# SOC 133: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

FALL 2013 | 81804


| | |
|---|---|
| | Dr. Redmond |
| Class time: | Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:30am-9:20am |
| Class location: | Faculty Hall 500 |
| Office location: | Faculty Hall 501D |
| Office hours: | Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 and 2:30-5:00, or by appointment |
| Office phone: | 270-809-4632 |
| Email: | dredmond2@murraystate.edu |

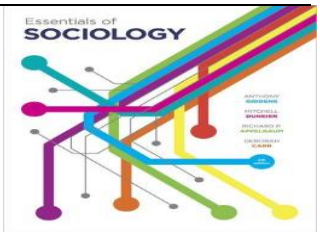

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is the systematic study of society that explains how structure and interaction shape the behavior of individuals and groups. To engage in this type of investigation, sociologists use what C. Wright Mills (1959) calls the "sociological imagination;" that is, sociologists think critically about the world around them. This course has three goals: to introduce students to the field of sociology, to provide students with an understanding of the social forces at play in their everyday lives, and to help students develop their sociological imaginations.

This is a 100-level Sociology course; therefore, it is designed to give a broad-survey of general sociological topics. Toward this end, we will cover the core substantive areas in the field, including culture, socialization, stratification and inequality, race and ethnicity, and the social institutions of family, religion, and education. By the close of the semester, students will be knowledgeable about the discipline's layout and will be able to critically discuss different aspect of our social world.

## REQUIRED READINGS

Giddens, Anthony, Mitchell Duneier, Richard P. Appelbaum, and Deborah Carr. 2013. *Essentials of Sociology*: WW Norton & Company Incorporated.




**Articles to download from the class webpage**

Throughout the semester, readings will be posted on our Canvas website under the "files" tab.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**80% Exams (4 @ 100 points each = 400 points)**

Each exam will test your knowledge of the prior weeks' readings, lectures, and discussions. Exams will typically include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

**10% Quizzes (10 @ 5 points each = 50 points)**

On 14 course days, you will take quizzes that cover course readings, lectures, and discussions. These quizzes will be either short answer or multiple choice and will require you to demonstrate

a clear understanding of the course material. I will drop your four lowest quiz grades.

**10% Response paper (1 @ 50 points = 50 points)**
You will be required to write one two-page response paper. There will be two response papers to choose from. I will collect response papers at two different points in the semester, but you are only required to write one. It is your choice which paper you submit, but the paper you submit corresponds to a certain due date, so pay attention. I suggest that you browse the possible paper assignments and chose the topic that most interests you.

**Attendance**
Class attendance is required and lateness is unacceptable. You may miss four (4) class periods (regardless of the excuse) without penalty. For every absence after the fourth (regardless of the excuse), I will reduce your final grade by 2% (i.e., 10 points). Exam and quiz questions will be based heavily on lecture content, as well as readings. If you are not present, your grade will inevitably suffer.

Observance of religious holidays is considered an excused absence, but **notification (in writing)** should be made to the instructor in **the first week** of the semester. If you miss class, for whatever reason, you are responsible for getting assigned materials, notes, and so forth from a classmate.

**Classmate information:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | Email |
| Name | Email |

**GRADING**

| **Course grades** | | | **Letter grades** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Quizzes | 10% | 50 points | A | 500-450 | Exceptionally high quality; valued at four points for each credit. |
| Paper | 10% | 50 points | | | |
| Exam 1 | 20% | 100 points | B | 449-400 | Good; valued at three points for each credit. |
| Exam 2 | 20% | 100 points | | | |
| Exam 3 | 20% | 100 points | C | 399-350 | Satisfactory; valued at two points for each credit. |
| Final Exam | 20% | 100 points | | | |
| | 100% | 500 points | D | 349-300 | Poor; valued at one point for each credit. |
| | | | E | 299-0 | Failure, no credit; valued at no points and no hours earned. |

## COURSE POLICIES

**Make-up policy**

There will be no opportunities to make-up missed exams or quizzes. If you absolutely must miss the exam or a quiz, you must **notify me in advance and provide proper documentation**. If (and only if) you provide proper documentation will you be allowed to take the quiz or exam on a different day. Keep in mind that you will only be allowed to take the missed assessment after the class has taken it (i.e., I will not administer early exams). The difficultly of the assessment will reflect the fact that you had more time to study.

**Incompletes**

I will not grant incompletes unless there are extremely unusual (and documented) circumstances. Please see http://www.murraystate.edu/Academics/RegistrarsOffice/Registration/Grades.aspx for more information on the university's grading policies.

**Academic honesty**

I have failed students for academic dishonesty in the past, and I will do it again. Students are expected to complete their work without the assistance of others. If you need assistance or are having trouble with the course, come see me. All students are expected to conform to the standards of academic honesty (i.e., no cheating, plagiarism, or supplying false information). The university's policy on academic integrity will be fully enforced. The use of sources (i.e., ideas, quotations, and paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Racer Writing Tutorial Services, which is located on the Main Floor of the Waterfield Library, is a free campus resource. If you have any questions concerning this or other issues of academic honesty, please talk to me.

You can find information about the school's policy here: http://www.murraystate.edu/Academics/ContinuingEducation/CorrespondenceCourses/PoliciesProcedures.aspx.

**Murray State University's Academic Honesty Policy**

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

**Violations of academic honesty include:**

**Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

**Fabrication and falsification** - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

**Multiple submission** - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

**Plagiarism** - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action being taken. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

**Students with disabilities**

Students who feel they need accommodations based on the impact of a disability should see me to discuss these needs. You can obtain proper documentation and coordinate reasonable accommodations at the Office of Student Disability Services in 423 Wells Hall (or by calling 270-809-2018). Their policies and forms can be found here: http://www.murraystate.edu/HeaderMenu/Administration/StudentAffairs/departments/StudentDisabilityServices.aspx.

