**Introduction to Sociology**

**SOC 101-HAT**

**T/Th 2pm-3:20pm, Knox 20**

**Spring 2014**

**Professor**

Dr. Erin Hatton

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Thurs. 11-12pm

**Teaching Assistant (TA)**

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Thurs. & Fri. 9-10 am

**Teaching Assistant (TA)**

Mr. Matthew Diaz

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462 Park Hall

Office hours:

Weds. 9-11am

**Contact Instructions:**

All inquiries should first be directed to one of the teaching assistants (TAs), either via email or during office hours. This includes all questions about lecture notes, exam scores, exam questions, grading, etc. Students who wish to view their exams must visit a TA during scheduled office hours.

Please expect email responses to take at least 48 hours during the week, and do not expect responses in the evenings or on the weekends. Please remember that, in this class, there are approximately 450 students and just 3 instructors.

**Course Description:**

Sociology is the scientific study of social life. It analyzes how human beings influence – and are influenced by – other people, organizations (like workplaces), social structures (like the healthcare system), and other things like animals and money. In particular, sociology examines how our membership in different groups, and our interactions with social structures and institutions, affect our daily lives.

*What kinds of questions do sociologists ask?* Here are a few examples:

* How does a prison record affect someone’s chances of getting a job?
* Why do women earn less than men in the same jobs?
* Are high school athletes more prone to violence than their peers?
* How does poverty affect health?
* Do abstinence-only sex education programs delay the initiation of sex?
* Why does the U.S. have a low voter turnout rate?
* Does money really buy happiness?
* How do couples decide who is responsible for household chores?

**Course Objectives & Assessment:**

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| --- | --- |
| **By the end of the course, students should be able to:** | **Method of assessment:** |
| Identify key concepts, theories, and ideas in the field of sociology | 3 exams in which students must demonstrate full comprehension of course readings and lectures which provide an overview of key sociological concepts, theories, and ideas |
| Have an understanding of what sociologists do: the kinds of questions they ask, the research methods they use, and what their findings mean | 3 exams in which students must demonstrate full comprehension of course readings and lectures which provide an overview of sociological research questions and methods |

**Course Requirements & Policies:**

**Textbook**

For this course, we will be using Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach (11th ed.), by James Henslin. Hard copies of this text are available in the bookstore.

In addition, students will have free access to the online version of this book through UBLearns. This is not to discourage students from buying the hard copy of the text; if at all possible, it is hoped that students will purchase the hard copy of the text, as many students report better outcomes from using hard-copy textbooks rather than online texts. However, I am providing free access to the textbook online in order to alleviate students’ financial burden.

**Class Format**

The format for this course is lecture. There are no additional recitation sessions.

The PowerPoints from the lectures will be posted on UBLearns (usually after class). In addition, an audio-visual version of class lectures will be made available online, which students can consult to help study for the exams and/or when an absence is necessary. (However any films shown in class will generally not be made available to students who miss them.)

Students may consult the teaching assistants during regular office hours to clarify material presented during the lecture. Students who miss a lecture or are late for class must make their own arrangements for obtaining lecture notes (e.g., listening lectures online and/or borrowing notes from another student, etc.).

Students with questions are encouraged to write down their questions and hand them to the teaching assistant at the end of class, and/or visiting the teaching assistant during office hourse. Questions will either be answered via email or in the following class.

Students should regularly check UBLearns for reading assignments and important announcements.

**Attendance**

As noted above, an audio recording of class lectures, along with the PowerPoint slides presented in class, will be made available to students online. (Details forthcoming.) This means that students do not have to physically attend class in order to hear class lectures and see in-class slides.

If students *do* attend class, however, there will be **strict policies** regarding in-class behavior. While in class, students are asked **NOT** to text, IM, phone, use internet in any way, sleep, read, talk, etc. In short, the only behavior appropriate for the class setting is to (1) listen to class lecture/movie, (2) take notes, and (3) ask questions of the instructor.

These rules are necessary to maintain the best possible learning environment. Students who do not follow these rules will be asked to leave.

In addition, students who must enter the class late or leave early are asked to enter/exit at the back of the class. Students should not enter/exit the classroom at the front of the classroom during the class hour.

Please see the Undergraduate Catalogue for more in-class behavioral policies: <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/obstruction.shtml>

**Exams & Grades**

There are three exams in this class, each accounting for one-third of your grade. The third exam will take place during exam week. Each exam contains approximately fifty (50) questions that are a mix of true/false and multiple choice formats from material covered in class lectures, textbook chapters, films, and any other course materials used in class. The exams will be administered via ScanTron sheets. In general, the exams will not be cumulative; however, material from previous sections may be included on exams. Students will be given a study guide, which will indicate what material will be on the exam.

The exam dates are as follows:

* **Exam 1: Thursday, February 27 (in class)**
* **Exam 2: Thursday, April 10 (in class)**
* **Exam 3: Tuesday, May 13, 3:30-6:30pm, Knox 20**

The exam dates are fixed unless changed by instructor. Please mark these dates in the beginning of the semester and schedule other commitments around these dates. Missed exams constitute a 0 grade for that exam.

