

Martin Community College
Course Syllabus
Spring 2011

Course Number: SOC 210-50
Course Title: Introduction to Sociology
Credit Hours: 3
Contact Hours/week: 3
Prerequisites: None
Co requisites: None

Instructor: Happy Gingras
Office: Internet Only
Virtual Hours: By appointment
Phone Number: 252-561-6583
E-mail: hgingras@mcc.martincc.edu

Course Description: This course introduces the scientific study of human society, culture, and social interactions. Topics include; socialization, research methods, diversity and inequality, cooperation and conflict, social change, social institutions, and organizations. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of sociological concepts; as they apply to the interplay among individuals, groups, and societies. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.*

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Apply critical thinking skills to problem solving.
2. Demonstrate appropriate use of related technology.
3. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Apply basic research methods, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of sociology and the sociological perspective.
3. Explain the nature of our society's social institutions and how they impact a person's behavior.

Required Textbook: Henslin, J. (2010). *Sociology: A down-to-earth approach, (10th ed.)*.
New York: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN: 0-205-68862-4.

Supplemental Resources: You may visit the publisher's website www.ablongman.com/henslin8e for helpful information and practice tests.

Learning/Teaching Methods: Learning/teaching methods will include supplemental information, internet assignments, discussion boards, textbook reading assignments, writing assignments, and outside reading assignments.

The importance of student preparation cannot be stressed enough in this internet class. It is imperative that students maintain regular contact with the instructor and complete their work by the published deadlines. Students are encouraged to contact me via e-mail, phone, or online to ask any questions they have about the material. All phone calls and emails will be returned within 24 hours (48 hours on the weekends). If you do not get a response from me within 48 hours, assume that I did not get the message and resend it.

When corresponding to me via email, it is important to include your name and SOC 210-50 in the subject line of your message. *For example, my subject line would read: Happy Gingras SOC 210-50.* I receive many email messages daily and this important identification will enable me to respond to you in a timely manner. Please be specific when asking questions so that I am able to answer them quickly. Also, you must use proper grammar and appropriate language in all emails or they will be returned for proper editing. You may address me as Happy or Ms. Happy.

Assessments/Methods of Evaluation:

1. **Tests (400 points total):** There will be 4 tests worth 100 points each for a total of 400. The tests will cover all assigned readings and will be composed of short answer, multiple choices, matching or other types of questions. The posted objectives for each chapter are your study guides for the tests. Many of the answers will require critical thinking about what you have learned then application of information into a real life scenario. All tests will be available for a minimum of 5 days on **Blackboard (BB)**. Do not wait until the last second to take your test in case there are problems with your internet connection or Blackboard. If you get kicked off of a test, it is your responsibility to contact me, to reset test if possible. You will have 1 hour to complete your test. If your test is not completed within the hour, there is no make-up test available and you will score a zero.
2. **Final Exam (100 points total):** This is a comprehensive exam with a format similar to the other course tests. The final exam will be posted for a minimum of 3 days. You must finish the exam before the posted deadline or you will score a zero. **There are no make-up options for the final exam.** More information about the final exam will be posted on BB towards the end of the semester.
3. **Quizzes (100 points):** Each of the 11 chapters we will cover will have an online quiz. Each quiz is worth 10 points and can be taken twice. The highest grade will be the one counted. You must complete 10 of the 11 quizzes (you have one freebie). If you complete the 11th quiz, you may use those points as extra credit points. Quizzes will be posted for a minimum of 5 days and **there are no make-up options on the quizzes.**
4. **Chapter Objectives (250 points total):** Each of the 11 chapters we cover will have a set of objectives that you are to learn from that chapter. You will be required to answer all of these objectives and submit them via Bb. I will randomly grade 5 of the submitted answers. Each answer that is graded will be worth 5 points for a total of 25 points for the objectives. As always, spelling and grammar will count. You only need to complete 10 of the 11 responses- each one is worth 25 points. If you complete all 11, the extra one will be counted as extra credit. All assignments are to be completed by the assignment due dates.
5. **Homework (HW) Assignments (100 points):** There will be 4 (four) homework assignments throughout the semester worth 25 points each for a total of 100 points. Please read each assignment carefully. If there are any questions about the assignment, you must let me know. Students are expected to complete **HW** by the due date.
6. **Outside Reading Assignment (50 Points):** All students will be required to read the assigned reading assignment and complete the required summary.
7. **Welcome Assignment (50 points):** You must read and understand the syllabus before beginning any coursework in this class. You must post on the first discussion board that you have read and understand the syllabus for this class and agree with the class policies. **If you do not complete this posting during the first week of class, you will be removed from this class.** You must complete this quiz in order to complete any other coursework for this class.

