

Taft College --- Sociology 2:
Regular OFFLINE (Distance Learning: Not On-line)
Syllabus – Summer 2008 (rev 4/08)

**** Read this document carefully –**
it describes important guidelines! **

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PREFACE: I'm glad you are in class! Let me remind you that you are in charge of your grade – but it will require diligence and discipline on your part to earn it. Do not slow down or slack off. And if you do choose to slack off, do NOT expect me to be flexible with you. Do your work, follow ALL my instructions below, and you will do well. Otherwise you WILL do poorly and that will be your problem, not mine. If you have a schedule problem that will slow down your submissions for the week - Contact me in advance thru phone or email - NOT after the fact. I expect all your work to be submitted on time (even if you have other classes).

I expect you to work hard and take advantage of this excellent opportunity!

**** This is an off-line course** but it is available to take on-line. **I strongly recommend that you take this class on-line if you have internet access.** The on-line class allows for discussions among the class and adds an excellent learning opportunity for you. You will still work at your own pace within the normal schedule guidelines. Contact me immediately if you want to take it online.

A. General Information: This is a: NOT-Online Distance learning class

B. Course Goals: To understand the nature and purpose of human behavior from a sociological perspective; demonstrate an enhancement of general social awareness; use sociological vocabulary, concepts and basic theories in the analysis of social phenomena; and evaluate sociological phenomena and theories using critical thinking.

C. Required Reading: Coleman, James William and Harold R. Kerbo. Social Problems. 9th Ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006.

Note: I grade based on the quality of your work. In order to do well, it is essential to do all of the reading, to do it on time and take note of what is said in all other forums in which the class takes place. Make every effort to keep up with the reading. The readings should be completed by the end of each week/module.

Course Requirements	Points
• Pre-Module Assignment/Quiz (ETUDES Only)	20
• FOC Observations (9 entries @ 20 each)	180

• Module assignments (8 entries @ 20 each)	160
• Mushy Thinking Assignments (6 @ 20 each)	120
• OTHER Assignments (Worldview)	40
• Discussion assignments (ONLINE - ETUDES only 8 @ 20 points each)	160
• Final Examination	100
Total Points	780
A= 100-90%; B= 89-80%; C= 79-70%; D= 69-60%	
Bonus Points (given at my discretion for extra effort and diligence)	25

E. **Preface on Grades:** In order to get the best possible grade, it is suggested that you do NOT simply restate the obvious in your assignments. You are familiar with many or most of the subjects that we will talk about. If you use tired ideas, and worn out clichés when submitting your assignments, they will get graded accordingly. It is possible to take a common subject and bring new life to it, by research, interviews with others in the field etc. -- To do so, will sharpen you intellectually, AND better your grade in this class.

Grades: (Rule of Thumb:) See Appendix B concerning grades

- An "A" grade is an excellent score - a "hall of fame" score, one, which states that a student has mastery of a particular material.
- A "B" grade is given for work that is very solid, and above average. Clear and good thought is obvious in the submitted material.
- A "C" grade is given when it is deemed that the work is acceptable but generally average in quality.
- A "D" grade is below average, and shows a lack of clear thought and focus in the assignment.

Grading Note: work hard, learn a lot and remember that YOU are in charge of your grade. Realize, that historically, subjectivity on the part of the instructor has always played a small part in grading - in fact - LET IT BE KNOWN: "I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO BE SUBJECTIVE - BUT FAIR IN MY GRADING" - just as ALL other instructors do. BUT you are still the one who must choose to work hard and learn and then you will get the maximum points available. AND if you work hard, learn a lot, and follow the instructions for a given assignment - YOU WILL do well!!!

*** You are NOT expected to agree with me, my ideas, or my worldview. You will NEVER be graded down if you disagree. I simply expect an open mind willing to learn and perhaps

change. BUT, if you disagree, be sure that you base your position on facts not emotions and outline clearly, why you see a position differently.

F. Summer Session 2008

06/16/08 - 08/07/08

To give you the longest time possible for submission, assignments are due on Sunday night by 11:45pm - except for week 8, which is shorter, and is due on Thursday.

One Week Each	<u>Submission Dates</u>
Module 1	June 16 - 22
Module 2	June 23 - 29
Module 3	June 30 - July 6
Module 4	July 7 - 13
Module 5	July 14 - 20
Module 6	July 21 - 27
Module 7	July 28 - Aug 3
Module 8	Aug 4 - 7
Finals	Aug 6-7

G. Dropped from the class?

It is IMPORTANT that you as students do not fall behind in submitting your assignments!! In order to not get behind you must get started on time and stay consistent.

** All Mod 1 assignments MUST be submitted by the end of Mod 2 (time stamped) or you WILL be dropped from the class.

** ALL Mod 1-4 assignments and the mid term MUST be submitted by the first Wednesday of Mod 5 (time stamped) or you will be dropped.

