

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**SOC 105: Introduction to Sociology**

**Fall Session II**

**October 9th - December 3rd, 2023**

**PROFESSOR:**Dr. Cheryl Brown

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course surveys modern social organization and the factors that influence the social order. Students begin with the formation of groups and the creation of culture and proceed to an examination of the impact of group association through theoretical and experiential approaches. Topics include the family; group membership; social interaction; stratification; racial, ethnic, and minority relations; sex-role differences; social control and deviance from social norms; and social institutions.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Ritzer, G., & Wiedenhoft-Murphy, W.A. (2019).*Introduction to sociology*(5th ed.). New York: SAGE.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain sociology’s approach to studying social life, including using the sociological imagination and examining the relationship between private troubles and public issues.
2. Differentiate between sociology’s two possible purposes: science and social reform.
3. Evaluate the ways in which sociological knowledge differs from common sense.
4. Identify the most important classical sociologists and their major contributions to the field.
5. Explain the basic features of structural/functional, conflict/critical, and inter/actionist theories.
6. Apply each of these major approaches to theory to examples drawn from everyday life.
7. Define culture.
8. Identify the basic elements of culture, including the concepts of ideal and real culture, subcultures and countercultures, culture wars, and assimilation.
9. Describe emerging issues in culture, such as global and consumer culture.
10. Describe the development of the self in the context of symbolic interaction.
11. Discuss the concept of the individual as performer, including the ideas of impression management and the front and back stages.
12. Contrast historical and recent views of racial categories and ethnic identities in the United States.
13. Describe the effects on majority-minority relations of stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, and the social construction of difference.
14. Describe the effects of globalization on the world economy. Discuss the causes and effects of population growth, population decline, and immigration.
15. Describe the growing urbanization of the world’s population and the effects of deindustrialization on U.S. cities.
16. Discuss sociological theories of the environment and major environmental problems and responses.
17. Use sociological concepts to explain the rise and impact of social movements such as the women’s movement, the gay and lesbian movement, the civil rights movement, and the Tea Party.

**COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All assignments must be completed by the learner. Learners are expected to read and adhere to the Academic Integrity section of Reinhardt University’s Academic Catalog. Cases of academic dishonesty may result in expulsion from the University, a failing grade for the course, or a failing grade for the assignment.

The following are recognized as unacceptable forms of academic behavior at Reinhardt University:

* Plagiarizing, that is presenting words or ideas not your own as if they were your own. The words of others must be enclosed in quotation marks and documented. The source of the distinctive ideas must also be acknowledged through appropriate documentation. (NOTE: Strictly adhere to APA citation and referencing guidelines to avoid this).

* Submitting a paper written by another student or another person as if it were your own.

* Submitting a paper containing sentences, paragraphs, or sections lifted from another student’s work or other publication; there must be written documentation.

* Submitting a paper written by you for another course or occasion without the explicit knowledge and consent of the instructor.

* Fabricating evidence or statistics that supposedly represent your original research.

* Cheating of any sort on tests, papers, projects, reports, etc.

* Using the internet inappropriately as a resource. See 3 above.

**CREDIT HOUR STATEMENT**

Courses offered in a 7-week session are twice as intensive as those held during a traditional full semester. Each week students should expect to spend 14 hours interacting with course content through a combination of direct instruction and out of class student work.

Examples of direct instruction may include viewing or reading course lectures, engaging in class forum discussions with the course instructor and other students, viewing or reading supplementary online content required by the instructor, completing course quizzes and/or examinations, and reading instructor announcements related to course material and instructor feedback on assignments.

Examples of out of class student work may include reading the assigned course textbook, doing independent library research, completing essay assignments, developing more extensive research papers, and studying in preparation for exams and quizzes.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS**

**Reading Assignments**

Learners are expected to complete assigned textbook reading for each module prior to participating in discussions and assignments.  The course textbook is accessed through the "VitalSource Course Materials" link found in the left-side navigation menu.

