

SOCI 203: Introduction to Sociology
Blue Ridge CTC (Spring 2007)
Tuesday (9:30-12:15PM)
Rm. B10
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Chiquita Howard-Bostic **Phone:** 304-260-4380 ext. 2351
Office: B22 **E-mail:** choward@blueridgectc.edu
Text: Henslin, James M. Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach, Eighth Edition, Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 2007. (ISBN: 0-13-221108-4)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce you to the core concepts and perspectives of sociology, the study of human social environments and of human interactions within those environments. We will explore a number of sociological topics in a way that you develop a sociological imagination, an ability to understand the effects of group membership on behavior, attitudes, beliefs, and life chances.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The major objectives of this course are to examine, explore, and investigate the ongoing social progress and interaction of human life. This study will range from the broad perspective of society, as a whole to small face-to-face group investigation. Strong emphasis will be placed upon understanding the importance of (1) social rules, (2) social interaction, and (3) social statuses such as social class, race, gender, age, ethnicity, and religion. Students will be expected to learn where social science data comes from, how it is interpreted, and ways in which assumptions are made about human behavior and the social world. Each student should acquire the following:

- A basic understanding of how groups form, conflict, change and dissolve
- A view of Sociology as a science and treat the discipline as such
- Learn to apply the sociological perspective to current events and the world around you

TEACHING METHOD: This course will combine lecture, discussion, and interaction-based activities from a learning-centered perspective. All assigned materials are expected to be read prior to the class period for which they are assigned. Lectures will involve synthesis of and elaboration on the material covered in the readings. Class assignments will correspond to both lectures and additional readings. Discussions will be focused on clarification and critique of key concepts and application to salient historical and current events. Presentations and journal assignments provide an out-of-the-box style of integrating essential employment and research skills that should be valuable throughout your professional experience. Outlined course material will be available on WebCT and some assignments may be distributed via campus e-mail. For those utilizing non-university e-mail, you will be responsible for any information disseminated via university e-mail; it is thus advisable that you check your university e-mail accounts at least once per day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: You will be required to complete FIVE Components: (i) Class Participation, (ii) Quizzes, (iii) Article Summary, (iv) Theory Essay, and (v) Group Research Symposium Project.

- 1. Class Participation (20 points):** You are expected to attend all classes and to complete all in-class activities. The course lectures, activities, and presentations are designed to strengthen and support the concepts introduced throughout the course.

2. Quizzes (20 points): You will complete two quizzes. Each ‘10 question quiz’ will consist of *three* true/false and *seven* multiple choice questions. You will have *30 minutes* to complete each quiz.

Quiz 1: Race in the US and Abroad **due 10/30**

Quiz 2: Gender, Sex, and Power (ON-LINE) **due 11/13**

3. Article Summary (20 points): You will prepare two article summaries of select reading assignments. The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with a portfolio filled with an overview of sociological topics.

Submission Guidelines:

Article 1 (5 pts.): Korgen, Kathleen and Jonathan M. White. “Big money doesn’t always win.” **ON-LINE**. Pp. 123-134 in The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community, London: Pine Forge Press, 2008 (**due 10/2**).

Article 2 (5 pts.): Korgen, Kathleen and Jonathan M. White. “Sex, Gender, and Power.” **ON-LINE**. Pp. 141-152 in The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community, London: Pine Forge Press, 2008 (**due 11/6**).

Summary Organization: each should include the following *five* sections:

Section 1: Subject and Topic (specified on course schedule)

Section 2: Article Reference (specified on course schedule)

Section 3: Key concepts (two concepts)

Section 4: Thesis (one or two sentences)

Section 5: Three major arguments (three paragraphs)

4. Midterm Theory Essay (20 points): This essay caters to a more in-depth understanding of *one* of six theoretical perspectives (functionalism, conflict perspective, symbolic interactionism, critical race theory, feminism, and/or Marxism). You will also complete a “Theory Essay Worksheet” to better organize your essay.

Essay Organization: You will submit **one** theory essay (3 pages). You must apply information from the following sources: (a) class lecture (1 page), (b) a class activity (1 page), and (c) the weekly reading (1 page). The essay should be single-spaced, typed in 12-point/Times New Roman font, and submitted in an MS WORD format (**due 9/25**).

5. Group Research Symposium Project (20 points): The class will be divided into groups to complete a symposium project addressing sociological perspectives of each of the following topics.

Group 1: Education and Inequality **due 10/9**

Group 2: Urbanization and Poverty **due 10/9**

Group 3: Race Relations **due 10/16**

Group 4: Gender Relations **due 11/27**

Group 5: Crimes Committed Against Women **due 11/27**

Group 6: Marriage and Family **due 12/4**

Presentation Organization: Each group presentation will consist of **four** sections.

