

SOC 203: Introduction to Sociology (On-line)
Blue Ridge CTC (Spring 2007)
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

WEBCT: You must check WebCT for course announcements and class information. You must also pay careful attention to all e-mail correspondence. Any new announcements and information will be posted by noon each day.

TEACHING METHOD: This course is conducted online within the WebCT environment. Organization, motivation, and strong time-management skills are critical for your success in this course. Although we do not meet face-to-face, you will meet in asynchronous (WebCT Discussion Boards) spaces. As in any other “traditional” course, you are part of an active, vital learning community. The course will combine lecture notes, on-line discussion, writing assignments, and interaction-based activities from a learning-centered perspective. Assignments will correspond to both lectures and course readings. On-line discussion will be focused on clarification and critique of key concepts and application to salient historical and current events. Presentations and writing assignments provide an out-of-the-box style of integrating essential employment and research skills that should be valuable throughout your professional experience. All students should check their university e-mail accounts at least once per day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: You will be required to complete FOUR Components: (i) Quizzes, (ii) Article Summaries, (iii) a Short Essay, and (iv) Discussion Board Postings.

1. **Quizzes (40 points):** You will complete five quizzes. Each '15-question quiz' will consist of *five* true/false and *ten* multiple choice questions. You will have *1 hour* to complete each quiz.

Quiz 1 (8 pts.): Functionalism and Conflict Theory	due 9/2 by 11pm
Quiz 2 (8 pts.): Marxism and Symbolic Interactionism	due 9/9 by 11pm
Quiz 3 (8 pts.): Critical Race Theory and Feminism	due 9/16 by 11pm
Quiz 4 (8 pts.): Gender	due 11/18 by 11pm
Quiz 5 (8 pts.): Marriage, Family, and Spousal Abuse	due 12/9 by 11pm

2. Article Summary (30 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 (15 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 via e-mail on 10/7 by 11pm**).

Article 2 (15 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 via e-mail on 11/11 by 11pm**).

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 (create two concepts)

Section 4: Thesis (write one or two sentences describing the author’s main idea)

Section 5: Three major arguments (One paragraph each, explain how each main argument supports the thesis)

3. Short Essay (10 points): In this essay, you will use the course reading and the film, “Hotel Rwanda” to compare and contrast conditions of slavery and genocide on underprivileged populations.

Essay Organization: You will submit one essay (1 page or 5 paragraphs). You must apply information from the following sources: (a) the weekly reading (2 paragraphs), (b) film (2 paragraphs), and (c) personal reflection of material (1 paragraph). The essay should be single-spaced, typed in 12-point/Times New Roman font, and submitted in an MS WORD format (**due 10/28**).

4. Discussion Board Postings (20 points): All students will be assigned to groups in order to complete four discussion board forums. Using the corresponding course reading, each student will analyze and discuss the theme of the week.

Topic 1 (5 pts.): Social Theory	due 8/26 by 11pm
Topic 2 (5 pts.): Rich and Poor	due 9/30 by 11pm
Topic 3 (5 pts.): Education, Urbanization, and Poverty	due 10/14 by 11pm
Topic 4 (5 pts.): Crimes Committed Against Women and Gender Relations	due 12/2 by 11pm

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:	Quizzes <i>Five quizzes:</i>	<i>8 points each</i>	40 points
Component 2:	Article Summary <i>Two summaries:</i>	<i>15 points each</i>	30 points
Component 3:	Short Essay		10 points
Component 4:	Discussion Board Postings <i>Four postings:</i>	<i>5 points each</i>	20 points
<hr/>			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; Urbanization
- Week 9: Race and Ethnicity
- 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
- Week 14: Thanksgiving Break (no class)
- Week 15: Gender Inequality; Crime Committed Against Women
- Week 16: Marriage and Family; Spousal Abuse