

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY



SO 211 – INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

FALL 2018

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

MWF 11:00 A.M. – 11:50 A.M./SSB-14

Instructor: Theresa V. Rash **Office:** Social Sciences Q **Office Phone:** 662-254-3014
Email: tvrash@mvsu.edu

Office Hours:

Monday: 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Tuesday: 9:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Wednesday: 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Friday: 12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

All other office visits are by appointment only.

Required Text:

Kendall, Diana. 2018. *Sociology in Our Times*. 11th Edition.

Additional Reading will be assigned throughout the semester.

It is also recommended that students purchase a copy of the following text to aid in the formatting of written assignments:

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.* Washington, DC: American Psychological Assn.

Catalog Course Description: (3 hours)

The primary goal is to familiarize the student with basic sociological concepts. Sociologists need the tools and skills necessary to critically assess and analyze the social conditions under which they live. This introduction to Sociology course will present students with basic concepts and theories in the discipline and conceptual frameworks for analysis. All the material presented in this class will reflect a mainstreaming of race, class and gender in the curriculum. All perspectives will reflect multicultural paradigms and address local and global concerns.

Prerequisites: There is no prerequisites for this course.

Course Requirements/Attendance:

The textbook is required. Attendance is required. Quizzes and assignments are due during scheduled time. No late submissions will be accepted. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on assignments and requirements. It is your responsibility to hold yourself accountable for your own performance. Poor study habits plus failure to complete reading assignments = poor performance. Students must have a copy of this syllabus in their possession and may be required to produce this syllabus at any time without notice.

The objectives of this course will be pursued through required readings, class discussions, presentations, and written assignments. To that end, students must come to class prepared and actively participate in all class discussions. Preparation includes: 1) completing assigned readings prior to class, 2) noting questions or academic issues to address in class, 3) promptly attending each class session, 4) independently researching topics, and 5) submitting all assignments on time. Final evaluation of student work will be based on the quality of contributions to class discussions and performance on all assignments/exams. It is expected that all assignments be completed by deadlines indicated in the syllabus.

Important Note:

All papers must be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins, maximum 12 point pitch. Your paper will receive an automatic 0 if the margins or the font exceed the above limit. This means that I will not read the paper. A well-written paper successfully conveys your message. Poor grammar, sentence construction, organization and/or spelling errors make it difficult for your instructor to understand intended message and could also affect your grade. **ALL PAPERS MUST HAVE A TITLE PAGE.** A reference is required only if you use your textbook and other sources (articles, books, magazines, etc.). The internet is NEVER required as a source.

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

The textbook develops several themes and is guided by several main values of orientation. They include the following:

1. The transformation of societies around the world through the interrelated changes that are part of the modernization process.
2. The delicate balance of the individual freedom and social control in a complex and changing world.
3. The methods and procedures of sociological research.
4. The various disciplines under the umbrella of sociology.
5. The tension between social order and social change in our time of unrest and conflict.
6. The problems that are faced by the world due to over population.
7. The unity of the human race.
8. The right of each individual to live with a sense of freedom, dignity, autonomy, and have a reasonable opportunity to choose how to best realize their potential for learning.
9. Sociology as one means of understanding, preserving, and improving human life on this small planet.
10. The role of technology on the individuals, groups, and institutions.

Class Format and Activities:

Every reasonable effort will be made in this course to help you be successful. Class meetings will be organized on a lecture/discussions basis, with questions, comments, and discussion encouraged during all class meetings. Class meetings may also be including activities, such as videos, guest speakers, group discussions, homework assignments, and students' presentations. Learning through instruction and self-motivation and intellectual challenge are mutual goals for professor and students and the responsibility must be mutually shared. Students must take charge of their educational goals and be fully prepared to engage in the process of learning.

Performance Evaluation:

Final Grades in SO 211 will be based on the following:

- Class Attendance and Participation,
- Required activities including, but not limited to: readings of the chapters, quizzes, gathering and analyzing information and keeping all work for future reference, and
- Assignments detailed below.

Quizzes/Exams: There will be 10 quizzes given during the course of the semester on the chapters/readings you are required to read. The quizzes will consist of a combination of multiple choice, true-false, matching, listing, and essays. There will be two exams (**Mid-term and Final Exam**) given this fall semester as scheduled on the course outline. **Mid-Term Exam will consist of Chapters 1-6. Final Exam will consist of Chapters 7-12.** The exams will be given on the same format as the weekly quizzes. Test questions will come from lecture, textbook, PowerPoint presentations, quizzes, etc.

