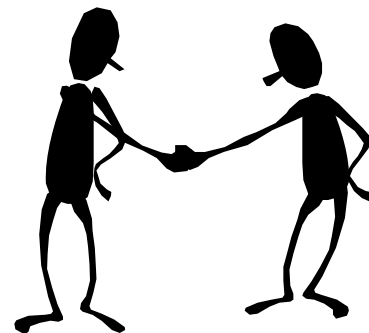


MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Welcomes You to Spring Semester 2007 and:

Introduction to Sociology – SOC 210 - 95

Instructor: John Neathery, M.A., Ed.S.

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Course Description

This course introduces the scientific study of human society, culture, and social interactions. Topics include socialization, research methods, diversity and inequality, cooperation and conflict, social change, social institutions, and organizations. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of sociological concepts as they apply to the interplay among individuals, groups, and societies. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.*

Communication with the Instructor

As this is an internet course, I will not provide you with a phone number in which to contact me (this policy is due to economic and privacy concerns and is supported by Mayland Community College), nor will I have designated office hours as I do not live in the MCC area. All communication with me will be through email. As I check my email messages every weekday I will make every effort to respond to your email inquiries as quickly as possible (typically within 24 hours). Be advised, however, that I rarely check my email in the evenings or during weekends. If you have immediate concerns or emergencies in which I will be unable to assist you, please contact one of the following MCC employees:

1. Ms. April Pittman, Sociology/Psychology Instructor (828-765-7351; ext 266)
2. Mr. Jon Wilmesherr, Dean of the LRC (828-765-7351; ext 242 or 243)
3. Ms. Renie Stewart, Dean of the Arts & Sciences Dept. (828-765-7351; ext 270).

Course Information

Number of Credit Hours = 3; Number of Contact Hours Per Week = 3

Prerequisites: RED 090 or satisfactory placement test scores

Corequisites: None

Unconditional Withdrawal – Tuesday, February 13

Conditional withdrawal – Tuesday, March 27

While there are no official prerequisites, other than RED 090, for this course there are some considerations that each student must make. The online method of course delivery is different from the classroom environment and requires the following:

Self Discipline: In a typical seated classroom environment the students have the opportunity to question the instructor or rely on the instructor to explain material. With internet courses the instructor remains a valuable resource; however, the students must become proactive in their learning due to the absence of day-to-day instruction by the instructor. In other words, students must be self-disciplined in order to be successful. Time management and organizational skills are a must in order to excel. Because there is no official class time, students can easily postpone work in order to have “enough time to do it correctly.” This can quickly become

problematic. Due to the nature of the course, students are required to do a great deal of internet searching and reading. Both can be time consuming. Often, the time required is not exactly known beforehand (e.g. sometimes it takes a little longer to read and comprehend a chapter/article than students think). It does not take long for the work to form into a seemingly insurmountable task. For students that this happens to, they often feel overwhelmed and decide they are not able to satisfactorily complete the work. Two outcomes result: the student withdraws from the course or he/she receives a failing grade.

Critical Reading: A characteristic of online course delivery is the amount of reading required. Many students have become accustomed to instructors explaining the material in traditional classroom settings. This has resulted in students not reading as much or not paying as much attention to what they read. Unlike this typical situation in seated classrooms, in an online course students must keep up with reading assignments and comprehend what they read.

Computer Skills: To do well in this course it is necessary that students have certain computer and internet skills.

Students should be familiar with the following:

- experience with email (including attaching documents)
- using search engines
- understanding URLs and web addresses
- bookmarking pages
- saving web pages
- familiarity with [netiquette](#)
- reading large amounts of text on screen

Required Text(s):

Macionis, John J. (2007). *Society: The Basics (9th ed.)*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Benokraitis, Nijole V. & Macionis, John J. (2007) *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology (7th ed.)*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall.