H. Assignment Criteria: There are multiple assignments for each module.

1. Typed responses are preferred, but neat handwritten responses will be accepted. You may submit any assignment by e-mailing them to me (mwhyte@taft.org) in a text format or mail them to me. (Call me for my mailing address 661.835.7335)
2. **Do not** repeat phrases or copy sentences from the books in your answer. This constitutes plagiarism and the assignment will be given an "F".

Assignment set up: -- At the top of the page or on a title page-- **Be sure to include ON ALL assignments:**

1. Your name
2. **Your LAST 4 DIGITS OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY #**
3. Course name (ex: Soc 2)
4. Which module and type of assignment (ex: Mod 3 - "FOC"/ short essay)
5. State the assignment question and then your answer.

Example:

John Jones – ss# 2345

Soc 2

Mod 1 FOC/short essay (whichever type of assignment it is)

I. Observation Journal: For each module (8 total), you will submit sociological observations on topics from the class. Further instructions will be given.

J. Mid-Term and Final:

Where do you get the tests?? -- Test will be provided to you by email or US mail.

- **Tests are open book. Tests may NOT be taken early unless approved beforehand.**

The mid term covers the assigned reading, lecture and visual materials from approximately 50% of the modules. They are multiple choice and short essay. You MUST complete and submit them on time. **Final Exam:** The final will include some questions from all modules. **SEE above concerning test schedules and late procedures.**

K. Make-up Exam Policy: The student needs to explain to the instructor the reason for absence from any tests given. **Only serious and unavoidable excuses will be accepted.** Failure to provide adequate explanation may result in a zero on the exam missed. see above for further details.

L. Readings: Plan to read approximately 2-3 chapters for each Module. **All materials given to you or posted for you AND all Text Book Chapters should be read.**

M. Incomplete: If you expect to need additional time to complete the course due to circumstances BEYOND your control, contact me BEFORE the end of class (before Mod 8 is completed). Failure to do so will result in your grades being calculated with ONLY the assignments turned in at the completion of the normal class dates. A minimum of 50% of the assigned work must be completed before being eligible for an "incomplete – other requirements may also apply. See College catalog."

N. Honesty: First, let me be honest with you. Since the beginning of time, men and women have been tempted to cheat -- Be it on their taxes, their spouses, or their coursework. It is a natural tendency, **BUT a WRONG one!!** You are here to learn (if you are not here to learn, I suggest that you drop the class now). If you want to learn and be stretched in your knowledge and abilities, keep in mind: it is only possible to reap the ultimate benefits if you and you alone do the work proposed in your assignment schedule. Can an Olympic athlete take pride in their medal, if it is someone else who actually runs the race in their place? Do you get stronger and more fit when your buddy goes to the gym for you?? I will spare you the

other thousand analogies, I'm sure you get the point. Life can be hard and sometimes class assignments are hard or long as well, but it is greatly worth the effort to discipline yourself to handle life and assignments with integrity and honesty.

If by some chance, a student chooses to take the "easy" route and cheat on any assignment, or test, they will receive a zero on that assignment and may be either dropped from the class or have other disciplinary action taken (read the section on honesty/cheating/plagiarism in your Taft College catalog). You are smarter than you probably view yourself, so press ahead, and let's learn together. You will not regret it!!!

O. ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE: see separate document for weekly schedule.

Teaching Profile

The following is a description of my teaching postures for this class and its related research projects.

- Assignments: You will be asked to complete frequent small assignments rather than large assignments. At times they may seem to come at you all at once but they are designed so that you will not become overwhelmed by the load. Hang in there - you will get through this class, enjoy the content and be better for it!!
- Much of the class is centered on "community research". I require the student to collect sociological data from both assigned and self-initiated topics for the length of each period of study (semester). Students are usually at very different skill levels, and each must work to improve their observational research skills against traditional standards. Observational research requires self-motivation by the students to become active listeners and observers and then to explain your research in short writing assignments. The course is centered around student projects and their many facets. The environment is very loose.
- I teach under the firm belief that data collection alone is useless. Data must be related to current sociological and cultural trends. This research requires students to relate their data from one or more sociological and cultural categories. Research assignments in this class are designed to make you think and broaden your skill level - skills that will serve you well throughout your life.
- Discussion and interaction dominates the assignments. I use email and discussion groups to discuss related topics. Students are invited to dialogue with the rest of the class at their own convenience.

It is my intent to supply an environment that fosters clear and critical thinking, self-analysis, and the sharing of knowledge. Many of you will not be Sociology majors, but you will succeed in this class and be sharper in your analysis and research skills as you proceed through the assignments.

Press ahead, be diligent, and enjoy the process!!!