a flash drive.

### **Attendance policy:**

You must go into the course at least 3 times each week. Please note that if you fail to check into the course at least 3 times each week, 10 points will be deducted from your final grade.

### **Communication Policies:**

Students should use the **General Discussion board** (accessible under all Modules) for all communication related to the course. This includes questions, comments, and requests for clarification. Please note, however, if the answer to a student question is to be found within the course web site, she will be returned to the site to continue to look for the answer to the question.

Students must put their names and SOCI/PSYC 2306 on all emails. Weekly Announcements and emails to students inform you of the week’s assignments

If you email the instructor, she will respond in a very timely manner. You are expected to acknowledge her reply and indicate that she has addressed your concern. You should therefore check email for a response if you sent the instructor an email.

Do not use a texting style of communication/writing (“c u”; “ur”) in group discussion nor in Writing Assignments. This is a college class, and academic writing is expected.

### **Late Submission Policy:**

Late work is not accepted except under special circumstances. Acceptance of late work is up to the instructor’s discretion. If you feel you have a unique situation/circumstance that prohibits your meeting a deadline, you should communicate it to me privately via email. Students are strongly encouraged to communicate any problems to the instructor in a timely manner.

**Incomplete Policy:**

A grade of "Incomplete" may be given only if (1) the student has passed all work completed, and (2) he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of "I" will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student. A contract between student and instructor must be signed.

**Instructor Response Time:**

The instructor will respond to emails and bulletin board posts with 24 – 48 hours of receiving them. If she will be unavailable for any length of time for any reason, she will post such a message in the announcements area and on the general Discussion Board.

**Statement of Academic Dishonesty:**

Ethics, Cheating and Plagiarism "Using someone else's ideas or phrasing and representing those ideas or phrasing as our own, either on purpose or through carelessness, is a serious offense known as plagiarism. "Ideas or phrasing" includes written or spoken material, of course, from whole papers and paragraphs to sentences, and, indeed, phrases. but it also includes statistics, lab results, art work, etc. "Someone else" can mean a professional source, such as a published writer or critic in a book, magazine, encyclopedia, or journal; an electronic resource such as material we discover on the World Wide Web; another student at our school or anywhere else; a paper-writing "service" (online or otherwise), which offers to sell written papers for a fee."

(Statement taken from <http://webster.commnet.edu/mla/plagiarism.shtml> )

I do not tolerate cheating in any form. If you plagiarize copy, cut and paste an essay, or cheat on an exam once, that assignment will receive a "0." If you plagiarize or cheat the second time, you will receive an "F" in the course.

Cutting and pasting any information from any Internet source is considered cyber plagiarism and will result on a 0 for the first offense and an F in the course for any subsequent offenses.

See the section on "Scholastic Dishonesty" in the updated Odessa College *Student Handbook*.

See <http://www.riosalado.edu/library/tutorials/Pages/avoidingPlagiarism.aspx>

## **Statement of Special Accommodations:**

In accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, Odessa College does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the recruitment and admission of students, the employment of faculty and staff, and the operation of any of its programs and activities. Students with a disability should contact *ADA Accommodation/Support personnel* Becky Rivera-Weiss @ 432-335-6861 or [brivera@odessa.edu](mailto:brivera@odessa.edu)

## **Preparation for Computer Emergencies**

### **Computer Crash**

Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

### **Server problems**

When the Blackboard server needs downtime for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing the time and the date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems your course instructor will send an email.

### **Complete Loss of Contact**

If you lose contact with me completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Blackboard or email), you need to call me at my office, 335-6555, and explain the reason you cannot contact me and leave me a way to contact you.

### **Lost/Corrupt/Disappeared files**

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc) or any contradictions/problems, I may/will request you to resubmit the files. In other words, if you submit a document to me, and I either do not receive it (lost in cyberspace) or it is corrupted when I open it, it is incumbent upon you to resend it to me, corrected, with little or no "downtime" in regard to the timeline for submission.

## **Computer and System Requirements:**

Please see <https://www.odessa.edu/OCGlobal/blackboard/requirements.htm>

**Email:** Students enrolled in Odessa College must use an Odessa College email address. Please go to <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>