Sociology is the scientific study of society. Sociologists explore how social context shapes people’s lives by systematically analyzing social interaction, the dynamics of human groups, the institutions that organize our experiences, and processes of societal change. Introductory Sociology is a Social Science (Group 7) course in the UNH General Education Program, which is designed to help students become functionally literate in important areas of learning. Sociology overlaps with and is informed by other social sciences, including anthropology, economics, political science, and psychology, and sociologists frequently utilize an historical perspective to examine trends over time. Throughout the semester, we will consider research in other fields, but the primary goal of this course is to help students appreciate the unique contributions of the sociological perspective.

Objectives: Introductory Sociology explores the concepts, theories, research methods, and empirical findings that are central to the discipline of sociology. The course examines the processes of socialization, society’s major institutions, dimensions of inequality, the dynamics of social change, and social problems such as crime, environmental degradation, and poverty. The main objectives are to (1) enhance students’ understanding of contemporary social issues, (2) cultivate an appreciation for the scientific study of society, (3) introduce the methods of sociological research, and (4) prepare interested students for subsequent work in the field. Students who successfully complete the course should be able to:

- explain how sociology differs from the other social sciences
- apply the discipline’s theories, concepts, and methods to the study of social issues
- investigate sociological questions through basic research and analysis
- describe the results of their sociological investigations

Office Hours: My office hours will be Mondays and Wednesday from 9-10 AM and by appointment in Horton 420. I encourage you to contact me any time you have questions or concerns about the class. You can reach me at 862-0765 or via e-mail at cliff.brown@unh.edu. I also have a mailbox in the main office of the Sociology Department, Horton 424.

Teaching Assistant: David Gonzalez is the teaching assistant for this course. He will be attending class as his schedule permits, and you can reach him by e-mail at dlq44@unh.edu (that’s “DLQ44”) or via his mailbox in the Sociology Department Graduate Room, Horton 428 (862-1802). He will be available to help with the readings, class material, quizzes, exams, and the U.S. Census Assignment.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1) Henslin, James. 2008. Essentials of Sociology (7th edition). New York: Allyn and Bacon. You may purchase either a hard copy of the text or buy access to a full electronic version. (The course schedule lists a few additional required readings that you should retrieve through Blackboard.)

2) Classroom Performance System (CPS) Response Pad and enrollment code. It is your responsibility to have a registered and functional response pad (or “clicker”) for every class session, excluding exams. Instructions for registering your response pad are attached to this syllabus and are posted on Blackboard.

The text and CPS response pad are available at the UNH Book Store and at the Durham Book Exchange.


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) **Class Participation (5% extra credit).** This class will generally follow a lecture format, but you should not assume a passive role in the course. On the contrary, I encourage your questions and comments, and I will provide opportunities for you to engage the material at hand. Ideally, participation enhances proficiency in public speaking and maximizes the exchange of ideas. Please avoid the temptation to dominate discussions and make every effort to respect others' views. Students who participate constructively and consistently all semester and who have a good attendance record will earn 1 point extra credit toward their final grades.

The course will also utilize CPS technology from eInstruction (see Required Materials, above). During class, you will have the opportunity to respond electronically to questions and participate in short exercises that relate to the course material. Your responses, in turn, will inform our discussion and will help me assess comprehension. I will award up to 4 points extra credit in proportion to your participation in the eInstruction sessions. For instance, a student who participates in 80 percent of the semester’s eInstruction sessions will receive 3.2 extra credit points (4 points possible x 0.80). However, you must have your own CPS response pad, and you will need to answer all questions to receive credit for a given class session. **There is no way to make up a missed session, and your physical presence in the classroom is required.** Other students may not submit answers using your response pad (see Academic Honesty, below).

2) **Quizzes (20%).** To encourage consistent attendance and diligent reading habits – and to help me gauge your understanding of the course material – I will give brief quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will cover readings and content from the previous class session. I expect to give 10-12 quizzes. Save your graded quizzes as a record of your work; I will return graded quizzes the next class after they are administered. **There are no make-ups for missed quizzes, which receive a grade of zero.** However, I will drop the lowest two scores from your final grade calculation.

3) **U.S. Census Assignment (20%).** Alone or with up to two partners (your choice), you will use census data to compare the socioeconomic characteristics of New Hampshire counties. The assignment will require data retrieval from the U.S. Census web site, the construction of supporting tables, graphs, and thematic maps, and an interpretation of county-level differences. You will receive instructions, a detailed handout, and a copy of the grading rubric for the assignment early in the semester.

4) **Exams (60%).** Three exams will cover all course material, including readings, class presentations and discussions, videos, exercises, and handouts. Exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Each exam is worth 20 percent of your final grade. Exams will not be rescheduled except for legitimate reasons that are approved well in advance. No electronic devices of any type (cell phones, iPods, laptops, etc.) may be used during exams.

POLICIES

**Academic Honesty:** The University has no tolerance for students who break the UNH Academic Honesty Policy, which is fully described in the *Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities* handbook (http://www.unh.edu/student/rights/). Allowing someone else to submit answers on your behalf using your CPS response pad constitutes a violation of academic honesty for both parties. Please let me know if you have questions about how the policy applies to your work in this class.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is important for this course, and you are responsible for all material presented in class. Although I appreciate being informed if you have to miss a session, I do not make a
distinction between excused and unexcused absences. Absence from class – regardless of the reason – is a lost opportunity to engage the course themes and content, to raise questions, and to contribute to the discussion. Additionally, students with good attendance inevitably finish the course with a more complete and nuanced understanding of the material. Therefore, the fact of missing class is of much greater significance than the reasons underlying a particular absence.

