

SOCIOLOGY 110: The Social World

Spring 2012

Tuesday and Thursday 7:45-9:10 a.m.

Room 141 Carl Wimberly Hall

University of Wisconsin- La Crosse

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:20-10:20 a.m. OR by appointment

Required Texts:

Gladwell, 2008. *Outliers: The Story of Success*. Little, Brown and Company. THIS IS A PURCHASE BOOK!

Schaefer, Richard T. 2011. *Sociology: A Brief Introduction*. 9th edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Shipler, David K. 2004. *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*. New York: Knopf.

Sociology and Archaeological Studies as Writing-in-the-Major Programs

The Sociology and Archaeological Studies majors in the Department of Sociology and Archaeology are both “writing-in-the-major” programs (WIMP). The purpose behind the program is to insure that any undergraduate who completes a major in Archaeology or Sociology has experienced sufficient informal and formal writing experiences so that graduates are proficient at communicating through a variety of formats. In all your anthropology, archaeology and sociology courses you will be writing, and in each class, you may be asked to do a wide variety of types of writing. The department sees writing as an extremely important skill and as a mechanism to enhance student learning. In addition, you will learn the referencing and citation style used by archaeologists or sociologists. By completing the archaeology or sociology major, you will be completing the “writing emphasis” component of your general education requirements. The objectives of the writing-in-the-major program are available at <http://www.uwlax.edu/wimp/about/approach.htm>. The student learning outcomes for sociology and archaeology majors at UW-L are available on the department webpage at <http://www.uwlax.edu/sociology/>.

Disability Access

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, or hearing) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor and the Disability Resource Services Office (165 Murphy Library) at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Misconduct (Cheating and Plagiarism)

Academic misconduct is a violation of the ASA code of ethics and the [student honor code](#). Plagiarism, including inadequate referencing or citation of other research is unacceptable. All work handed in for this class must be the students’ own individual work. Plagiarism or cheating in any form may result in failure of the assignment or exam, failure of the course, and may include harsher sanctions. Refer to the *Eagle Eye* at http://www.uwlax.edu/StudentLife/academic_misconduct.htm for a detailed definition of academic misconduct. For helpful information on how to avoid plagiarism, go to <http://www.uwlax.edu/MurphyLibrary/research/plagiarism.html>.

Course Description (per undergraduate catalog)

An analysis of the complex relationship between society, the individual and the physical environment. It examines such questions as: how social patterns develop and persist over time; how the individual is shaped by social, cultural and environmental factors; why societies are constantly changing; and how individuals, through social interaction, shape their social world. Cross-cultural comparisons will be emphasized, showing how society and the physical environment affect the life choices of individuals.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students are expected to have gained knowledge on the discipline of sociology and should be familiar with sociological concepts, theories and principles. Students will better comprehend how society works while increasing their awareness and understanding of the connections between the larger social forces and their everyday experiences.

Expectations

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Students are expected to come to class on time and stay the entire course length. Students are also expected to participate in the class discussions. Attendance will be taken each class period and it will be used at the end of the semester to better assess students with borderline grades.

Policy on cell phones and other electronic devices

Please be considerate of your peers and me, and turn OFF your cell phones, iPods, MP3 players or any other voice/texting/music/photo/video devices. You will be asked to leave the room for the remainder of the class period if this policy is violated.

Course Requirements

There are two major requirements in this course:

- 1) Exams** - There will be a total of three exams in this course. The exams will consist of multiple choice (textbook material and primary books) and short answer (primary books) questions. The tests will emphasize definitions and application of specific terms as well as general comprehension of all reading and lecture materials. The dates for the exams are provided in the course outline below. The exams are not cumulative.
- 2) Exercises** - There will be a total of five exercises throughout the semester. These exercises have individual and group components to them. Each exercise is worth 5 points, for a total of 25 points. In order to receive credit for the exercises, you **must** be present during the class period during which the exercise is handed out and on the day it is due. You must also contribute to the group discussion.
- 3) Online Discussions** – There will be one online discussion for each of the two primary books for this course (i.e., *Outliers* and *The Working Poor*). You are required to contribute one original POST (a minimum of two paragraphs – worth 10 points) responding to the questions provided AND at least one original RESPONSE to another person’s post (worth 5 points). This response must demonstrate that you are “listening” to your peer and synthesizing their comments. Avoid excessive “I agree” responses without explanation. If you agree or disagree please provide context. Each discussion post/response is worth 15 points, for a total of 30 points for both online discussions. The online discussions are open during the following specified times:

Discussion # 1: *Outliers*: February 1(12:01a.m.) – February 6 (11:59 p.m.)

Discussion # 2: *The Working Poor*: March 21 (12:01 a.m.) – March 26 (11:59 p.m.)

**** There are no make-up dates for exams, exercises or online discussions****

Grades

There are 400 total possible points in this course:

Requirements	Points
Exam # 1: February 23	115 points
Exam # 2: April 5	115 points
Exam # 3: May 8	115 points
5 Exercises	25 points
3 Online Discussions	30 points
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	400 POINTS

Grade	Total Points
A	372-400
AB	356-371
B	332-355
BC	316-331
C	280-315
D	240-279
F	239 or less

Tentative Course Outline

Week	Textbook Material, Group Presentation and Exercises
(1) January 24 & 26	Reading: Chapter 1. Understanding Sociology Exercise # 1
(2) January 31 & February 2	Reading: Chapter 1. Understanding Sociology Chapter 2. Sociological Research Discussion # 1: Online Outliers Discussion (February 1 (12:01a.m.) – February 6 (11:59 p.m.))
(3) February 7 & 9	Reading: Outliers: The Story of Success
(4) February 14 & 16	Reading: Chapter 3. Culture Exercise # 2
(5) February 21 & 23	Tuesday: Finish Material EXAM # 1: Covering Chapters 1, 2, 3 and Outliers
(6) February 28 & March 1	Reading: Chapter 4. Socialization Exercise # 3
(7) March 6 & 8	Reading: Chapter 7: Deviance and Social Control
(8) March 20 & 22	Reading: Chapter 8: Stratification and Social Mobility in the United States Exercise # 4 Discussion # 2: Online Working Poor Discussion (Open March 21 (12:01 a.m.)- March 26 (11:59 p.m.))
(9) March 27 & 29	Reading: The Working Poor
(10) April 3 & 5	Finish Material EXAM # 2: Covering Chapters 4, 7, 8, The Working Poor
(11) April 10 & 12	Reading: Chapter 10. Racial and Ethnic Inequality
(12) April 17 & 19	Reading: Chapter 11. Stratification by Gender Exercise # 5
(13) April 24 & 26	Reading: Chapter 12: The Family and Intimate Relationships
(14) May 1 & 3	Reading: Chapter 14: Government and the Economy
	Final Exam: Tuesday, May 8th: 10 a.m. - noon Covering Chapter 10, 11, 12, 14