

Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
University of South Alabama  
Fall 2006  
Sociology 109, Introduction to Sociology

Instructor: Dr. Nicole T. Flynn

Office: HUMB 22

Office hours: MWF 8:30-10:00, F 1:00-3:00, or by appointment

Phone: 460-6901

EMAIL: [nflynn@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:nflynn@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is intended to introduce students to sociology. For many, this will require a new way of thinking about our relationships with people we know and those we don't. In addition, you will become aware of the "invisible" infrastructure of society. This includes realizing that what we think of as "society,"- including actions, groups, and institutions- continuously shapes, and is shaped by, our behavior.

### **COURSE GOALS**

To do well in this course, you will:

1. View life sociologically.
2. Understand how culture and how the collection of relationships or ties you have with society can influence your behavior.
3. Understand and be able to explain social life using three major theoretical perspectives: conflict, functionalism, and symbolic interactionism.
4. Learn the difference between qualitative and quantitative research.
5. Learn how sociologists study social life.
6. Learn how the major social institutions shape your self and social life in general.
7. Understand how power, class, and privilege shape the layers of societies.
8. Understand how poverty and wealth influence social location and life chances.
9. Understand how race, ethnicity, and gender condition social relationships.
10. Be able to explain how population trends, both in the US and globally, influence life around the world.

### **BOOK**

Giddens, Anthony, Mitchell Duneier, and Richard Appelbaum. 2005. Introduction to Sociology. New York: Norton.

### **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

You are responsible for one or two chapters of reading each week. The outline below details reading assignments. I strongly encourage you to quickly read the assigned chapters the weekend before we talk about them in class, and then after each class meeting read the material related to that day's lecture.

#### What is sociology and how is it studied?

- Week 1** (8/21) Chapter 1  
What is sociology?
- Week 2** (8/28) Chapter 2  
Asking and answering sociological questions

#### **Test 1** (9/6)

#### The individual and society

- Week 3** (9/4- holiday, class 9/6) Chapter 3  
Culture
- Week 4** (9/11) Chapter 4 & Chapter 5  
Socialization and social interaction
- Week 5** (9/18) Chapter 6  
Groups, networks, & organizations
- Week 6** (9/25) Chapter 7  
Conformity, deviance, & crime

#### **Test 2** (10/2)

#### Structures of power

<b>Week 7</b> (10/2)	Chapter 8 Stratification, social class, and power
<b>Week 8</b> (10/9)	Chapter 9 Global inequality
<b>Week 9</b> (10/16)	Chapter 10 & <i>maybe</i> Chapter 18 Gender inequality and Sociology of the Body
<b>Week 10</b> (10/23)	Chapters 11 Ethnicity & race
<b>Test 3</b> (10/27)	
<u>Power &amp; Social institutions</u>	
<b>Week 11</b> (10/30)	Chapter 13 Government, power, and social movements
<b>Week 12</b> (11/6)	Chapter 14 & Chapter 12 Work, economic life, & aging
<b>Week 13</b> (11/13)	Chapter 15 & Chapter 17 Families, intimate relationships, & religion
<b>Week 14</b> (11/20)	Chapter 16 Education & mass media
<u>Social change</u>	
<b>Week 15</b> (11/27)	Complete 19 & <i>maybe</i> Chapter 20 Urbanization, population, and globalization
<b>Week 16</b> (12/4)	Complete Chapter 20