**Non-discrimination policy statement**

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).

**Class conduct**

To promote a positive learning environment, we will follow guidelines for class participation. Appropriate attention and respect should be given to all participants in the class at all times. You show respect by not chatting, passing notes, sleeping or "resting your eyes," making fun of others, leaving early, listening to an MP3 player, or text messaging during class. Cell phones must be turned-off and put away during the entire class session. For every instance (over the course of the entire semester) that I see a cell phone, I will add one question to the final exam. **Please be on time. You are not to use a laptop or iPad during class, except under special circumstances.**

**Communication**
The best way to contact me is via email (dredmond2@murraystate.edu). Please write "S133" in the subject line. I will check my email twice per day, once in the morning and once in the evening. If you email me later than 5:00pm, I will not receive your email until the next morning. I will try to respond to your email within 24 hours, but do not expect that I can respond immediately. I will check email until 5:00pm on Fridays, but will not reach my email again until Monday morning. I expect that you will check your university email and Canvas at least once per business day.

**Email etiquette**
Here are guidelines on how to compose your emails:

1. Be sure to include a meaningful subject line; this helps to clarify what your message is about. Your email subject should begin with the course information (i.e., S133). This should be followed by a colon; then, provide a glimpse of what your email is about.
2. Just like in a written letter, your email must open with a greeting. This means that I expect your email will address me by name, "Professor Redmond." There is nothing more annoying than an email that begins, "Hey!"
3. Use standard spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN AN EMAIL SCREAMING A MESSAGE IN ALL CAPS. Multiple instances of "!!!" or "???" are perceived as rude or condescending.
4. Read your email out loud before sending it to ensure the tone is that which you desire.
5. When we are engaging in a conversation that continues for several emails—which means that we have volleyed emails back-and-forth –it is okay to remove the formal greeting and closing, but do not become careless by losing your professional tone.

## SCHEDULE*

| Date | Topic | Readings |
|---|---|---|
| W 08/21 | Orientation | |
| F 08/23 | The sociological imagination | Giddens Chapter 1 pages 4-12<br>Mills_The promise |
| M 08/26 | Theory | Giddens Chapter 1 pages 12-23 |
| W 08/28 | Methods | Giddens Chapter 1 pages 23-39 |
| F 08/30 | Culture | Giddens Chapter 2 pages 40-65 |
| M 09/02 | No class | |
| W 09/04 | Culture | Giddens Chapter 2 pages 66-73 |
| F 09/06 | Culture | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| M 09/09 | Socialization | Giddens Chapter 3 pages 74-79 |
| W 09/11 | Agents of socialization | Giddens Chapter 3 pages 79-88 |
| F 09/13 | Resocialization | Dyer_Anybody's Son Will Do |
| M 09/16 | Aging and the life course | Giddens Chapter 3 pages 88-103 |
| W 09/18 | Aging and the life course | |
| F 09/20 | Aging and the life course | Furstenberg_Growing Up |
| M 09/23 | Exam review | |
| **W 09/25** | **Exam 1** | **Exam 1** |
| F 09/27 | No class | |
| M 09/30 | Social interaction | Giddens Chapter 4 pages 106-121 |
| W 10//02 | Impression management | Please bring a printout of your Facebook profile |
| F 10/04 | Groups | Giddens Chapter 5 pages 132-161 |
| M 10/07 | Conformity and deviance | Levy_Becoming a Hitman **(paper 1 due)** |
| W 10/09 | Theories of deviance | Giddens Chapter 6 pages 162-176 |
| F 10/11 | Deviance and crime | Chambliss_Saints and Roughnecks |
| M 10/14 | Politics | Giddens Chapter 12 pages 394-415 |
| W 10/16 | Work | Giddens Chapter 12 pages 415-435<br>Leidner_Over the Counter: McDonald's |
| **F 10/18** | Family | Giddens Chapter 11 pages 330-337 |
| M 10/21 | Family | Giddens Chapter 11 pages 337-361 |
| W 10/23 | **Exam 2** | **Exam 2** |
| F 10/25 | Social stratification | Giddens Chapter 7 pages 198-217 |
| M 10/28 | Social stratification | Giddens Chapter 7 pages 218-233 |
| W 10/30 | Social stratification | Auyero_Amidst garbage |
| F 11/01 | Global inequality | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| M 11/04 | Global inequality | Giddens Chapter 8 pages 234-245 |
| W 11/06 | Theories of global inequality | Giddens Chapter 8 pages 245-261 |
| F 11/08 | Gender | Giddens Chapter 9 pages 262-271 |
| M 11/11 | Gender | Giddens Chapter 9 pages 271-295<br>Armstrong_Is hooking |
| W 11/13 | Sexuality | |
| **F 11/15** | **Exam 3** | **Exam 3** |
| M 11/18 | Race & ethnicity | Giddens Chapter 10 pages 296-329 |
| W 11/20 | Race & ethnicity | |
| F 11/22 | Education | Giddens Chapter 12 pages 362-377 |
| M 11/25 | Education | Downey_How Schools really matter |
| W 11/27-F 11/29 | | No Class |
| M 12/02 | Education | Video: Trading Schools |
| W 12/04 | Health | Giddens Chapter 14 pages 436-454 |
| F 12/06 | Health | Video: Unnatural Causes **(paper 2 due)** |
| **M 12/09** | **Final Exam** | **8:00am** |

*This is a tentative outline for the course. I reserve the right to make changes.