

Lackawanna College
SSC 105AB: Introduction to Sociology
Dr. Sharon A. Nazarchuk
Spring, 2008

Class Days: M W & F
Class Time: 9-9:50am
E-mail: nazarchuks@lackawanna.edu

Office Hours: M W & F: 11-12:45
Office: Library Building
Class Room: As per Schedule

REQUIRED TEXT: Staples, Barry A. Understanding Sociology, 2nd Edition. Horizon Publishing. 2007

SYLLABUS:

I consider this syllabus to be a contract between the professor and the student.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Sociology is the scientific study of human society and social interaction. All of us, of course, already have considerable experience living in society and interacting with other people. Sociology, however, is an unfamiliar way of looking at the familiar. It should help us understand our experience in a more critical way, and, therefore, to use that experience more effectively. As an introduction to the discipline of sociology, this course is organized as a skills as well as a survey class. That is, in addition to acquainting you with the basic concepts used by sociologists to explain everyday social interaction; this course will give your elementary skills with which to “decode” society and social life. It is also designed to help you gain some insights on how to act on this knowledge.

You will be presented with all of the basic concepts, methods, and theories common to the discipline and will be given examples of discussions of the actual work activities of sociologists when they study diverse social behaviors as well as controversies which are on-going in sociology. In addition to developing skills for understanding social life in the United States, we will be making comparisons of social life as experienced by people globally. By addressing three broad areas of skills development, it is the goal of this course, that, on completion, you will have the skills to enable you to understand the social world, to draw conclusions about aspects of it, and to develop policies designed to effect changes necessary for remaking the world.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Some broad skills you should have after taking this course are to be able to:
- ~ Describe, analyze, and contrast the basic value positions, or perspectives, which generate and shape our goals
 - ~ Observe, analyze, and understand the basic processes of social life, which includes developing a critical understanding of the social research methods by which we discover these processes
 - ~ Comprehend the patterns and directions of social change
 - ~ Gain an appreciation for the interconnectedness of U.S. and Global Affairs

~ Develop an understanding and appreciation of diversity and multi-cultural issues

GOALS OF THIS COURSE:

The goals of this course are for students to have:

1. The ability to view the world more objectively
2. The tools to solve problems by designing studies, collecting data, and analyzing results
3. The ability to understand group dynamics
4. The ability to understand personal problems in a broader social context
5. The ability to understand and evaluate problems
6. The ability to work with peers

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THIS COURSE:

Class meetings will be organized on a lecture/discussion basis, with questions, comments, and discussion encouraged.

If there is something you find confusing or unclear, ask about it right away rather than waiting until the end of the term.

Class meetings will also include activities (e.g., videos, activities, and projects) designed to help you learn course material.

Missing class may result in your missing these important activities, two of which are graded and applied to your course totals. Students will work in groups of three or four to do two in-class assignments. If you are not in class, you will not receive credit for these assignments. The dates are clearly marked on your class schedule. If you do not participate, you will be given a "0" for the in-class assignment.

At the beginning of each class, I will allow time for you to ask questions or to clarify any issues from the previous class. I also allow a few minutes to discuss current events or issues of importance.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:

You must be in class and participating. Anyone who misses more than six (6) classes will be dropped from the class. There will not be any exceptions to this rule. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain the work you missed so you can be prepared for the next class. Do not come into class and say that you didn't know there was an exam. If you are late for class please take the first available seat so you don't disrupt the class. Five minutes into the lecture, I will lock the door so anyone not in class by this time will be marked absent. You know that class begins at 9am so make sure you are in class on time.

DISABILITIES:

Lackawanna College is an equal employment and educational opportunity institution conforming to all applicable legislation which prohibits discrimination. Lackawanna College will provide reasonable accommodation for any qualified student with known disabilities provided the accommodation does not pose an undue hardship on the College. Students requesting accommodation must begin by submitting documentation to the Admissions Office. A student seeking accommodation must meet with the Department of Academic Development at the beginning of each semester. Students are responsible

for securing appropriate documentation and notifying the instructor if accommodation is required. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call 961-7821.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY:

Refer to Lackawanna College Student Handbook concerning Classroom Guidelines and the Academic Integrity Policy.

PLAGIARISM:

In any written paper, you are guilty of the academic offense known as plagiarism if you half-copy the author's sentences, words. Usually this results in an automatic grade of "F" for the course. You cannot mix the author's words with your own or "plug" your synonyms into the author's sentence structure. To prevent unintentional borrowing, resist the temptation to look at the source as you write. The author's words, phrases, sentences must be put in your words, in your way of writing. When you do this, you are demonstrating the ability of understanding and comprehension.

CELL PHONE AND PAGERS:

There will not be any electronic equipment in use during the class.