Personal Definition of Sociology:

After we spent a few weeks discussing Sociology, students will devise a personal definition that sums up their idea of what is Sociology. This definition should be no less than 50 words and no longer than 100 words. Special care should be taken in the development of such a definition as it can serve as your personal guidepost for the remaining class discussions. Granted there are no perfect definitions; however, make sure your definition is focused on the social world as it applies to sociology. You are also welcome to draw upon your own philosophical, theoretical, conceptual, and experiential ideologies to develop this core definition. **A title page is required for this assignment. A reference page is required only if you use your textbook and other sources (articles, books, magazines, etc.). This assignment should be written using the APA format. This assignment must be submitted through turnitin. This assignment is due Friday, September 14, 2018 before midnight.**

Soul Food Assignment: You are to watch the movie, *Soul Food*, and write a two-page paper regarding how it relates to Sociology. We have discussed the four types of sociological perspectives, culture, and socialization chapters. You are to choose one of the sociological perspectives (functionalist, conflict, symbolic interactionist, and postmodernist) and tell how the movie applies to it, along with the culture and socialization. **A title page is required for this assignment. A reference page is required only if you use your textbook and other sources (articles, books, magazines, etc.). This assignment should be written using the APA format. This assignment must be submitted through turnitin. This assignment is due Friday, October 12, 2018 before midnight.**

Self-Esteem Assignment: Self-esteem or self-worth is part of a person’s self-concept; it involves feelings that people have about their own value. Having high self-esteem is important for defining success. High self-esteem is also important for developing healthy love relationships because it enables individuals to feel worthy of being loved and like by family, friends, associates, etc. Individuals with low self-esteem doubt that someone else can love and accept them. After discussing your personal definition of sociology and the textbook’s definition, you are to write a two-page summary of how self-esteem applies to Sociology. **A title page is required for this assignment. A reference page is required only if you use your textbook and other sources (articles, books, magazines, etc.). This assignment should be written using the APA format. This assignment must be submitted through turnitin. This assignment is due Friday, November 9, 2018 before midnight.**

Turnitin: You are required to submit your Personal Definition of Sociology, *Soul Food*, and Self-Esteem papers through turnitin. The website is turnitin.com. To use turnitin, you must setup an account. If you already have an account, then all you have to do is login using your ID and password. Once you have created an account or if you already have an account, then you will need to submit the class ID and enrollment password for this course to submit your response paper. Your class ID is **18724957** and your enrollment password is **soface**.

NOTE: Failure to submit your Personal Definition of Sociology, *Soul Food* and Self-Esteem papers using turnitin will result in you getting an “F” on the assignments.

Make-up Policy: Students may make up assignments, quizzes, or exams under extenuating circumstances. The final decision regarding make-up work will be at the discretion of Professor Rash. There will be no drop grades in this class. There are no extra credit work in this class.

Grading Scale:

Assignments		Points
Chapter Quizzes	10	200
Personal Definition of Sociology	1	20
Soul Food Paper	1	20
Self-Esteem Paper	1	20
Attendance/Class Participation	1	20
Mid-term Exam	1	100
Final Exam	1	100
Total Points		480

Grading Scale		
A	432 - 480	90%
B	384 - 431	80%
C	336 - 383	70%
D	288 - 335	60%
F	240 - 287	50%

Attendance Policy:

A daily attendance sheet will be used to record attendance. NO absence excuses a student from meeting assigned course requirements. Absences will be counted from the first day on which classes officially begin through the day on which the final exam is scheduled. Regular and punctual attendance is required for all classes and activities earning credit. Students must comply with class attendance policies set by individual faculty members and complete all work required for each course. Students who miss more than **3 classes will receive an automatic F in this class.** After the roll is signed or called, you are absent. If you leave early, you are absent. If you walk out to take a call on your cell phone, you are absent. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of absences. There will be no notification prior to being dropped from the class. Faculty members are obligated to notify students in writing at the beginning of each semester of the policies and procedures on absences and make-up work. When students must be absent from class, they are required to make arrangements satisfactory to the instructor with regard to work missed. When students know in advance that they will be absent from class, instructors should be notified and arrangements made to secure assignments.

Students may obtain from the Vice President of Student Affairs an official excuse from class due to an emergency (illness, accidents, jury duty, or death in the immediate family) or for attendance at officially-authorized functions and authorized field trips sponsored by the University. Official absences presented to the instructor within seven days from the date of the absence entitle the students to make up any work missed.

