

MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology

Semester: Spring 2011
Instructor: Ms. Baseemah Bashir, MA, MBTI, SPHR
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Office Hours: T/R 8 am – 8:45 am; Live web-chat (available upon request)

Textbook: Witt, John (2009, 1st ed.) *SOC*. McGraw Hill - ISBN# 0073528242
****If you purchase this book outside of the bookstore, be sure you have the correct edition****

Course Objectives:

This course will introduce you to the study of sociology focusing on three major theoretical perspectives: symbolic interactionism, functional analysis and conflict theory. By the end of this course you should be able to demonstrate through examinations, presentations, reports and or written assignments knowledge of:

- 1) The definition of sociology and the sociological perspective
- 2) Major sociological concepts such as but not limited to, culture, social structure, socialization, deviance, social stratification and inequality
- 3) To understand our place in society and how society influences our decisions and actions
- 4) How theories, concepts and issues discussed in the course apply to the world around you
- 5) Major ideas of sociological research:
 - a) Identifying variables
 - b) Asking a sociological question of those variables
 - c) Formulating theory that answers that question.
 - d) Finding appropriate scholarly/academic source(s) to support your theory
 - e) Synthesizing information from your experience, the class and your scholarly sources in the form of a paper

Course Policies

You will submit papers through the appropriate paper drop-boxes provided for you, or email it as an attached Word or WordPerfect document (files may be .doc, .wpd, .txt, .rft, or .pdf files). Posting papers in the body of an email will alter your paper formatting and formatting is a central part of your paper grades. This is especially important for the research paper which must be done in APA format.

Deadlines: I will have all important dates posted on the class calendar, this syllabus and on the appropriate assignment guides when applicable. I will also send email reminders on upcoming deadlines for papers and exams. However, you are ultimately responsible

for keeping track of important dates and deadlines for this class so I suggest you **check all due dates for the week at the beginning of every week.**

Academic Integrity: Of all types of academic dishonesty, the only type I have had serious problems with in this course has been plagiarism. Please realize that I take plagiarism seriously, and any student caught plagiarizing will be dealt with appropriately. The biggest problem I have found is that students are often unclear what constitutes plagiarism.

What constitutes plagiarism?

- 1) Copying someone else's writing word-for-word without the use of quotation marks and a reference citation is plagiarism, even if it's only a phrase or a sentence. However, even if you change a couple of words in a passage it still constitutes plagiarism because the basic ideas and sentence structure is the original author's.
- 2) Plagiarism also involves paraphrasing someone else's work if you don't provide a proper reference citation, and sometimes paraphrasing comes awfully close to word-for-word copying, especially if you've only changed a couple of words.
- 3) On the other hand, filling up a paper with quotation after quotation is also unacceptable because the paper doesn't really represent your own thoughts and ideas and doesn't represent college-level work.

The best advice I can give is to avoid quotations and to put your main ideas completely into your own words. Additionally, you should always provide an appropriate reference citation for the source of your ideas

CAVEAT: The above policies and assignments are subject to change. These policies can be modified and or changed by oral or written notice from the professor.

Grades and Requirements:

Course Grading is as follows:

- 40% = 400 points: Online Exams
- 10% = 100 points: Paper
- 30% = 300 points: Online Quizzes
- 20% = 200 points: Discussion Forum Contributions

Final Grades:

Grade	Definition	Nominal %	QPA quality point value*
A	Superior Achievement	93-100	4.0
A-		90-92	3.7
B+	Above Average Achievement	87-89	3.4
B		83-86	3.0
B-		80-82	2.7
C+	Average Achievement	77-79	2.4
C		70-76	2.0
D		60-69	1.0
F		0-59	0.0

Examinations: 40 % of Final grade: There will be 2 examinations for this class. Each exam will cover those chapters covered up to that exam. The format will be multiple-choice. There will be **NO MAKE UP EXAMS** so be sure to keep track of your calendars for testing dates.

Online Quizzes: 30% of Final grade

Each student will be required to take weekly online quizzes, which will be graded. Once you have completed the quiz click on the “submit for grade” button at the bottom of the page. This will allow you to view your grade and the corrected version of your quiz. You will also have the option of emailing the results; you must email the first page showing your score for each graded quiz to me using the course email. You will be expected to complete the quiz in the week it is due. **You will not be able to take the quiz once the scheduled time period is over. The quizzes cannot be made up.**

Online Discussions: 20% of Final grade

The Discussion Forum is meant to simulate classroom discussions; however it is not in a chat room format. The format is that of a Discussion Forum (similar to a yahoo group listserv). You and the other students contribute to the threaded discussions that are accessible to everyone taking the course and me. There will be **weekly deadlines** for your contributions to the discussions and these discussions will be part of your grade. You are required to answer one of the weekly discussion questions posted by me as well as respond to one of your classmate’s comments. Your comments should be thoughtful. So don’t be neglectful in logging into the discussions forums. To get the maximum benefit from this exercise, try to read as many of the comments as you can and feel free to respond to as many comments as you would like. Your discussion grade is a single grade that evaluates your performance over the course of the entire semester and is awarded at the end of the semester (i.e. you are not graded individually for each chapter discussion forum post).

NOTE: These comments are viewable by all students so, just like in the classroom; you must be civil and respect everyone’s opinions/views. **I will not tolerate** disrespect in my class.

Papers: 10 % of Final grade

There is one research paper worth a total 100 pts or 10%:

- More specific instructions will be made available on the course paper in a timely manner.
- Papers are 8-10 pages – Paper must be double spaced with one inch margins and in a standard font. Included in the page count is the cover sheet and bibliography/work cited page. **ALL PAPERS MUST BE WRITTEN IN APA FORMAT!**
- You will be given a list of questions or issues for each short paper in which you **MUST SELECT ONE** question on which you will write your paper.
- You must find at least 3 **ACADEMIC PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES** (instructions to follow on what this is) that supports your argument. This source must be an actual research study that is no less than 6

pages. It cannot come from a magazine, a website, a news paper, etc. You are encouraged to submit to the source you have chosen for approval prior to the due date of your paper.

Late Papers: Papers are expected to be submitted on time. Some exceptions will be made in cases of work, health and death related issues. However, these must be accompanied by documented proof issued by the appropriate authority e.g. doctor's note, note from employer, etc.

Summary:

- 1 Check syllabus for what is due each week
- 2 Read assigned textbook chapters
- 3 Complete all assignments including discussion forum, quizzes and papers
- 4 Use the exam study guides when studying for the exam
- 5 Do exams in the testing center in the required exam period (see calendar)
- 6 Enjoy yourself!!!

I will do everything I can to make this a worthwhile learning experience for you. Please feel free to contact me if you need any assistance during this course.

Email Policy: I love talking to my online students via email. In fact, it is often the only way I truly get to know them and them me. If you have a question, first check your syllabus for the answer. If the syllabus does not provide you the answer, then check update emails from me, check your calendar, check the appropriate folder, and then check the Intro to the class folder. If the answer to your question is still not provided, then please feel welcome to send me an email. I will respond to emails through ANGEL on within 2 days of your post. If you have an emergency, please send an email directly to my MCCC email (bashirb@mccc.edu) and follow the instructions below.

- The "subject" line of your email **must have** your complete name and the class you are in.
- In the **body of the email**, clearly state your issue and remember that emailing your professor is a professional (but friendly) correspondence so adhere to email etiquette (minimize abbreviations, do not use all caps, be civil, sign your name at the end, etc.)
- From Monday-Friday, I will try to answer all emails as quickly as possible. If it is necessary that you get a response in 24 hours, be sure to mark your email as urgent.

Important Dates to Remember

Exams:

Exam # 1 – Covers Weeks 1-7 - Available online from 12:00am on 3/13 – 11:55pm on 3/19

Exam # 2 – Covers Weeks 8-15 – Available online from 12:00am on 5/9 – 11:55pm on 5/15

Research Paper

Research Paper due 11:55pm 4/17/11

Breaks:

Spring Break – No Classes – Monday 3/14/11 – Sunday 3/20/11

No Classes – Monday 4/25/11

Withdrawal:

Withdrawal deadline – Friday 4/8/11

Classes End:

Monday 5/16/11

Date	Reading Assignment (please read <i>before class</i>)	Topic	What's Due?
Week 1 1/24-1/29	Chapter 1	The Sociological Imagination	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 1/29
Week 2 1/30-2/5	Chapter 2	Sociological Research	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 2/5
Week 3 2/6-2/12	Chapter 3	Culture	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 2/12
Week 4 2/13-2/19	Chapter 4	Socialization	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 2/19
Week 5 2/20-2/26	Chapter 5	Social Structure and Interaction	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 2/26
Week 6 2/27-3/5	Chapter 6	Deviance	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 3/5

Week 7 3/6-3/12	Chapter 9	Government and Economy	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 3/12 Available from 12:00am on 3/7 – 11:55pm on 3/13 Exam # 1/Mid-term - Covers Weeks 1-7
Week 8 3/14-3/20	No Classes	Spring Break	
Week 9 3/21-3/26	Chapter 10	Social Class	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 3/26
Week 10 3/27-4/2	Chapter 12	Gender and Age	Read Chapter Assigned Withdrawal deadline is 4/8 Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 4/2
Week 10 4/3-4/9	Chapter 7	Families	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 4/9
Week 11 4/10-4/16	Chapter 13	Race and Ethnicity	Read Chapter Assigned Research Paper due 11:55pm 4/17 Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 4/16
4/17-4/24	Chapter 8	Education and Religion	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 4/24
4/25	No Classes		
4/26-4/30	Chapter 11	Global Inequality	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 4/30
5/1-5/7	Chapter 14	Health, Medicine and the Environment	Read Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 5/7
5/8-5/14	Chapter 15	Social Change	Exam # 2 - Covers Weeks 8-15

			<p>Available From 12:00am on 5/9 – 11:55pm on 5/15 Continue Reading Chapter Assigned Quiz and Discussion Forum due 11:55pm 5/14</p>
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