Please turn all ringers to the silent mode during class. I will not tolerate any student text messaging during class. If you are caught doing this, you will be asked to leave the room and not return. Head phones are to be removed during this class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND DIVERSITY:

All students are expected to participate in my class. Students are responsible for all assignments, even if you are absent. It is my expectation that students will attend class on a regular basis. Be attentive and respect your fellow classmate's comments. The course content and the course environment are dedicated to an understanding of and acceptance of all people. Disparaging remarks in relation to other's ethnic or racial background, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, socioeconomic background, etc. will not be tolerated. Please refer to your Student handbook regarding the Sexual Discrimination and Harassment Policy.

MISSED WORK AND MAKE-UPS:

You will be responsible for any work or assignments you miss. Your class schedule lists the dates and the material that will be covered. Sometimes, we deviate from the schedule or we may have class in a different area, so it is your responsibility to know what is happening in class. The dates of the exams are clearly marked on the class schedule, but if for some reason you cannot take the exam, you must see me ahead of time to make alternative arrangements. I do not give the same exam for make-ups nor do I give any make-up exam for the final unless it is for a very good reason.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES:

Cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced by 6am for day classes and 3pm for the evening college. The cancellation will be announced on all major television and radio stations, such as WBRE 28, WYOU 22, and WNEP 16. A compressed schedule will be used in the event of a delay.

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be two in-class assignments each worth 10% of your final grade. These will be two-fold in their requirement. Students will work in groups of three or four (no more than four) and each group will cover an assigned topic pertaining to the material that is to be covered that class.

The first in-class assignment will have students (in groups of three or four) reading the assignment given by the professor. Students will give several comments and submit their answers at the end of the class to the professor. All members of the group should participate, but I will leave the sharing of the assignments up to each individual group.

The second in-class project will be more detailed. Again, students will break into their groups (the same group as the first assignment or you may select new partners) and will be given a more detailed assignment to present during the next scheduled class. You will be graded on content, presentation, and how you respond to questions asked by the class. Each group will submit a copy of their work and this will be graded so please make sure the work displays proper grammar. Each member of the group should contribute to the finished product which should be 3-4 pages in length and type-written. You may use audio or visual props.

Both of these assignments are worth 10% each towards your final grade. If you do not participate, you will be given a "0". I do not want to hear how you weren't in class since I am giving ample time (the first day of class) for you to be prepared for this work.

GRADES AND EXAMS:

I DO NOT give you your grades, you earn them. I will NOT change any student's grade; you will get the grade you have earned. Please do not come to me before final grades are due and ask for extra credit assignments. This would not be fair to those who attended classes and did well on their exams. If you are having difficulty, see me before the end of the semester. There will be four exams each worth 20% of your final grade and two in-class assignments, each worth 10% of your final grade. The exams will cover all of the material prior to the date of the exam, but nothing from the previous exam, in other words, the exams are not comprehensive. Format of the exams are true/false and multiple choice. The dates of the exams are clearly listed on your Class Schedule. Below are the corresponding numerical scores and the letter grades.

94-100	A
88-93	B+
82-87	B
76-81	C+
70-75	C
65-69	D+
60-64	D
0-59	F

In-class assignments	20%
Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%
Exam #3	20%
Exam #4	20%
Total	100%

Throughout the course, each student should keep a record of his/her grades so you should have a very good idea of how you are doing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to talk to me; don't wait until the end of the Semester to voice them. Do not come to me before final grades are due and ask for extra credit assignments to bring up your grade. This is not fair to those who have attended class and did well on their exams and in-class assignments. If you are having any problems I will make every reasonable effort to help you. If you want to learn about Sociology, I am willing to help you learn.

My teaching responsibilities do not begin and end in the classroom. Please consider me a resource and feel free to consult me about any academic issues you may have.

I wish you the Best of Luck with your other classes!

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CLASS SCHEDULE

This is the schedule for the semester, but it can be changed to suit areas of particular interest or for any unforeseen reason, such as class cancellation. It will be your responsibility to find out if there are any changes in this schedule if you are not in class. Do not come to class and say you did not know we were having an exam or doing an in-class assignment because you weren't in the previous class.

We will begin with the first chapter in the text and progress at the pace dictated by the material as well as the class. We will cover the chapters in sequence so it is important that you keep up with the reading.

If you do not take an exam without prior notification, it is an automatic "0"

Wed. Jan. 23rd: Introduction/Discuss Syllabus/Discuss Class Schedule

Friday, February 15th: **EXAM #1**

Monday, February 18th: No Class/President's Day

Wednesday, Feb. 27th: First in-class assignment

Friday, March 14th: **EXAM #2**

Monday, March 17th: No Class/Spring Break

Wed. March 19th: No Class/Spring Break

Friday, March 21st: No Class/Spring Break

Monday, April 7th: Second in-class assignment

Monday, April 14th: **EXAM #3**

Monday, May 5th: **EXAM #4**