I realize that illnesses, scheduling conflicts, and personal emergencies affect us all, and I have structured the course so that you will not be heavily penalized for missing one or two sessions. Excessive absences, however, will have a proportionately negative impact on your grade. If you know that you will have to miss more than a couple of classes, please let me know as soon as possible. I encourage you to obtain contact information for at least two fellow students. Knowing how to get in touch with your peers is useful for forming study groups or catching up on any missed material.

Blackboard: Your grades, handouts, links to additional readings and web sites, some material presented in class, and this syllabus will be available via Blackboard (http://blackboard.unh.edu/). You should have reliable access to e-mail and Blackboard for this course.

Classroom Etiquette: Class time should be devoted to intellectual engagement and the exchange of ideas. Ringing cell phones, unnecessary noise, late arrivals, and early departures are disruptive, and more passive forms of inattention (like sleeping or using earphones) are disrespectful. These distractions often annoy your peers as much as they bother your instructors. Please take seriously our shared responsibility for creating a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

Curtailed Operations: I will post an announcement on Blackboard if UNH curtails operations or if it becomes necessary to adjust the course schedule for any reason. Unless I indicate otherwise, you should assume that the schedule of readings, assignments, and exams printed on this syllabus remains in effect.

Disability Services for Students: If you are a student with a documented disability who will require accommodations in this course, please contact Disability Services in the Memorial Union Building, Room 118 (862-2607). Students who are already registered with Disability Services should share their Accommodation Letter with me as soon as possible.

Grading: Every student has the same opportunity to do well in this class and will be graded on the same basis for the same work. I do not offer extra-credit or make-up assignments to individual students. As a general rule, I do not apply any type of curve in assigning grades. Please use Blackboard to check your grades regularly and let me know if you have any questions.

The following information will help you understand how I assign and calculate your grades. The UNH grading scale is A = Excellent, B = Superior, C = Satisfactory, D = Marginal, and F = Failing. For this course:

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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100.0 – 95.00</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>86.99 – 83.00</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>76.99 – 73.00</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>94.99 – 90.00</td>
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<td>82.99 – 80.00</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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Late work loses 2 points per calendar day (regardless of the reason for lateness). I assign a grade of zero for missed quizzes, exams, and any work not submitted by semester’s end.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Part 1: Social Interaction and Social Control

Week 1  9/2  Tu:  Course Introduction
* Semester overview
* Course requirements

9/4  Th:  The Sociological Perspective
* Text options and related resources from Allyn & Bacon

Note: Readings other than Henslin are all available via Blackboard.

Week 2  9/9  Tu:  Doing Sociological Research

9/11  Th:  Culture
* Read for class: Henslin, Ch. 2

Week 3  9/16  Tu:  Culture (continued)

9/18  Th:  Socialization
* Read for class: Henslin, Ch. 3

Week 4  9/23  Tu:  Socialization (continued)

9/25  Th:  Social Structure and Social Interaction
* Read for class: Henslin, Ch. 4

Week 5  9/30  Tu:  Deviance and Social Control
* Read for class: Henslin, Ch. 6

10/2  Th:  Deviance and Social Control (continued)
* Exam review

Week 6  10/7  Tu:  EXAM 1
Part 2: Social Stratification and Inequality

10/9  Th:  Global Stratification
   •  Read for class: Henslin, Ch. 7

Week 7  10/14  Tu:  Social Class in the United States
   •  Read for class: Henslin, Ch. 8 and Lowenstein, Roger. 2007. “The Inequality Conundrum.” The New York Times (June 10).
   •  Mid-semester course evaluations

10/16  Th:  Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity
   •  Read for class: Henslin, Ch. 9

Week 8  10/21  Tu:  Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity (continued)

10/23  Th:  Inequalities of Gender
   •  Read for class: Henslin, pp. 254-276

Week 9  10/28  Tu:  Inequalities of Gender (continued)
   •  Exam review

10/30  Th:  EXAM 2

Part 3: Social Institutions and Social Change

Week 10  11/4  Tu:  Inequalities of Age
   •  Read for class: Henslin, pp. 276-289

11/6  Th:  Politics
   •  Read for class: Henslin, pp. 290-304

Week 11  11/11  Tu:  Veterans' Day Holiday (No Class)

11/13  Th:  The Economy
   •  Read for class: Henslin, pp. 304-321

Week 12  11/18  Tu:  Comparing N.H. Counties
   •  Due in class: U.S. Census Assignment. Be prepared to discuss your findings in small groups. Please print your assignment on standard 8.5x11” paper and staple the pages together (no report binders please).

11/20  Th:  Marriage and Family
   •  Read for class: Henslin, Ch. 12
Week 13  11/25  Tu:  Education and Religion
      •  Read for class: Henslin, Ch. 13

11/27  Th:  Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)

Week 14  12/2  Tu:  Population and Urbanization
      •  Read for class: Henslin, Ch. 14

12/4  Th:  Social Change
      •  Read for class: Henslin, pp. 414-430

Week 15  12/9  Tu:  The Environment
      •  Read for class: Henslin, pp. 430-437 and Hamilton, L.C., B.C. Brown, G.F.,


12/11  Th:  Course Wrap-up
      •  Semester overview
      •  Final course evaluations
      •  Exam review

12/17  W:  EXAM 3
      •  10:30 AM – 12:30 PM in Horton 210
        (subject to change by the Registrar’s Office)