Catastrophe: Each student will have one “catastrophe” that can be used for either a Chapter objective assignment **OR** a HW assignment (**NOT a Quiz or test**). To clarify, *all students will be granted one extension for either a Chapter objectives or a HW with no questions asked.* To use this clause, students must contact me no later than the due date/ time via email to ask for an extension. Extensions must not be longer than 7 days (students pick the due date). Students who do not contact me via email **OR** do not pick their due date, **OR** email me after the posted deadline will **not** be granted an extension.

Extra Credit: As noted above, there are 2 opportunities to get extra credit. There are no other opportunities extended. If you are concerned about your grade, contact me before the end of class to discuss ways to improve it by using tutoring or study groups.

Grading Policy:

We will be using a point system to calculate grades. All grades are based on a 10-point grading scale.

Tests (4 @ 100 points each).....	400
Final Exam	100
Quizzes (10 @ 10 points each).....	100
Chapter Objectives (10 @ 25 points each).....	250
Homework Assignments (4 @ 25 points each).....	100
Welcome Assignment.....	50

Grading Scale:

A = 900-1000	(90-100)
B = 800-899	(80-89)
C = 700-799	(70-79)
D = 600-699	(60-69)
F = 599 or less	(59 or less)

Attendance Policy:

To enter internet courses, students must complete both of these tasks:

1. Complete the technology assessment located on Blackboard (**BB**) homepage
2. Login to **BB** and complete the first discussion board within 7 (seven) school days

Both tasks must be complete in order for a student to remain in the class. Students who are taking more than one internet class only need to complete the technology assessment once.

Students must be present in at least one class during the first 10% of the course in order to be considered enrolled in the class. If a student has not attended at least one class by the 10% census date, the instructor will administratively withdraw the student. Since this is an internet course, you must sign into **BB**, complete the “Welcome Assignment”, **and post in the discussion board** before the first 10% of class. Also, students who miss 10% or of the total class will be administratively withdrawn and given the grade of (Withdraw/Failing) **WF**. You will be counted present by signing into **BB and completing all assigned work** each week.

Translation of above paragraph: You must sign in, post on the first discussion board and complete the welcome assignment before or you will be withdrawn. You must log into **BB** at least once a week (more is better) during the class. Failure to log in for 14 consecutive days will cause you to be withdrawn (I can view your log on dates and activities as instructor).

REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES*

***In compliance with G.S. 115D-5, MCC policy permits a student to be excused, with the opportunity to make-up any test or other missed work, a minimum of two excused absences per academic year for religious observances required by the student’s faith. The policy limits the excused absences to a maximum of two days per academic year.**

Students who wish to be excused for a Religious Observance required by their faith must complete and submit a request form to the instructor(s) prior to the census date of each class. The *Request for Excused Absences for Religious Observances* form can be picked up from Student Services. This does not supersede the college-wide

attendance policy as outlined in the college catalog or syllabus, with the exception of a reasonable accommodation for the make-up of missed course work.

Cheating:

Please do not try it. I will catch you and impose the appropriate punishment.

Course Expectations:

Sociology is a fascinating subject. I hope that we have a lot of fun in this class and that you learn a lot of useful information. I want you to know that I want to be successful. Because I am not on campus, here are a variety of ways to contact me:

- I have given you my cell phone number on the top of the syllabus; call me if you need me. Please try not to call after 9 pm, but I am available to you at all other times. Leave me a message and I will return your call. (I do not return missed calls with no message).
- Text me using the cell number. Please include your name in the text.
- Email me. I am available via email M-F during business hours.

I expect you to:

- Complete all assigned coursework on time
- Turn in work that is your own work- not someone else's
- Treat me and your classmates with respect
- Feel free to communicate with me when you need to

What you can expect from me:

- To grade work quickly and fairly
- To impose rules fairly
- To be available to you for questions

Other Info:

Martin Community College has a Help Desk for distance learning. The Help Desk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Help is provided by searching a knowledge base, by email, or by a toll free call (1-866-833-2953). The College's Distance Learning website has the link to a Help desk.

If you cannot reach your instructor, you may contact Dr. Phyllis Broughton, Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services at (252) 789-0246 or (252) 789-0247 by phone, pbroughton@martincc.edu by email, or in person at her office in Building 2, room 33.

To access Martin Community College Career Catalog for policies and curriculum requirements, please go online to, www.martincc.edu.

If you have a need for a disability-related accommodation, please notify the Student Services counselor at (252) 789-0293.

Course Outline:

Please note that this is a tentative outline of instruction. The outline is subject to change by the instructor. I have provided dates on this outline and will attempt to follow the dates as closely as possible. Unless changed by the instructor, your required coursework is due as by the following deadlines:

This is available on Bb.