

**“...more times than not, living the sociological life makes us a rude, improper guest** who crashes someone else’s well-planned party. When a fully alive sociological imagination enters polite company, it often shocks the established habit or spoils the traditional idea.”  
Lemert, 2002

## **Soc 150 PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY**

Dr. Lyn Huxford  
Carnegie Hall 110

Spring, 2012

**Office Hours:** ; Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:30; Friday 11:00-12:00. Other times by appointment.

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**Phone:** 537-6901 or ext. 6901. If you cannot reach me leave a voice mail message or call 537-6808 and leave a message with the secretary.

Feel free to meet with me throughout the semester to discuss lectures, readings, assignments, or other matters relevant to the course. If you cannot meet during my office hours, call to schedule a time convenient to both of us. If you are having difficulty in the course it is especially important that you meet with me early in the semester. Tutors for the course are available through the Academic Support Center.

**Texts:** Witt, Jon. 2011. SOC 2011. New York: McGraw-Hill.  
Readings on Blackboard.

**Blackboard:** Course handouts and relevant course materials can be found at the Blackboard site for this course. During the semester you can track your progress through the online grade book. Any changes made to the syllabus will also be posted on Blackboard.

**ADA Policy:** Services for students with disabilities are provided through the Academic Support Center. If you need assistance with the technical portions of the course please let me know and contact Ms. Melvin in the Center. The Center provides coordination and implementation of special accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

### **Course Description**

This course will introduce you to some of the leading theoretical perspectives in sociology; the key concepts sociologists use to understand the relationship between the individual and society, and the methods used to study that relationship.

### **Course Objectives (Outcomes):**

My objectives for this course are to guide you in developing an understanding of the sociological perspective. When you successfully complete this course you will be able to explain the points below.

- What sociology is and what sociologists do.
- How the sociological perspective is based on systematic study rather than "common sense."
- The crucial importance of social structure and social statuses, such as social class, age, gender, ethnicity, and religion in determining our life chances, how we think, and what we do.
- How sociological research can influence policy decisions.
- In addition, you will have fun discussing a lot of interesting topics from a sociological perspective.
- Another objective is to help you improve critical thinking and writing skills through classroom discussion and writing projects.

### **Course Requirements:**

Think of this course as a journey exploring the social world in which we live. I am your guide, and as such, I am responsible for helping you to get the most out of your experience. However, you are ultimately responsible for your survival and what you accomplish. I expect an active partnership. My job is to facilitate discussion, develop meaningful assignments, and evaluate your work. Your task is to come to class prepared, to complete assignments, and to participate in activities. **Assigned readings need to be completed prior to class.** This means reading and possibly re-reading until you understand and are able to critically think about what you have read. Take notes regarding things you do not understand and ask questions. It is my job to help you.

Learning includes both understanding and communicating ideas. Discussion will not only make the class more fun, it will also enable you to think out your ideas, express them to others, and learn from others. I hope you will raise questions, make comments, and level criticisms at ideas that do not make sense to you.

**We may discuss some controversial ideas this semester. You may disagree with what I say, what you read, or what other students say, but I expect us to engage in an intellectual discourse demonstrating civility and respect for diversity of viewpoints in which everyone can express his/her ideas without fear of ridicule (the exception being racist, sexist, homophobic, or any other prejudiced comments).**

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required. If you miss more than 3 classes without a legitimate excuse I will reduce your final grade 10 points for each class missed. If you are involved in extra-curricular activities it is up to you to request an excused absence in advance. Much of the learning in this course takes place during classroom discussions. There is no way to get this without being present. Also, everyone’s ideas are important, so we need everyone present. If you must miss a class it is up to you to find out what you might do to make it up. **Do not schedule appointments during class times.**

**Quizzes:**

Group quizzes will be given for each chapter. Only your top 10 quiz grades will be counted. No make-ups for missed quizzes.

**Community Service.** You are responsible for completing 10 hours of community service at an approved **nonprofit** agency. You need to **identify a social issue** in which you are interested and complete 10 hours of community-based learning at a nonprofit agency in the community. You need to have an approved contract before you begin your hours. Each hour of observation is worth 5 points. A final essay describing your experiences from a sociological perspective is worth 100 points each. Guidelines will be distributed. Each time you go to your service site you must have someone in charge sign verifying your hours. No scratch outs or alterations on your log sheet are accepted. Half of your hours must be completed by spring break.

**Article Presentations**

Each of you will be assigned to a team to present a sociological article to the class and to lead a discussion of the article. You are responsible for describing the thesis of the article, how the author(s) collected the data, identifying any key concepts used, and presenting the conclusions. You should prepare a brief (no more than 5 slides) PowerPoint presentation. The presentation should be well coordinated and each member of your team should contribute an equal amount of time to the presentation. You should conclude with at least 2 questions for the class. Everyone is expected to read all the articles. Please dress and present in a professional manner.

**Assessment:**

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Quizzes               | 100 points |
| Tests (3)             | 300        |
| Project               | 150        |
| Article Presentations | <u>50</u>  |
|                       | 600 Total  |

**Grading Scale:**

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 550-600 = A  | 470-479 = C+ |
| 540-549 = A- | 430-469 = C  |
| 530-539 = B+ | 420-429 = C- |
| 490-529 = B  | 360-419 = D  |
| 480-489 = B- | 0-359 = F    |

**Grading Scale: Remember—grades are earned not given. If you want a high grade the quality of your work must be above average.**

A = Superior work - demonstrates excellent command of the sociological perspective & principles discussed.

B = Good work - demonstrates good command of the sociological perspective & principles discussed in the course.

C = Adequate work - demonstrates reasonable command of subject matter.

D = Poor work - demonstrates less than adequate command of subject matter.

F = Unacceptable - demonstrates a lack of command of subject matter.

I = Incompletes will not be granted except in cases of national emergency or personal catastrophe

### **Academic Honesty:**

Any form of cheating will result in failure in the test or assignment involved, and may result in failure in the course. Plagiarism is a form of cheating! Please consult the McKendree University Catalog for the University's policy on Academic Dishonesty.

### **Make-up Tests:**

If you have a valid reason for missing a test you need to contact me as soon as possible with an explanation. ONLY students with legitimate excuses will be allowed to take the test in the Academic Support Center. Students who earn a D or F on either of the first 2 tests have the option of retaking the test within 1 week. The maximum grade that can be earned is a C-. You must schedule the retake during the appropriate hours in the Center. Call ext. 6850.

**Writing Center** – this is an important resource available on campus. Trained staff will assist you in improving your writing skills. The Center is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Clark Hall.

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

Class starts promptly at the designated time. Be in class ready to start.

**Cell phones should be turned off and out of sight. No texting!**

No studying for other classes during my class.

Once class begins, I expect all of us to be fully engaged in the learning process. This means no chatting, no reading, no doing homework, and no sleeping in class. If you must eat, no Doritos---eat "quiet" food.

No laptops.

### **What Makes Me Happy:**

**Lady GaGa's Bad Romance**

Students asking questions

Vigorous discussion

Well-written, thoughtful papers

Students stopping by my office to say hello

**Syllabus is subject to change during the semester.**

**\*\*\*Warning: Sociology is hazardous to closed minds.**

### Course Outline

|            |                                    |            |            |
|------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Session 1  | Introduction                       | Session 22 | Chapter 12 |
| Session 2  | Chapter 1                          | Session 23 | Chapter 13 |
| Session 3  | Chapter 1                          | Session 24 | Chapter 13 |
| Session 4  | Chapter 2                          | Session 25 | Chapter 6  |
| Session 5  | Chapter 2                          | Session 26 | Chapter 6  |
| Session 6  | Chapter 3                          | Session 27 | Chapter 7  |
| Session 7  | Chapter 3                          | Session 28 | Chapter 7  |
| Session 8  | Chapter 4                          | Session 29 | Catch-up   |
| Session 9  | Chapter 4                          |            |            |
| Session 10 | <b>Test 1 (Chaps. 1-4)</b>         |            |            |
| Session 11 | Chapter 5                          |            |            |
| Session 12 | Chapter 5                          |            |            |
| Session 13 | Chapter 10                         |            |            |
| Session 14 | Chapter 10                         |            |            |
| Session 15 | Chapter 11                         |            |            |
| Session 16 | Chapter 11                         |            |            |
| Session 17 | Sociopoly                          |            |            |
| Session 18 | Chapter 8                          |            |            |
| Session 19 | Chapter 8                          |            |            |
| Session 20 | <b>Test 2 (Chaps. 5, 8, 10-11)</b> |            |            |
| Session 21 | Chapter 12                         |            |            |

The final exam will cover only the chapters discussed since the last exam and will be held at the time scheduled for the final.

*“If you tell me something, I hear you; if you show me something, I see it; but if you let me experience something, I know it.”*

--Chinese proverb

## COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT

Learning by doing is an important way to increase your understanding of sociology. In this course you are required to participate in community-based learning which is a technique that asks you to apply what you are learning in class to field observations made while providing service to others. Think of this as another HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT REQUIRING LESS THAN ONE HOUR A WEEK THROUGH THE SEMESTER. The emphasis is on learning by doing; it is not the same as volunteerism or community service to avoid going to jail.

1. You will be given an opportunity to select from an agency that provides you an opportunity to use your sociological imagination and involves working with individuals in the community in a context related to social inequality. Representatives from some of the McKendree programs will come to class to describe their program.

2. Time commitment: minimum of 10 hours for the semester. **You need to keep a service log verifying your hours, which must be turned in by the last day of class.**

3. Each of you will be given a Community Service Contract to be completed by you and a representative from the agency where you will do your service. **This form is due by Feb. 7 and must be turned in on time for your hours to be counted.**

4. The guidelines below will assist you in writing a paper in which you will describe, evaluate, and integrate your service experiences of the semester entirely in your own words. Papers should be approximately 5-6 pages, double-spaced, and carefully edited. **Papers are due April. 19.**

## Paper Guidelines

In your essay you must incorporate in an appropriate manner 10 concepts from your text. Underline each as you use it. Concepts are generally the words in blue font defined in the boxes in each chapter.

### I. Description

Briefly describe the agency and its goals.

What were your duties and responsibilities?

### II. Integration

Use your **sociological imagination** to consider the differences between private troubles and social issues as they relate to your community service.

How did your experiences change any preconceived notions you had about the people and/or places you observed?

How does what you learned affect your evaluation of our society?

What specific problems or issues did you encounter during your service experience that broadened your understanding of our society? Discuss.

### III. Evaluation

What did you learn from your service experience?

About working in an agency

About yourself -- your own strengths and limitations

About society, social problems, and social responsibility?

### Reflection Essay Grading Scale

**0-59 = fails to complete assignment in accepting manner**

**60-69 = does not adequately address basic points**

**70-79 = adequately addresses basic points**

**80-89 = " elaboration + applies sociological concepts**

**90-100 = " " + " " + " " + well-written**