

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**  
**SOC 211**  
**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**FALL 2018**

**Department of Social Sciences**  
**Instructor:** Dr. John Bradford  
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**Required Text:** NO TEXTBOOK REQUIRED! (see PowerPoint slides)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course is intended to introduce students to the core concepts, methods, and perspectives in sociological science. By mastering these skills, you will be able to: distinguish between your personal experience and scientific interpretations of evidence; become a more sophisticated and skeptical consumer of information, especially statistical evidence; better understand the ways in which people influence one another and the larger (intended and unintended) patterns and circumstances resulting from these influences; develop a better understanding of your 'self' in relation to others and a deeper awareness of your social surroundings; become a more informed and complete citizen; and finally, be able to take further courses in sociology.

**GRADING SUMMARY (300 points)**

1. **Quizzes 100 pts** (5x20pts each)
2. **MIDTERM 100 pts**
3. **FINAL EXAM 100 pts or 200 pts**

**Rule: if your Final Exam score is higher than your midterm, I drop your midterm and count your final exam as 200 pts; if your midterm score is higher than your final exam score, each is worth 100 pts.**

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**At the end of the course, all course points are added up and translated into the final letter grade that will appear on your transcript using the following key:**

**A= 90- 100%. B= 89- 80%. C=79-70%. D = 69-60%. F= 59-0%**

On rare occasions grades may be adjusted upward for improvement in exam performance over the course of the semester (if this improvement is both marked and consistent) or downward for disruptions to the learning environment (e.g. frequently wandering in to class late and out early, cell phone ringing, rudeness to fellow students).

## **Attendance and Participation**

Because this class meets only once a week, *your attendance is imperative!* Although your attendance does not factor into the calculation of your score, you are required to attend every class. **Any student who has more than 3 unexcused absences will AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE AN 'F' FOR THE COURSE.** Students arriving late or leaving early will receive a half absence for that day. For example, you will fail this course if you are absent once and excessively tardy (arriving later than 15 minutes) twice. **I expect all students to participate in class activities and will often require your participation in small group projects in order to receive attendance credit for that day.**

## **Quizzes/Assignments**

Throughout the semester I will give short quizzes and/or Assignments, usually consisting of multiple choice and/or fill in the blank questions. **Sometimes, these will be short writing assignments or problem solving exercises to be turned in at a later date.** Each quiz/assignments will be worth approximately 20 pts. You will take a total of 5 quizzes, for a total of 100 pts.

**You may take each Quiz TWO TIMES. I will take the highest score.**

## **Exams**

Your total exam grade will be determined in one of two ways: 1) by equally weighting your midterm and final or by counting only the final exam. In the second case, the comprehensive final exam will count for 200 points, or 100% of your total grade, and the midterm will be disregarded. Final scores will be determined by the method of calculation that yields the highest score. **The final exam is comprehensive and will cover material going back to the beginning of the semester.** Students who therefore perform poorly on early examinations can compensate for their poor performance by performing well on the final. Students who score low on the final exam, by contrast, will (partially) offset their poor performance late in the semester by weighting all of their exam scores equally.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (I reserve the right to alter this schedule at any time)**

<b>WEEK 1</b> Aug. 20 - 26	<b>Introduction</b>		<b>ESTIMATED TIME</b>
<b>WEEK 2</b> Aug 27 – Sept 2	<b>TOPIC 1: SORTING &amp; PEER INFLUENCE</b>	<b>QUIZ 1</b> Due Sunday Sept 2	<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 3</b> Sept 4 – 9	<b>TOPIC 2: CASCADES, TIPPING POINTS, &amp; SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECIES</b>		<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 4</b> Sept 10 - 16	<b>TOPIC 3: GAMES &amp; COLLECTIVE ACTION</b>	<b>QUIZ 2</b> Due Sunday Sept 16	<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 5</b> Sept 17 - 23	<b>TOPIC 3: GAMES &amp; COLLECTIVE ACTION</b>		<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 6</b> Sept 24 – 30	<b>TOPIC 4: SOCIAL NETWORKS</b>		<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 7</b> Oct 1 - 5	<b>MIDTERM EXAM ***</b>	<b>MIDTERM (100 PTS)</b>	<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 8</b> Oct 8 – 14	<b>TOPIC 5: HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY, DURKHEIM, FUNCTIONALISM</b>	<b>QUIZ 3</b> Due Sunday Oct 14	<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 9</b> Oct 15 - 21	<b>TOPIC 6: INEQUALITY &amp; STRATIFICATION</b>		<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 10</b> Oct 22 - 28	<b>TOPIC 7: MARX &amp; CONFLICT THEORY</b>	<b>QUIZ 4</b> Due Sunday Oct 28	<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 11</b> Oct 29 – Nov 4	<b>TOPIC 8: RACE &amp; GENDER</b>		<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 12</b> Nov 5 - 11	<b>TOPIC 9: CULTURE &amp; COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>QUIZ 5</b> Due Sunday Nov 11	<b>150 mins</b>
<b>WEEK 13</b> Nov 12 - 18	<i>Review</i>		<b>150 mins</b>
<b>Nov 19-25</b>	<b>FALL BREAK / THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>		
<b>Week 14</b> Nov 26 – Dec 2	<i>Review</i>		<b>150 mins</b>
<b>Nov 3-7</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM***</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM (100 or 200 PTS)</b>	<b>150 mins</b>
			<b>TOTAL</b> <b>2,400 mins</b>

## **Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)**

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If you feel you are eligible to receive accommodations for a covered disability (medical, physical, psychiatric, learning, vision, hearing, etc.) and would like to request it for this course, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) program administered by University College. It is recommended that you visit the Disabilities Office located inside the Social Sciences Building in Room 105 to register for the program at the beginning of each semester.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Mr. Billy Benson, Jr. via phone or email at 662-254-3005 or [billy.benson@mvsu.edu](mailto:billy.benson@mvsu.edu).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Academic integrity includes a commitment to the values of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, respect and responsibility. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonest act that is committed in an academic context. Honesty and integrity are essential values of the Mississippi Valley State University's mission to pursue truth and knowledge. Therefore, Mississippi Valley State University will not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form and will impose sanctions if clearly demonstrated. Academic dishonesty erodes the quality and value of degree conferred. Although the faculty is responsible for establishing standards for moral and academic excellence in teaching and learning, these standards can be reached only with the cooperation and support of students. Students are expected, therefore, to accept responsibility for maintaining honesty and integrity in all acts inside and outside the classroom, studio or laboratory. For a detailed description of sanctions and appeal procedures consult Student Handbook and/or Undergraduate Catalog.