

**Sociology 101.1**  
**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**  
**Fall, 2009**

**Instructor**

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**Office Hours**

Tuesday: 10:10-12:00 & 1:10-4:00  
Wednesday: 3:10-4:00  
Thursday: 10:10-12:00 & 1:10-3:00  
(or by appointment)

**Teaching Assistants**

Alicia Telena --406 465-7881, [alicia.telena@umontana.edu](mailto:alicia.telena@umontana.edu)  
Office hours: SS 312, Monday 1-3 or by appointment

Rory Page --617 852-8175, [rory.page@umontana.edu](mailto:rory.page@umontana.edu)  
Office Hours: SS 325, Monday 9019

The TAs' first responsibility is to help you do well in the course. They will hold regular office hours to discuss the lectures and readings, go over the exams, and answer questions about grades. They also will conduct a group review session before each exam. Their more mundane responsibilities include the grunt work such as grading exams and keeping records. Questions about grades or extra-credit points should be directed to them.

**Course Description**

Sociology is the study of human social behavior. Sociologists are especially interested in groups, from families and street-corner gangs to entire societies and global social systems. In this class we will examine how groups are organized, how they operate, how they change, and how they influence the thoughts and actions of their members. We will also look at people who don't play by the rules, and how people organize to resist those who make the rules. In addition, some attention will be given to the research methods sociologists use to study groups and social processes. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- use sociological concepts to describe face-to-face interaction, small groups, communities, complex organizations, and societies
- apply basic sociological theories to understand historic and contemporary social issues
- examine how groups and cultural assumptions influence individuals
- understand the methods sociologists use to collect and analyze empirical data

**Required Reading**

John J. Macionis, *Sociology* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2005. Available in UM Bookstore. Note that newer editions are available, but they are essentially the same as this one for as much as

six times the price. See the course outline below for the reading pertaining to each lecture as well as chapters to be covered on each exam.

## **Examinations**

There will be three midterms and a comprehensive final, each consisting of multiple-choice questions. The first exam counts toward 20% of your grade. Because it is a get-acquainted exam, it will come early in the term and cover less material than the others. The next two exams are each worth 25%, and the final is worth 30%. You must take all four exams, and all four scores will count toward your final grade. Tentative exam dates are listed on the course outline below. If I have to reschedule an exam I will give you plenty of notice.

You may take an exam early or late, but you must have a compelling reason and provide documentation. If you need to reschedule a test, you must contact me *before* the exam to make other arrangements. If you miss an exam without my approval, you may make it up but your score will be reduced by five percentage points.

Exam questions will come from both lectures and the text. To do well on the exams you will need to attend class *and* do the readings. My lectures will parallel topics in the textbook but they will cover *different* material.

Cheating will result in an automatic F for the course. Consult the Student Conduct Code for further information – <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

## **Study Guides & Review Sessions**

Shortly before each exam I will provide a study guide covering the concepts, theories, and research studies from both class and the textbook that I expect you to know. The study guide will be posted on the Sociology web page where you found this syllabus. The best way to use it is to read the required chapters and review your notes *before* the study guide is posted, then use it to focus your studying *after* you have a good grasp of the material.

After the study guide is posted the TA will conduct an optional afternoon or evening review session. The purpose of the review is to clarify concepts, theories, and research findings. Do not expect the TA to tell you what will be on the exams or to provide capsule summaries of lectures you missed. Before each review session you should read all the assigned chapters and review your class notes so you know what questions you need to get answered. Come prepared. If there are no questions, the TA will cancel the session.

## **Attendance & Class Notes**

I do not take attendance but I do test over class material, much of which is not in the book. I do not post or loan my notes, and only under exceptional circumstances--with my approval-- may you borrow notes from the TA. Attending class and learning to take good notes are important if you expect to do well in this class. If you are unable to take notes because of a disability, or if you must miss a significant number of classes, it is your responsibility to find someone to take notes for you.

## **Extra Credit**

You may earn extra points by attending evening on-campus showings of documentaries pertaining to topics we will be covering. Titles, times, and places will be posted separately. Each session will be worth two percentage points, to be added to the average of your four exam scores. To receive credit you must write a one- or two-page response to a question about the main points of the video and turn it in before you leave. The questions will be easy, but points are not guaranteed—your answers must be readable, clear, and correct. Showings will start at 7:10 p.m. and you must watch the entire video. **Late arrivals will not receive credit.** The schedule will be posted and announced in class once it is finalized. No other extra credit will be offered.

### Posting Scores

Exam scores and extra-credit points will be posted on the Sociology website below the link to this syllabus. To keep scores anonymous, you will be identified by a *five-letter* code name that you create for yourself at the time of the first exam. You must use this code for every exam and each extra-credit session. Your code will be used to report your scores, and you are required to put it on every exam and extra-credit paper. No code, no grade, no exceptions. If you have questions about a grade, please consult the TA.