**Discussion Post Assignments**

Students are expected to actively participate in discussion assignments. Requirements and deadlines for postings shall be published within individual module academic requirements.

Use your own words to communicate ideas and incorporate source material to support your assertions. Learners must also employ proper grammar, punctuation, and correct spelling.

Initial postings are due by 11:59 PM (EST) on the first Thursday of each module. Learners will be penalized 10 points for late submission of an initial posting. Initial postings will not be accepted after 11:59 PM (EST) on the first Friday of the module. Initial postings must cite material from the course textbook and at least one outside scholarly source. Citations and references must be formatted in accordance with APA 7th edition requirements.

Learners must reply to a minimum of THREE DIFFERENT students in the class with a minimum of a 150-word response for each. The responses must be substantive in nature and add to the conversation by providing additional knowledge. You must incorporate citations and references into your responses. Responses are due no later than 11:59 PM (EST) on the first Saturday of a module . Learners must also respond to any questions posed by the instructor. Develop your thoughts even if that takes more than 150 words.

**Essay Assignments**

Learners must submit individual essay assignments by the deadline specified within individual module academic requirements.  Essay assignments often have more than one part. Be sure to answer each part of each question. Learners must adhere to the minimum word count specified for each assignment. Assignments must adhere to the citation and referencing guidelines contained in the 7th Edition APA Manual. Use your own words to communicate ideas and incorporate source material to support your assertions. Learners must also employ proper grammar, punctuation, and correct spelling in all submissions.

**Research Component**

Learners must submit an original research paper on a current sociological issue. The topic will be determined through discussions with the instructor and must be approved in advance.

This course is all about having another way of looking at a situation in which you may find yourself one day. How can you see the world from different perspectives and weigh out your options? This paper will take a current event, research what has been done on the topic before, and then utilizing course material and scholarly articles, you will show how an applied approach will help our understanding and might even affect policy development.

The literature review section must meet the following requirements:

* Written in APA 7th Edition format.

* Must be a minimum of (5-6) pages excluding cover page and reference page…this does not mean (4) pages and a paragraph or two. This means (5-6) full pages at a minimum, not including a cover page and reference page.

* Must have a reference page in APA format.

* Must have a minimum of (5) acceptable scholarly references listed and cited in the body of the work. You are highly encouraged to exceed the minimum reference count.

* Students may use the course text as a source, but make sure your other sources fit the category of being scholarly in nature. Wikipedia or general websites are not scholarly. Students should seek guidance from the instructor if in doubt about the acceptability of a source.

* Double spacing is required between sentences and paragraphs per APA guidelines.

* Use Times New Roman 12 point font when preparing the paper.

* Must demonstrate the ability to utilize short quotes, and summary/paraphrase in proper APA format.

* Plagiarism will not be tolerated…your paper must properly document all ideas and information not your own. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade for this course. Other sanctions may be imposed based on University policy. See your syllabus and the University’s Academic Catalog for additional information.

* Do not attempt to copy and paste from research papers or essays available online. The instructor will diligently check all papers for plagiarism.

* Use of proper grammar, correct spelling, and writing principles are expected in all work. Full credit will not be granted for work that contains grammatical or spelling errors.   In the event a student does not feel competent in this area he/she should discuss the matter with the instructor.

**TIPS FOR SUCCESS:**

* Conduct independent study on what it means to be a “critical thinker”.

* Save sources from discussion posts and completes…students may be able to use these in the paper and it saves time!

* Start work on your project now…do not procrastinate…it will be due before you realize it and you’ll stress yourself out if you wait to start the week the paper is due.

* Have your paper proofed before submission by the Brainfuse Writing Lab. We all make mistakes and it is best to have another set of eyes look the product over.

* Exceed the minimum requirements…don’t just do enough to get by…seek to stand above the rest by exceeding and surpassing expectations.

* Study APA formatting and seek help from the instructor.