It is strongly suggested that you enroll in another section of SOC101 or postpone your enrollment in this course if you cannot commit to the above exam dates. Weddings, vacations, anniversaries, or any last minute commitments are not acceptable excuses for missing an exam.

An exception may be granted only when a student has met two conditions: (1) The student has informed the professor of an inability to attend a scheduled examination at least 48 hours prior to the exam date/time AND (2) missing the exam is deemed an excused absence. In all instances, the professor will determine whether the absence is excused.

For unexpected absences on exam days, students must provide a written medical excuse from a medical professional with their contact information included.

**Exam-day policies**

Students should arrive **on time** for scheduled exams, bring two sharpened number 2 pencils, an eraser, and their student ID. Students must fill out the scan sheet correctly (including their student ID number) in order for their exam to be graded.

Late students may not be permitted to take the exam.

All exams are proctored and academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. By placing your name on the examination sheets, you are certifying the sole authorship and originality of your work. Placing someone else’s name and/or ID number qualifies as academic dishonesty.

**Exam scores**

Exams are computer-graded. Exam scores will be made available as soon as they are made available to the Professor. Scores will be posted on the course web site. Exam scores will be listed by student ID numbers, not surname or social security number. Scores will not be conveyed to students by any other means (such as by telephone, email, or by the professor or teaching assistants). It is highly suggested that students view their grades within two weeks of the date the exam is given and not wait until the end of the semester.

If you do not see your ID number listed with a corresponding exam grade, you must see the teaching assistant during his regularly scheduled office hours to learn your grade. It is likely that you did not fill out the scan sheet correctly, and so your exam was graded separately.

Once a student has checked an exam score, any questions about the exam should be directed to a teaching assistant (TA). The original exams will not be returned to the student. Exams will be kept by the TAs (not the Professor) and students may view their exams during scheduled office hours.

Questions about an exam or efforts to contest an exam score must be addressed **within two weeks** of the exam date. It will not be possible to do so at the close of the semester. Absolutely no changes to a previous test grade will be made at the end of term.

**Final grades**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | 93-100 | **C** | 73-77 |
| **A-** | 90-92 | **C-** | 70-72 |
| **B+** | 88-89 | **D+** | 68-69 |
| **B** | 83-87 | **D** | 60-67 |
| **B-** | 80-82 | **F** | <59 |
| **C+** | 78-79 |  |  |

Students’ final grades will be posted on the course web site after the last exam. The grading rubric is as follows:

Please see the Undergraduate Catalogue for UB grading policies: <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/grading/explanation.shtml>.

All course grades are final and reflect an average of the student’s performance on the three exams.

*There is no extra credit work available in this course.*

**UB Statement of Academic Integrity**

The University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work and for respect for others’ academic endeavors. By placing their names on academic work, students certify the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgments. For additional information, go to <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml>.

**Accessibility Resources**

If you require classroom or testing accommodations due to a disability, first you need to contact Accessibility Resources, located at 25 Capen Hall. This is necessary in order for you to receive accommodation for any physical and learning disabilities. Please know that every semester we offer accommodations to numerous students; this is normal so please do not delay getting the assistance you need. Accessibility Resources can be reached by phone at (716) 645-2608 or online at <https://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/genemail?email=Disability>. Once you have done so, please inform me and/or the TA so that we can coordinate your accommodations. For more information, go to <http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/ods/students.php>.

**Course Schedule:**

The following course schedule is subject to change, and will likely do so over the course of the semester. Please check your email and UBLearns regularly to be aware of any changes. However, the exam dates will remain the same unless I encounter extreme circumstances.

Week 1

***Jan. 28-30*: Class introduction & Introduction to sociology**

Reading: Henslin Ch. 1

Week 2

***Feb. 4-6*: Introduction to social theorists**

Reading: Henslin Ch. 1

Week 3

***Feb. 11-13:* How sociologists do research**

Reading: Henslin Ch. 5

Week 4

***Feb. 18-20:* Culture**

Reading: Henslin Ch. 2

Week 5

***Feb. 25-27:* EXAM WEEK**

No reading

***Feb. 25*: Catch up & Review day**

***Feb. 27*: EXAM 1**

Week 6

***March 4-6:* Social structure and social interaction**

Reading: Henslin Ch. 4

Week 7

***March 11-13:* Deviance and social control**

Reading: Henslin Ch. 8

***March 18-20*: Spring break!**

Week 8

***March 25-27:* Sex and gender**

Reading: Henslin Ch. 11

Week 9

***April 1-3:* Race and ethnicity**

Reading: Henslin Ch. 12

Week 10

***April 8-10:* EXAM WEEK**

No reading

***April 8*: Catch up & Review day**

***April* 10: EXAM 2**

Week 11

***April 15-17:* Social class**

Reading: Henslin Ch. 10

Week 12

***April 22-14:* Social institutions**

Reading: Selections from Henslin Ch. 16-19 <<TBA>>

Week 13

***April 29-May 1:* Collective behavior and social movements**

Reading: Henslin Ch. 21

Week 14

***May 6-8:* Catch-up and review**

No reading

***May 13*: EXAM 3, 3:30-6:30pm, Knox 20**