A. Course Objectives/Competencies: By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Define and comprehend the nature of sociology as a discipline.
2. Define, comprehend, and discuss the major theoretical perspectives in sociology.
3. Understand the methods that sociologists use in conducting research.
4. Understand culture, including cultural norms, values, and other cultural content.
5. Examine the processes of social change and social control in societies.
6. Identify the elements of social structure, including status, role, and class.
7. Understand the relationship between the individual and society, including the study of social interaction and group dynamics.
8. Understand how human behavior is shaped through the socialization process.
9. Highlight the dominant social institutions of societies.
10. Discuss the various dimensions of social inequality, including poverty, race & ethnicity, gender, and age.
11. Understand the influence of collective behavior and social movements on societies. Distinguish deviance from criminality and understand the impact of both types of behavior on societies.

B. Course Requirements:

- I. **Writing and Message Board Assignments - 40% of Final Grade:** Students will be required to complete various writing (20% of final grade) and message board (20% of final grade) assignments over the course of the semester. Completion of writing assignments and active participation in weekly message board forums is essential for your success in this course. **Writing and message board assignments submitted after the due date and time will NOT be accepted (Note: I urge all students to submit completed assignments early).** In addition, assignment folders will be removed from the web page when their contents are due. As I do not accept assignments after the due date, please do not request a copy of the directions for any assignment(s) after it has been removed from LEO.

Homework/Writing Assignment Format: Students will use the following format for ALL completed work received by the instructor:

1. Typed
2. Double Spaced
3. 12 Font
4. One Inch Margins
5. Times New Roman or Arial Print
6. APA (American Psychological Association) documentation

- II. **Exams – 60% of Final Grade:** There will be four (4) non-cumulative exams in this course. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and/or essay questions. Exams are valued at 100 points apiece. Each exam will comprise fifteen percent (15%) of your final grade. Students may complete the exams on a computer in the Mayland Community College LRC (Learning Resources Center), in a computer lab on campus, or on a home computer. An attendant in the LRC and/or computer lab will assist students in getting started if they choose to complete the exam in either of those two areas. Textbooks, lecture notes, cheat sheets, etc., will be prohibited unless otherwise announced in advance. Students will also have a time limit in which to complete each exam.

Exam Extra-Credit: Students will have the opportunity to complete one extra-credit assignment before each exam (as there will be four exams in this class, the total extra-credit opportunities allowed also equals four). All extra-credit papers are due before students begin a scheduled exam (Note: If they wish, students may submit completed extra-credit assignments early). Students will not be allowed to make-up extra-credit assignments. In other words, students will not receive points if they submit an extra-credit paper for exam one after exam one has been completed.

It is possible to earn five points towards each exam grade if students complete extra credit assignments. To receive the full credit for these assignments, papers should include a minimum of:

1. One paragraph introducing/discussing the event/topic being written about and;
2. One paragraph critically analyzing the event/topic through sociology. In other words, how does the event/topic specifically relate to

sociology? Students should analyze their event/topic through a specific sociological theory, topic, and/or concept.

Students may complete each of the following exercises for extra-credit a maximum of one time, excluding a cultural event on campus which may be completed a maximum of four times (Note: Students do not have to follow the order of extra-credit opportunities as listed below):

1. Attend a cultural event on campus that relates to sociology (e.g. visiting guest speakers, multicultural events, etc.);
2. Attend a cultural event in the community that relates to sociology (e.g. community festival, sporting event, political rally, etc.);
3. Read a current sociological journal article found on NC LIVE (the article must be attached to the completed essay) and/or;
4. View a video/film seen in or outside of class that relates to sociology. Films seen outside of class may include documentaries seen on television. Examples of acceptable films outside of class include, but are not limited to, the following: *Pleasantville*, *American History X*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Amistad*, *Gandhi*, *Minority Report*, *The Matrix*, *Mississippi Burning*, *Crash*, *Boys Don't Cry*, *Schindler's List*, *Pursuit of Happiness*.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams will only be given to students who provide a valid reason for missing an exam (e.g. a death in the family, court procedures, medical procedures, or an accident). In addition, written documentation must be presented to the instructor explaining the reason why an exam was not completed. Students not providing a valid, verifiable excuse will receive a zero (0) for the missed exam and will be encouraged to drop this class. Students will not be allowed to make-up more than one exam during the course of the semester, nor will extra credit be accepted with make-up exams. All make-up exams will be in essay and/or objective form and will be given at the convenience of the instructor. As you will have one week to complete each exam, I urge you to complete each of these assignments early to avoid any unforeseen problems (e.g. technical/internet issues).

- C. Attendance:** Although this is an “online” course, it is important that students “attend” class on a regular basis. If students do not have contact with me and do not attend class (i.e. complete assignments) for a consecutive two-week period, they will be dropped from the class.

Any of the activities for this course will count as attendance time whether or not students have direct contact with me. For example, posting threads on message boards will count as attendance. I will track attendance electronically. Any difficulties with the attendance policy should be discussed with me. There will be no excused absences under this policy. There is no maximum limit for attendance (i.e. how much time is spent on LEO).

Note: If a student decides to drop this course he/she must officially withdraw through Student Records. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course, not the instructor's.

- D. Grading:** Assignments will be graded as soon as possible and grades will be posted in the online gradebook (Note: Students will only have access to their grades in the online gradebook, not their classmates). Generally, grades will be posted within one week after the due date for each assignment. I will inform everyone if the posting of grades will be delayed.

The grading scale for this class is as follows:

- A** = 90-100
- B** = 80-89
- C** = 70-79
- D** = 60-69
- F** = 59 and below

- E. Academic Integrity:** While it is often easy to cheat in an online course, students are expected to complete their assignments with academic integrity and honesty. Should the instructor discover academic dishonest behavior in any form (e.g. cheating on exams, plagiarism, etc.) by a student, he/she will receive a zero on the exam/assignment in question, may fail the course, or may be expelled/suspended from the institution. Please refer to the MCC student code of conduct policy located in the student handbook for further details regarding academic integrity.
- F. Accommodations:** Any student requesting special accommodations for this course due to a disability should apply for services through the SOAR Office or the Counseling Center on MCC's campus, which will document the disability. A counselor will then help determine which accommodations, if any, the student needs for success in this course.
- G. Tentative Course Outline:** Unless otherwise announced in advance, we will cover one chapter per week this semester, excluding weeks of scheduled exams and Spring Break. Due to time constraints, we will not cover every chapter in the textbook.

Note: Readings from the *Seeing Ourselves* text will be posted during the first week of class. Students will be notified when these readings are available for review.

Tentative Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1-4	Introduction Chapter 1 – Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method Chapter 2 – Culture Exam #1
5-8	Chapter 3 – Socialization: From Infancy to Old Age Chapter 4 – Social Interaction in Everyday Life Chapter 5 – Groups and Organizations Exam #2
9-12	Chapter 8 - Social Stratification Chapter 7 – Deviance Chapter 11 – Race & Ethnicity Exam #3

13-16 Chapter 10 – Gender Stratification
Chapter 9 – Global Stratification
* The last chapter covered in this class will be announced at a later date.
Exam #4

- **Additional chapters will be covered if time is available.**

H. Disclaimer: Mr. Neathery reserves the right to modify any section of this syllabus during the course of the semester. You will be notified in advance if the syllabus is modified.

I. Mission Statement and Competencies for the General Education Core:

Mission:

Mayland Community College's General Education core courses will provide the essential body of knowledge and skills that enable all degree-level students to perform competently as employees and as contributing members of society.

Graduates of all degree programs at Mayland Community College will have completed the general education core. That core encompasses the essential knowledge and skills that enable all degree-level students to perform competently as employees and as contributing members of society. Upon completion of the general education core, students will be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Effective communication in speaking and listening situations needed for college, personal, and work successes
2. Effective communication in writing and reading situations needed for college, personal, and work successes
3. Logical, critical, and creative thinking to evaluate evidence and reach a conclusion
4. Application of basic computer use skills
5. Application of fundamental math skills
6. Basic awareness of the diversity of various world groups from both historical and contemporary contexts