**EVALUATION & GRADING**

The following grading scale will be utilized in the determination of the student’s course grade:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade Percentage** | **Corresponding Letter Grade** |
| 90% to 100% | A |
| 80% to 89% | B |
| 70% to 79% | C |
| 60% to 69% | D |
| 0 to 59% | F |

**FINAL AVERAGE BREAKDOWN**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignment Category** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Discussion Assignments | 30% |
| Essay Assignments | 40% |
| Research Paper | 30% |

**PROJECTED LEARNING SCHEDULE**

**MODULE #1 (Monday, October 9th – Sunday, October 15th) 1 Week**

* Chapter 1: An Introduction to Sociology in the Global Age
* Chapter 2: Thinking Sociologically

**MODULE #2 (Monday, October 16th – Sunday, October 22nd) 1 Week**

* Chapter 3: Researching the Social World
* Chapter 4: Culture

**MODULE # 3 (Monday, October 23rd – Sunday, October 29th) 1 Week**

* Chapter 5: Socialization and Interaction

**MODULE #4 (Monday, October 30th – Sunday, November 5th) 1 Week**

* Chapter 8: Social Stratification in the United States

**MODULE # 5 (Monday, November 6th – Sunday, November 12th) 1 Week**

* Chapter 10: Race & Ethnicity
* Chapter 11: Gender & Sexuality

**MODULE #6 (Monday, November 13th - Sunday, November 19th) 1 Week**

* Chapter 17: Population, Urbanization, and the Environment
* Chapter 18: Social Change, Social Movements, and Collective Action

**MODULE #7 (Monday, November 20th – Sunday, December 3rd) 2 Weeks**

* Research paper is due.
* End of course reflection assignment.

**ONLINE ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

Students are accountable for all required work in each of their courses. They must assume full responsibility for class attendance in a way satisfactory to the instructor and for work missed because of absence. Since class sessions function not merely for individual learning but also for group interaction, absences can become a serious problem both for the individual and for the group.

Online courses are generally delivered over a period of eight weeks with activities and assignments specified for each week. An online week is defined as being Monday 12:00 AM (EST) through Sunday at 11:59 PM (EST). Deadlines for attendance are based on Eastern Standard Time.

A student will be considered in attendance for a given week of online instruction if he or she participates in the course. Participation is defined as posting a response to a discussion assignment or submitting a completed course room activity/assignment during the online week prior to Sunday at 11:59 PM (EST).

**Initial Course Participation**

A student who fails to participate during the first 8 calendar days of a course shall be administratively dropped from the course.

**Ongoing Course Participation**

Ongoing course participation is satisfied through the continued completion of course room activities, such as written assignments, quizzes, or discussion question responses. Students who do not participate in a course for 7 or more consecutive days are not satisfying ongoing course participation. Students who are not satisfying the ongoing course participation requirement shall be notified by a University representative via University email. The learner must resume participation in the course within 3 calendar days following the sending of the notification.

Students who do not resume participation in the course will be administratively withdrawn from the course and be issued a grade of “W” or “F”. A grade of “W’ will be issued if an administrative or voluntary withdrawal occurs before 11:59 PM (EST) on Monday of the fifth week of the course.

A grade of “F” will be issued if an administrative or voluntary withdrawal occurs after 11:59 PM (EST) on Monday of the fifth week of the course. Students may be impacted academically and financially in the case of voluntary and administrative withdrawals. It is the student’s responsibility to understand these implications.

**ONLINE ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES**

Reinhardt University offers academic support services for online students through BrainFuse HelpNow. Services include access to live tutors, writing lab assistance, and study center resources. These resources are offered at no additional charge and are available on demand through [Course Resources](https://reinhardtuniversity.instructure.com/courses/9044/pages/course-resources).

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a documented disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Support Office (ASO).

Reinhardt University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Therefore, if you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Academic Support Office (ASO). ASO is located in the basement of Lawson Building.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**
Reinhardt University does not discriminate in any of its policies, programs, or activities on the basis of race, color, age, culture, national origin, socioeconomic status, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, physical (dis)ability or genetic information.