

Fayetteville State University
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Sociology
SOCI 500 CONCEPTS
Fall 2011

LOCATOR INFORMATION

Semester: Fall 2011
Course Number and Name: Sociology 500–Sociological Concepts
Semester Credit Hours: 3
Instructor’s Name: Dr. Jeff Brooks
Office Location: TS108A
Telephone: 672-1955
Office Hours: T & R 10:30- 12:30 & 1:45- 3:45

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOCI 500 Sociological Concepts is an advanced course in general sociology designed to give basic principles and interpretation of society, groups, institutions, and the basic social processes. The course is intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the scope, theory, and methods of the discipline of Sociology. It is primarily intended for those with limited experience in Sociology.

TEXTBOOKS

McIntyre, Lisa J. 2008. *The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology*, 4th ed. Boston: McGraw Hill. 978 0 07 340415 8
Recommended: Ashley, David and David Michael Orenstein. 2005. *Sociological Theory: Classical Statements*.6 Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 020538130. Or other books on sociological theory and original works by the theorists.

Required: Any Introduction to Sociology Textbook.

COURSE AND BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE

The primary objectives of this course are to:

1. To provide a comprehensive overview of the nature, development, and basic concepts of Sociology.
2. To provide an overview of the theoretical perspectives and methods of Sociology.
3. To help students begin the development of a sociological “tool box.”

Behavioral objectives: It is expected that at the end of the course, students would be able to:

1. Explain what sociology is and how the enterprise was conceived.
2. Describe the social, political, and economic factors that led to the development of sociology in different parts of the world.
3. Distinguish between sociology and other social sciences.
4. Describe and explain the major sociological concepts and relate these to their authors.
5. Identify the sources of sociological data.
6. Describe and explain the major theoretical perspectives in sociology and apply them to an analysis of contemporary social issues.
7. Analyze the influence of social institutions such as family, religion, and education upon the individual and society.
8. Analyze the impact of race, class, and gender on various types of social relations.
9. Write scholarly sociological papers.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS(NCSS)

National Council for the Social Studies Standards
Assessment(s)

1.1 Culture and Culture Diversity – Exams; Lectures; Classroom Discussions

1.5 Individuals, Groups, and Social Institutions—Exams; Lectures, Classroom Discussions

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Punctual “attendance” / participation in BB for courses.
2. Timely completion of assigned readings, assignments, presentations, and examinations. This course is designed in such a way so that each member of the class should be able to complete all requirements by the end of the session.
3. Since this is a seminar class, each member of the class is expected to do the readings on a regular basis. The course works like weeks for chapters so have them before doing assignments. and check Black board twice weekly so be prepared to “discuss” the topics for the sessions.
4. There will be a weekly quiz covering the required material for the week. There will be no make-ups on these weekly examinations. The lowest exam grade will be dropped.
5. Each member of the class will complete a 10 to 12 page scholarly paper and make a presentation to the class on that particular topic. This course is designed to cover the general principles of sociology, focusing on the theoretical underpinnings. The assignment will be discussed further in class. Each student will choose a substantive area of sociology and examine the empirical findings and theoretical underpinning of that topic.

EVALUATION CRITERIA/GRADING SCALE

Reports Summaries and possible open book tests: 80 percent
Participation: 20 percent.

COURSE OUTLINE WITH ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

This calendar is subject to change or adjustment as needed throughout the session.

1 Course Introduction

McIntyre, Introduction; McIntyre, Chapter 1, Responding to Chaos: A Brief History of Sociology, Chapter 2, The Sociological Eye Chapter 3, Science and Fuzzy Objects: Specialization in Sociology. Read and summarize this ASAP

2

McIntyre, Chapter 4, Who's Afraid of Sociology, Chapter 5, The Vocabulary of Science, Chapter 6, Doing Social Research. Chapter 3 of A &O on Comte.

3

McIntyre, Chapter 7, Culture, Chapter 8, Social Structure, Chapter 9, Society and Social Institutions. Add A&O chapter 4 on Durkeim.

4

McIntyre, Chapter 10, Socialization, Chapter 11, Deviance and Social Control

5. McIntyre, Chapter 12, Stratification and Inequality, Chapter 13, Inequality and Achievement: Social Class, Chapter 14, Inequality and Ascription: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender.

6. Continued / Review of topics so far and ideas related to topics. Stress Theory Readings/ Lecture the major omission of sociology theory books.
Behavioral, Maslow and Mead with Freud.

See Goffman's works.

George Herbert Mead's impact and the followers. Labeling theory etc

Theories of Rational Choice and Exchange. Images of the actor.

Students present intro sociology reports start here.

Term ends with Last Day of Classes. Open Book Final Due.

TEACHING STRATEGY

The primary teaching strategies for the course will be discussion and analysis. Each student is expected to read the assigned readings and participate in an analysis or evaluation of those readings at the next class meeting. The course will require a good deal of written and oral analysis.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Division of Student Affairs, Services for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.uncfsu.edu/studentaffairs/CFPD/cfpdservices.htm> Phone: 910-672-1222. The university continues to be sensitive to the identification of possible barriers to students with disabilities and attempts to make reasonable accommodations for those students. Students with physical disabilities who need assistance in utilizing university services should register with the Center for Personal Development as soon as they are admitted to the university.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Adler, Patricia A. and Peter Adler, eds. 2000. *Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction*. Belmont, California: Wadsworth.

Akers, Ronald L. 2000. *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application*. Los Angeles: Roxbury.

Alexander, Jeffrey C. 1985. *Neofunctionalism*. Beverly Hills: Sage.

Cook, Gary A. 1993. *George Herbert Mead: The Making of a Social Pragmatist*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Giddens, Anthony. 1991. *Modernity and Self-Identity: Self and Society in the Late Modern Age*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Marable, Manning. 1986. W. E. B. Dubois: *Black Radical Democrat*. Boston: Twayne.

Marcuse, Herbert. 2001. *Towards a Critical Theory of Society*, edited by Douglas Kellner. London: Routledge.

Nicholson, Linda. 1990. *Feminism/Postmodernism*. New York: Routledge.

Ritzer, George. 1975. *Sociology: A Multiple Paradigm Science*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Rowe, David C. 1994. *The Limits of Family Influence: Genes, Experience, and Behavior*. New York: Guilford.

Tunnell, Kenneth D. 1992. *Choosing Crime: The Criminal Calculus of Property Offenders*. Chicago: Nelson Hall.