Section 1: PowerPoint Presentation (*four* PowerPoint slides)

slide 1: What benefits are experienced? (1 point)

slide 2: What costs are experienced? (1 point)

slide 3: Name one theoretical perspective that corresponds with your topic and explain how/why (1 point)

slide 4: Conduct an internet search to identify and describe a current project that addresses the topic (1 point)

Section 2: Group collage

(a) Using pictures and words, introduce *three* major themes that well represent the select sociological perspective of your topic (3 points)

(b) Explain and describe each of these themes and the representation of each theme on the collage (3 points)

Section 3: Class discussion

(a) Using *two* discussion questions, conduct a 15 minute class discussion (4 points)

Section 4: Class Handout

(a) *one* paragraph (5-6 sentences) summary of the PowerPoint presentation (2 points)

(b) *one* paragraph (5-6 sentences) summary of collage presentation (2 points)

(c) *two* class discussion questions (2 points)

COURSE EVALUATION: This class is designed on a point system (assigned to the FIVE major components of material assessment). The final letter grade is calculated by adding the total points earned.

A = 90-100 pts. **B** = 80-89 pts. **C** = 70-79 pts. **D** = 63-69 pts. **F** = below 63 pts.

Component 1:	Class Participation	20 points
Component 2:	Quizzes <i>Two quizzes:</i>	20 points <i>10 points each</i>
Component 2:	Article Summary <i>Two summaries:</i>	20 points <i>10 points each</i>
Component 3:	Midterm Theory Essay	20 points
Component 4:	Group Research Symposium Project	20 points
	<i>PowerPoint presentation</i>	<i>4 points</i>
	<i>Group collage</i>	<i>6 points</i>
	<i>Class discussion</i>	<i>4 points</i>
	<i>Handout</i>	<i>6 points</i>

Total 100 points

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT: The faculty members of Blue Ridge CTC are dedicated to assuring that each student meets the educational objectives of the program. The educational objectives are developed and planned to assure that the program is producing graduates who will be successful in obtaining and maintaining positions in the entry-level business field and who will be quality employees. To achieve this goal, the faculty is committed to a systematic and comprehensive process of assessment of student learning. As part of this program assessment, from time to time, you will be asked to participate in non-graded assessment activities which may include, but are not be limited to, participation in role-playing simulations and completion of standardized written or practical examinations or pre and post graduation surveys.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Cheating in all its forms, including plagiarism and cheating on visual work, is considered an academic matter to be controlled and acted upon by the instructor of this course. Students guilty of academic dishonesty on any graded assignments in this course will be penalized with a grade of F in the course. I will take such actions with written notification to the Dean of Academic Instruction at Blue Ridge CTC. Students involved in facilitating academic dishonesty among others, such as the unauthorized dissemination of examination materials, will be subject to disciplinary action as well.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL: The last day to withdraw from this course is Friday, November 9, 2007. The withdraw process requires signatures from myself and your academic advisor.

PREREQUISITES AND CO-REQUISITES: This course has no pre or co-requisites.

POLICY REGARDING LATE WORK AND MAKE UP EXAMS: As a general rule, there are NO make-up dates for assignments except in cases of natural disasters or other circumstances that qualify as an emergency. Emergencies will not include oversleeping or overlapping deadlines for assignments for other courses. Since you will have ample time to complete assignments, there will be no exceptions for late papers and a ZERO will be entered for that portion of your grade. Hence, please do not wait until the last minute to begin your assignments. Emergencies also do not include last minute issues with internet access.

COURSE TOPICS: (see itemized course schedule)

Week 1: Course Overview; Introduction to Social Theory
Week 2: Origins of Social Theory; Functionalism and Conflict Theory
Week 3: Marxism and Symbolic Interactionism
Week 4: Critical Race Theory; Feminism
Week 5: Social Structure; Explanations of Stratification
Week 6: Rich and Poor; Upperclass and Power Elite
Week 7: Money and Power; Poverty
Week 8: Education Presentation; Urbanization Presentation
Week 9: Race and Ethnicity; Race Presentation
Week 10: Intergroup Relations; Genocide
Week 11: Race and Theory
Week 12: Biology and Culture; Sex and Power
Week 13: The Gender Gap; Sex, Gender, and Power (on-line)
Week 14: Thanksgiving Break (no class)
Week 15: Gender Inequality Presentation; Crime Committed Against Women Presentation
Week 16: Marriage and Family; Spousal Abuse