**TEST 4**, taken during the Final Exam period- which is Monday, December 11, at 10:30. This information is also in your Fall 2006 schedule of classes, and online at the University website ([www.usouthalabama.edu](http://www.usouthalabama.edu)). I reserve the right to **not** give an exam to any student later than 25 minutes to the final exam period.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Examinations. This course includes four in class, multiple choice examinations. The first exam is worth 15% of your total course grade, the second and third tests are worth 20% of your total course grade, and the fourth test (or final exam) is worth 25% of your final course grade. Collectively, the tests are worth **80%** of your total course grade. Although it is unlikely, **these exam dates may shift**. I will announce any changes in class.
2. Quizzes. I give short, unannounced, quizzes throughout the semester. They are considered part of class attendance, and cannot be made up. If you have an official university or medical excuse, you will not be penalized. These quizzes collectively are worth **10%** of your final course grade.
3. One minute papers. These are also considered part of class attendance. Like the quizzes, they cannot be made up, but you will not be penalized if your absence is excused. These papers are collectively worth **10%** of your final grade. If I, or my TA, cannot read your name or if it does not match your name as listed on my official University role, you will not receive credit for the paper.

### **COURSE ENHANCEMENTS**

1. Supplemental instruction. This is strongly encouraged. Ms. Crystal Yates, a senior sociology major, is teaching supplemental instruction for all introductory courses. Because the amount of work you do in this course is strongly correlated with your test grades (we will discuss correlations in Chapter 2), I offer incentives to attend SI sessions. If you earn below a 70 on tests 1-3, you may attend SI sessions following that test and before the next test- and earn 1 point per session, up to 10 points or enough to bring your grade up to a 70- whichever comes first. Additionally, students that attend at least one SI session weekly throughout the semester will receive an additional 3 points on their final course grade. I will not accept excuses for missing SI sessions- this is strictly an optional activity. Participation in supplemental instruction improves grades in this course.
2. Extra credit. Elijah Anderson's *Code of the Streets* was bundled with your text at no additional charge. I am not officially assigning the book for class, but will use it for extra credit opportunities. In order to receive extra credit, you will answer questions (for each chapter) that I provide throughout the course.

### **GRADING SCALE**

90-100 = A    80-89 = B    70-79 = C    60-69 = D    59 or below will earn a failing grade

## LEARNING IN THE MASS ENVIRONMENT

Because there are so many of us, it will be necessary for students to rely heavily on their text and on-line resources outside of class. Your book is sold with a CD that includes practice quizzes, chapter outlines, and additional materials to reinforce classroom lecture. Additionally, I should also have supplemental instruction for this course, which provides three additional review sessions each week. Although attendance at these sessions is not required, if you are not completely comfortable with class material or your grades are below average, I would highly recommend taking advantage of this opportunity. The examinations cover both lecture and text material. I encourage you take advantage of the website for the text and the resources available there. Additionally, please do not hesitate to interrupt the lectures with questions, requests for clarification, or comments you wish to share. In turn, listen politely when another student asks a question or makes a point. Past experience strongly suggests that students who attend class regularly do better in the course. In addition to individual learning, many students discover that studying with classmates improves their performance on tests and quizzes.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

You are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. Readings should be completed prior to class; be prepared to contribute. Please feel free to express your point of view. You may not agree with all points made in lecture, discussion, or the text. However, all view points voiced in the classroom will be treated with respect and tolerance.

Attendance is important. It is your responsibility to get any assignments or notes during an absence. Because unforeseen circumstances may require changes in the assigned readings, the course outline, and the examination and assignment due dates, students are responsible for not only the requirements as outlined on the syllabus but also announcements made in class. Please notify me of any excused absences immediately. For more details regarding attendance, see the *USA Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin*. Tardy work is unacceptable, except in the case of a verified illness or extenuating circumstances. Please consult me during the semester about any problems you may encounter with the content of this course. **If you have a disability that will affect your performance in this class, please register with special student services and inform me as soon as possible so that I can plan accordingly.**

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is directed by Ms. Bernita Pulmas and is located in the Student Center, Room 270, 460-7212. (Statement of University policy)*

Exams are taken in class, unless otherwise specified. Missing an exam or failing to turn in an assignment without submitting a university or medical excuse may result in a grade of zero. Excuses must be submitted the first day back after an absence, and the nature of the make-up examination or grade reduction is at my discretion.