

Introduction to Sociology

University of Colorado at Boulder

Class: Socy 1001, Section 001

Days: Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 8:00-9:15am

Room: DUAN G125

Semester: Fall 2010

Instructor: Colter Ellis

Office: Ketchum 409

Contact: colter.ellis@colorado.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:00am or by appointment.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to sociology as an academic discipline and an everyday practice. During the semester, we will be using the sociological framework to understand social institutions, cultural representations, social interactions, and ourselves. We will discuss sociology as a language, a science, a theoretical standpoint, and an everyday perspective. It is my conviction that an increased awareness of your role in society can help to foster and support an attitude of respect and responsibility for yourself and others. With this in mind, the class is organized to help you acquire what we will call a “sociological imagination.”

A Word of Caution

Sociology pays special attention to oppression and inequality. We will discuss how inequality manifests in our selves, social interaction, and social institutions. We will be critically examining oppression in our society and the role we play in its reproduction. If you are not prepared to critically examine society and yourself, this class may not be for you.

Required Text

McIntyre, Lisa J. 2008. *The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology*. 4th ed.
McGraw-Hill: San Francisco, CA.

McIntyre, Lisa J. 2008. *The Practical Skeptic: Readings in Sociology*. 4th ed.
McGraw-Hill: San Francisco, CA.

Additional readings will be posted on CU learn.

Classroom Decorum

Some subject matters introduced during this class deal with sensitive subjects, and a primary goal of mine is to foster an environment in which everyone feels comfortable to express their ideas and opinions. As a means to this end, I absolutely require that everyone behave respectfully within this forum, including giving others the benefit of the doubt, listening attentively, and understanding the effect your words will have on others. Insensitive comments concerning race, ethnicity, class, gender orientation, sexual orientation, religion, ability or disability will not be tolerated.

Tools for Success

- Attend and participate (if only with your attentive listening). Studies suggest that this is highly correlated with the grade you earn.
- Go to the writing lab! This is a wonderful resource for ALL students, even if you have strong writing skills. **Make appointments now, they fill up towards the end of the semester.**
<http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/writingcenter.html>
- Keep up with the reading. You cannot participate or fully get the class material or have fun with the discussions if you have not done the readings and thought about them.
- Become a person to your instructor. You can do this by asking questions, coming to office hours, and engaging with the material.
- Read and follow instructions carefully.
- Ask for assistance when you need it.
- Speak up and participate in discussions by asking questions, answering questions, giving opinions, or tying together others' comments. Do this even if you do not think you have the right or best thing to say. You will learn something by doing it.

Class Room Expectations

- Arrive in the classroom prepared to begin on time. Please stay for the entire class period.
- Turn off phones. If you have an emergency, please notify me prior to class and switch your phone to silent/vibrate.
- Do not read newspapers, text message, or otherwise distract from the learning/teaching environment. If you use a laptop computer for notes, do not email, IM, Facebook or otherwise use the internet inappropriately.
- Please participate in the main conversation by being attentive and abstaining from reading other materials, and not carrying on side conversations during class.
- Turn in assignments on time. Adhere to university policies regarding academic honesty.

- Familiarize yourself with CULearn. It is not my responsibility to help you navigate this system. If you have problems or questions please contact ITS at (303) 735-HELP.
- Keep all returned papers and tests until the end of the semester. In the case of a grade dispute or a potentially miss recorded grade, it is the students responsibility to provide the graded paper or test.

Course Requirements and Grading

Requirements for this class will include a short introduction letter, three tests, one paper, and a series of short quizzes.

Letter of Introduction: As a way for me to get to know all of you, please submit a letter of introduction to me by September 2nd. Please see CULearn for details on the information I would like you to address in this letter.

- Letter of Introduction: Due September 2nd (Total Points: 10)

Tests: Tests are comprised of multiple choice, matching, and short answers. My primary intent in administering these exams is to test your understanding of the readings, vocabulary, concepts, and perspectives.

- Test 1: September 23rd (Total Points: 25)
- Test 2: November 4th (Total Points: 50)
- Test 3: Saturday, December 11th @ 7:30pm (Total Points: 75)

Reading Questions: Periodically throughout the semester I will give you questions to answer regarding the reading assignment for that day or the previous days class. Some questions will be multiple choice and others will be short answer. There will be 5 reading questions given throughout the semester, each worth 10 points. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

- Reading Questions: Given throughout the semester (Total Points: 40)

Papers: There will be one 4 page paper due for this class. Please see CULearn for the detailed assignment.

- Paper: November, 16th (Total Points: 50)

Formatting Your Paper: All papers should include a cover sheet with your name, date, class name and number, and paper title. Please use a professional font (Times, Times New Roman, Century or something similar) sized 12 point. Margins should be 1 inch. All papers should be double-spaced. **Be sure to cite all material and do not use Wikipedia.**

How to Turn in a Paper: A hard copy of all papers must be submitted to me at the start of class the day they are due. **No electronic copies will be accepted unless otherwise specified in advance by me!** Please be clear, emailed and late papers will receive zero points.

Assignment Due-Dates and Values:

Letter of Introduction: September 2 nd	10pts
Test 1: September 23 rd	25pts
Test 2: November 4 th	50pts
Paper: November, 16 th	50pts
Test 3: Saturday, December 11 th @ 7:30pm	75pts
Quizzes: Throughout the Semester	40pts
Total	250pts

Late Policy

Absolutely no late papers, tests, or reading questions will be accepted without prior approval or an acceptable **and** documented excuse. If you have a family vacation, wedding, or similar engagement that will conflict with the class schedule I expect you to notify me within the first 2 weeks of class. **This means you have until September 7th.**

Email Policy

It is often tempting for students to email their instructors for “quick answers” to questions. For instructors, this often leads to many repetitive emails and it is difficult to thoughtfully respond to all of them. With this in mind, I would like you to try to adhere to these emailing parameters.

I strongly encourage you to email me if you have a question that you would like addressed in class or if you have information/articles/media that is pertinent to class material. Please email me to set up appointments outside of office hours. Please email me if you are unable to meet in person for a legitimate reason, such as a personal/family emergency.

Please never contact me via email regarding grades. It is technically against school policy to discuss grades over email, it is a public and insecure system. Please do not email me for answers to questions that can be answered by this document. If it is avoidable, please try not to email me for answers to questions regarding assignments or tests. Instead, please email questions and ask that it be addressed during class time. If you have questions specific to you, please come to office hours or make an appointment.

Attendance Policy

There is no attendance requirement for this class. However, you cannot expect to pass without attending class regularly.

If you must miss a class, first contact a classmate to find out what you missed. If you need further information, please contact me.

Record the names and numbers of three classmates here:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Laptop Computers

As a general rule, I do not allow laptop computers in my classroom. If you would like to use a laptop in my class, you must set up a meeting with me during my office hours to discuss this possibility

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273).

Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). For other information on the Honor Code, see

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and
<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Disability Policy

Students with documented disabilities, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, attention deficit/hyperactive disorder, or psychiatric disabilities should see me after class or during my office hours (preferably during the first two weeks of class) to discuss accommodations. For more information, consult The Office of Disability Services, Willard 322 (303-492-8671).

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards

may be subject to discipline. Faculty members have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policies on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>) Sexual Harassment, and Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. For information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment, see <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>