

This is a sample syllabus only. The instructor may make changes to the syllabus in future courses.

**Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 100**

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Office Hours: _____

Course Text:

Ferris, Kerry and Jill Stein. 2012. *The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology*. 3rd Edition. New York: W.W. Norton.

Hartmann, Douglas, and Christopher Uggen. 2012. *The Context Reader: American Sociological Association*. 2nd Edition. New York: W.W. Norton.

Freeman, WH. 2011. *Clicker2 Student Remote*. 10th Edition. Freeman, W.H. & Company

Course Description:

Human social life, its forms and consequences for everyday life. Social inequality and differentiation by race, ethnicity, class and gender (UAB Undergraduate Catalog 2012-2013).

The objective of this course is to introduce you to the discipline of sociology. This class will provide you with the opportunity to learn the basic concepts and perspectives that the practitioners of sociology use every day. More important this class will invite you to critically examine the social world in which we live and help you make sense of social issues outside of our personal experiences.

Course Objective:

- 1) Increase student's awareness and understanding of the society in which we live, the social phenomena which we observe, and the world in which we live;
- 2) View social phenomena specifically from a sociological perspective;
- 3) Employ a comparative perspective on human societies and other social phenomena;
- 4) Present alternative explanations or theories of social phenomena;
- 5) Examine scientific research, various types of research, appropriate methods, technologies and data that sociologists use to investigate the human condition;
- 6) Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures;
- 7) Recognize the structural, systemic factors which affect the quality of life of persons of different ages, gender, social class, sexual orientation, disability, and racial/ethnic backgrounds;
- 8) Address the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural and global forces on human society;
- 9) Encourage one to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse and by obtaining information through appropriate sources; and, finally,
- 10) Consider alternative explanations and solutions for contemporary social issues.

Satisfactions/Requirements:

Satisfies the Area IV. History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences of the University Core Curriculum.

Required of all sociology majors

Course Requirements:

This course has been set up into FOUR sections: 1) Introduction to Sociology, 2) Framing of Social Life, 3) Understanding Inequality, and 4) Social Institution. For each section, a comprehensive exam will evaluate the student's understanding of the material covered in that section. Each section will cover two to four chapters from the textbook, film, and readings text. Class discussions will provide students with a learning opportunity to discuss the Contexts Reader article; and a PBS Frontline film will provide students with the opportunity to integrate sociological knowledge and the documentary in to a well crafter paper.

The course Blackboard site is organized by section and chapter. For each chapter, students will be guided through the reading requirements, critical writing opportunity, and class discussion opportunity. At the end of each section, a comprehensive exam over the section will be provided in class. Below are outlines of, and directions for, each component for each chapter (critical commentary, discussion board, and quiz) and section exam.

iClicker Questions: During each class, several questions will be posted on lecture slides (from text book, class discussion, or Context reader). Students will be asked to answer these questions using the iClicker2 system. Each question will be worth 2 pts., 1pt for answering the question (participation), 1pt for providing the correct answer. At the end of the semester, all points will be totaled and graded/assessed out of 100 pts.

Critical Writing: There are **Twelve (12)** critical writing opportunities over videos/films we will watch throughout the semester. You will be required to complete **TWO (2)** critical writings over the course of the semester. Critical writings are due the **on Thursdays (but you are encouraged to turn them in early)**. Each commentary is worth 50 points. The purpose of the writing activities is to apply critical thinking skills to address the social problem addressed in the film.

Directions: Within each chapter folder, there will be link to a critical writing assignment. The critical writings provide students with the opportunity to articulate an academic argument, or take a well-thought out position on the week's film selection **AND** relating this back to the **class reading material**. The paper should be a well-written 2-page (double spaced, 1" margins, 11 pt. Cambria font) essay discussing a point/perspective integrating the week's chapter reading material with the film. A superb paper would be well organized and focused. Remember you have limited space to make your argument, so being concise is paramount. A stupendous paper would also synthesize information from various sources (chapter readings, the discussion board, and outside readings). **THIS IS NOT A FILM SUMMARY; you need to integrate sociological ideas from the text, not just summarize the film, or play film critic (I want to know what you learned from the film, not what you think about the film).**

In an effort to assist students with mastering the writing activities, sample critical commentaries are available on Blackboard under the *Syllabus and Materials* button and folder labeled *Critical Writing Examples*. Please be sure to view the examples before proceeding with the first writing activity.

Section Exams: There will be **FOUR (4)** section exams during the semester. Each exam will cover 2-4 chapters. Each exam consists of multiple choice and essay questions (6-8 sentences). The purpose of the section exam is to test your conceptual and factual knowledge about the section material covered, including **the Context Reader**.

- Small Exam I: covers Part I - chapters 1 and 2 (50pts)
- Exam II: covers Part II - chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6 (100pts)
- Exam III: covers Part III - chapters 7, 8, and 9 (100pts)
- Exam IV: covers Part IV – chapters 10, 11, and 13 (100pts)

Practice and Review: In each chapter folder in Blackboard, there is a “Practice and Review” folder. While there is no graded material in this folder, it is provided for you. If you need extra study material in order to master the class chapter for the quiz, discussion, critical writing paper, or exams, review this material.

Points:

LETTER GRADES:

iClicker Questions	= 100pts	493-550 = A
Critical Writings 2 graded x 50pts each	= 100pts	438-492 = B
<u>Exams 4 exams x 50-100 each</u>	<u>= 350pts</u>	383-439 = C
Total	550pts	328-382 = D
		0-327 = F

Communications:

All official correspondence will be sent ONLY to the @uab.edu address. All students are responsible for ensuring that the correct e-mail address is listed in Blackboard (**Bb**) by the beginning of Week 1. UAB E-mail is the only method I will use to electronically communicate with students. It is your responsibility to make sure a valid email UAB address is provided. Failure on your part to do so can result in you missing important information that could affect your grade.

Drop/Add:

According to UAB policy _____ is the last day to drop this course. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of “W” is _____. Students registering late will be able to make up all class material.

Accommodation of Religious Beliefs:

Religious beliefs shall be reasonably accommodated with respect to all examinations and other academic requirements. Please notify the professor in advance if there is a conflict.

Reasonable Accommodations:

Any students who need reasonable accommodations are invited to share these concerns or requests with the professor. All accommodations must be approved by Disability Support Services (DSS), If you have a disability but have not contacted DSS, please call 934-4205 or visit DSS at 516 Hill University Center.

Academic Honest Policy:

UAB Faculty expects all members of its academic community to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Academic dishonesty and misconduct includes, but is not limited to, acts of abetting, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and misrepresentation. Candidates are expected to honor the UAB Academic Code of Conduct as detailed *UAB Student Catalog 2012-2013*. Please consult this resource for additional information regarding the specific procedures to be undertaken when a student violates the UAB Academic Code of Conduct.

<http://main.uab.edu/Sites/undergraduate-programs/general-studies/academic-success/67537/>

Let me make it clear: if you cheat or plagiarize you will **fail** the course and your name will be forwarded to the University Compliance Office.

Make-up Policy:

If you must miss an exam, you will need to schedule a time to make-up the assignment **before** your absence. Only in extreme cases will this policy be modified.

Etiquette:

Respect fellow students and myself. Topics in this class can become sensitive and someone (including myself) may say something with which you disagree. Critical discussion is encouraged, but respect differences of theoretical perspective. All class discussions must be sociological in nature.

Reservation:

I reserve the right to make changes in this syllabus to better serve the class's needs. Any changes will be announced in class in advance.