After scores have been posted, you can get your answer sheet from a TA but the exam questions will not be returned. You should see the TA to go over the questions because the final will be comprehensive. The final exam will not include the same questions but it will cover the same material, so reviewing old exams is a good way to prepare. However, the exams may not be copied or leave the Sociology Department.

### Course Grade

Your course grade will be determined by the weighted average of your four exam scores, plus your extra-credit points. For example, if the average of your exam scores equals 87% and you have four extra credit points, your final score would be 91%. Letter grades will be based on the following cutting points: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, etc. I do not use plus-minus grading.

According to the University Catalog you may request an Incomplete *if* you have a passing grade and are unable to complete the course due to circumstances beyond your control. By university policy the possibility of losing financial aid is *not* a valid reason for taking an Incomplete.

*Failure to return borrowed materials* will result in an Incomplete. If the materials are not returned by the end of the following semester, the incomplete will be changed to an F.

### Class Rules

To help make this class worthwhile for everyone, please observe the following courtesies:

1. Be on time for class. If you come in late, please use the back door.
2. Please keep the chitchat down—it's very distracting those around you, and for me too.
3. Turn off your cell phone.
4. Put away your newspaper. The only news that matters will issue from my silver tongue.
5. If you have to leave early, please use the back door.
6. And most of all: *Please don't begin packing up until the lecture is finished!!*

## Course Outline

Required reading appears in parentheses after the heading for each section of the course. This is only a tentative outline – actual topics and dates may vary from those listed below. If I change an exam date, I will announce it in class, but *you are responsible for keeping abreast of these changes.*

### *Introduction to sociology (Ch. 1)*

- Aug. 31 Getting organized
- Sept. 2 Micro & macro perspectives on social life
- 4 Sociology & social change
- 7 Labor Day – no class

### *Studying human social behavior (Ch. 2 + pp. 601-610 in Ch. 23)*

- Sept. 9 Research methods: Surveys & experiments
- 11 Studying 9/11 (601-610 in Ch. 23)
- 14 Measuring variables

### *The concept of culture (Ch. 3)*

- Sept. 16 Explaining human diversity
- 18 *EXAM #1* – Ch. 1 & 2 + pp. 601-610 (chapter 3 covered on Exam #2)
- 21 The nature/nurture debate
- 23 Normative culture: Christmas norms & changing values
- 25 Subcultures & cultural undergrounds

### *Society and social structure (Ch. 4)*

- Sept. 28 Creating utopia: The culture & social structure of a model society
- 30 Structural-functionalism: Explaining group survival
- Oct. 2 Capitalism & social change: History repeats itself

### *Socialization: Learning & internalizing culture (Ch. 5)*

- Oct. 5 Childhood socialization in China & North America
- 7 Socialization in subcultures

### *Social interaction in everyday life (Ch. 6)*

- Oct. 9 Roles & role playing
- 12 Social perception & interaction
- 14 Self-fulfilling prophecies

### *Group dynamics (Ch. 7)*

- Oct. 16 The Robber's Cave experiment: Engineering conflict & harmony
- 19 Obedience & conformity
- 21 Groupthink
- 23 *EXAM #2* – Ch. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

*Crime, deviance, & social control (Ch. 8)*

- Oct. 26 Deviance is in the eye of the beholder
- 28 Origins of sociological criminology
- 30 High-crime neighborhoods.
- Nov. 2 Prisons as rational systems
- 4 Inmate subcultures: How the natural system subverts the rational

*Social inequality: Stratification & race (Ch. 10, 11, 12, 14)*

- Nov. 6 Caste, class, and socioeconomic status (10, 11, 12)
- 9 Class & caste in the Old South (14)
- 11 Veterans' Day – no class
- 13 From Jim Crow to the civil rights movement (14)
- 16 Origins of the urban underclass (14)
  
- 18 EXAM #3 – pp. 172-185 in Ch. 7, Ch. 8, 10, 11, 12 14

*Social institutions (Ch. 18, 19)*

- Nov. 20 The family & the culture wars
- 23 The future of religion
- 25 Thanksgiving vacation begins!

*Social movements & social change (pp. 610-622 in Ch. 23)*

- Nov. 30 Reactionary movements: Aryan Nations & white separatism
- Dec. 2 Why the movement grew
- 4 Why AN failed

*The last laugh: Population, environment, & social organization (Ch. 22, 24)*

- Dec. 7 Demography & why it's important
- 9 The mystery of Easter Island
- 11 World population growth & the future of civilization

*FINAL EXAM* – Thursday, Dec. 17, 8:10-10:00 a.m. (Ch.18,19,22,24, & 610-622 in Ch.23 +previous material)