Faculty members are required to submit absences and never attended reports to Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students who never attended class(es) will be administratively dropped from class(es) which may affect the students' eligibility for financial aid.

NOTE: Not officially withdrawing from the University may impact your financial aid and result in you owing the University.

Special Needs and Accommodations:

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 EMAP Computer Lab in the Technical Education (IT) Building 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.

Academic Integrity:

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.

Grade Appeals:

Any student who believes he/she has been graded unfairly, even after talking to me, may appeal that grade by following the procedures set out by the University in the Student Handbook. It is your responsibility to prove that you deserve a higher grade. Keep all copies of your work.

Diversity Policy:

All students, regardless of religious affiliation, race, color, nationality, creed or sexual orientation must feel safe within this space. Please conduct all discussions with regard to the right to human dignity and respect for all individuals.

Before Entering Class, your cell phones and pagers must be turned off/silent. No phone equipment should be visible on any person. Turned off does not mean “vibrate.” If you leave this class to answer your cell phone, you will be graded as absent for the entire class. If your cell phone goes off in class (ring or vibrate), 10 points will be deducted from the next assignment(s) each time the instructor hears your phone.

Absolutely no sagging pants which display your underwear or pajamas, mid-drift shirts or dresses, baseball caps, headscarves, head wraps, or sunshades are to be worn during classroom instruction.

Any student engaging in non-productive or threatening behavior or behavior considered by the instructor to be disruptive to the learning environment will be removed from the classroom.

Tentative Course Outline:

Since every class progresses through material at a different rate, this schedule of classes is only a tentative outline, and will most likely be revised throughout the semester. Students are responsible for knowing what the reading assignments are prior to class time. In addition, the dates of the exams may change, but I will **not** hold an exam **earlier** than the date scheduled on the syllabus.

Week 1. August 20th – 24th:

Course Overview, Introduction to Sociology

Read Chapter 1: The Sociological Perspective and Research Process

Week 2. August 27th – 31st:

Read Chapter 1: The Sociological Perspective and Research Process

Read Chapter 2: Culture

Week 3. September 3rd – 7th:

Read Chapter 2: Culture

Read Chapter 3: Socialization

Monday, September 3rd: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY/NO CLASS

Week 4. September 10th – 14th:

Read Chapter 3: Socialization

Read Chapter 4: Social Structure and Interaction in Everyday Life

Monday, September 10th: Last Day to Drop/Add Classes

Friday, September 14th: Personal Definition of Sociology Due in Turnitin

Friday, September 14th: Report of Non-Attendance Due

Week 5. September 17th – 21st:

Read Chapter 4: Social Structure and Interaction in Everyday Life

Read Chapter 5: Groups and Organizations

Week 6. September 24th – 28th:

Read Chapter 5: Groups and Organization

Read Chapter 6: Deviance and Crime

Review for Mid-term Exam

Week 7. October 1st – 5th:

MID-TERM EXAMINATION/CHAPTERS 1-6

Week 8. October 8th – 12th:

Read Chapter 7: Class and Stratification in the United States

Read Chapter 8: Global Stratification

Monday, October 8th: Deadline to Submit Mid-Term Grades

Friday, October 12th: Soul Food Paper Due in Turnitin

Week 9. October 15th – 19th:

Read Chapter 7: Class and Stratification in the United States

Read Chapter 8: Global Stratification

Week 10. October 22nd – 26th:

Read Chapter 9: Race and Ethnicity

Read Chapter 10: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

Week 11. October 29th – November 2nd:

Read Chapter 9: Race and Ethnicity

Read Chapter 10: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

Friday, November 2nd: Last Day to Withdraw from a Class

Week 12. November 5th – 9th:

Read Chapter 11: Families and Intimate Relationships

Read Chapter 12: Education and Religion

Friday, Nov. 9th: Self-Esteem Paper Due in Turnitin

Friday, Nov. 9th: Last Day to Withdraw from the University

Week 13. November 12th – 16th:

Read Chapter 11: Families and Intimate Relationships

Read Chapter 12: Education and Religion

Week 14. November 19th – 23rd:

FALL BREAK FOR FACULTY AND STUDENT/THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

Week 15. November 26th – 30th:

Review for Final Examination/Chapters 7-12

Make-up Work

Week 16. December 3rd – 7th:

FINAL EXAMINATION/CHAPTERS 7-12

Monday, December 10th: Deadline to Submit Final Grades

NOTE: This document does not constitute a contract with the University. It contains guidelines. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary.