

**Sociology 100: Introduction to Sociology  
Summer 2009: Session 1 (May 26-July 2)**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Daniel B. Eisen

Office: Saunders Hall, Room 219

Office Hours: TBD

Email: [deisen@hawaii.edu](mailto:deisen@hawaii.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will expose students to the basic foundations needed in the field of sociology. These foundations include an understanding of the way sociologists understand human behavior, social structures, and general social processes, the basic theoretical foundations commonly used in sociology, the basic methodological approaches applied in the field of sociology, and a brief introduction to several substantive areas of sociology. This course will also introduce students to the basics of writing in accordance with the guideline specified by the American Sociological Association. Overall, the goal of this course is to expose students to the breadth of the field of sociology, so students will have a solid foundation to stand upon when taking additional courses in sociology.

In this course students are asked to have an open mind and explore the many possibilities that sociology offers in the examination of the world around us. Many of the perspectives covered in this course may not agree with the student's worldview. However, the student is asked to consider each perspective as a way of looking at the world, rather than an absolute truth on the subject. Therefore, students should leave this course being able to see various problems from a plethora of angles and choose the perspective that best fits their position on issues.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- (1) Demonstrate an understanding of the basic sociological approach to the explanation of human behavior.
- (2) Identify and describe basic concepts and ideas used by sociologists.
- (3) Demonstrate a basic understanding of the various theoretical foundations (conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, structural functionalism) that inform the field of sociology.
- (4) Identify and understand the basic methodological approaches that sociologists use when studying human behavior and social structures.
- (5) Begin to feel comfortable using the American Sociological Association (ASA) citation style.
- (6) Consider various social issues from multiple perspectives, while being sensitive to the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective.

**COURSE TEXT**

The required text for this book can be found at the UH bookstore, online (amazon.com), and as an e-textbook at coursesmart.com. Students are not required to bring the text to class with them everyday, so purchasing the e-textbook (which is substantially cheaper) is a suitable option.

Henslin, James M. 2008. *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

The following text is recommended for students, especially those who plan to continue their studies in the field of sociology. This book is available at the UH bookstore and online via Amazon.com or the ASA website ([www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)).

American Sociological Association. 2007. *American Sociological Association Style Guide*.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE:** The student is expected to attend classes regularly, come prepared for class by completing the assigned readings, and actively participate in class discussions or activities. Students are expected to have no more than 3 unexcused absences throughout the course. Each absence after the 3<sup>rd</sup> unexcused absence will result in a 2% deduction off the student's final grade. If a student is unable to attend class he/she is expected to let instructor know via email before the start of class on that day. The student's attendance and participation in classroom activities is worth 5% of the student's total grade.

**THREE SHORT PAPERS:** Throughout the course of this term the student will complete three short (4-5 page) papers, as described below. The papers should be 4-5 pages in length, double spaced, types using Times New Roman, with 1" margins. Papers should also be in standard ASA format. A guide to the ASA citation style can easily be found online. Each paper is worth 15% of the student's final grade. Therefore, the combined papers will comprise 45% of the student's final grade.

*Paper One (Methodology Focused):* Students will complete a paper on one of the following exercises. Students can write a paper about a breaching experiment that they conduct or they can write a paper on an event as if they were a researcher conducting an ethnography on a culture that they have no previous knowledge about. Each exercise encourages students to think about the world around them critically and be aware of the minute details that are usually taken for granted.

*Paper Two (Social Location):* Students will complete a paper exploring their social location in the social structure. Students are encouraged to consider how their social location as a child has led them to where they are today and how their current social location affects their life chances. Students are also encouraged in this paper to address how much social structure shapes their lives and chances in life.

*Paper Three (Sociology in the Everyday World):* To complete this paper students will need to find a recent article in newspaper or magazine and describe how sociology is “present” in the article and/or how sociology can be applied to explain the subject of the article. Students need to print/copy the article and submit it with their completed papers.

**MIDTERM:** The midterm exam will assess the student’s knowledge of all the material covered prior to the day of the exam. The format of the midterm has not been decided and will be negotiated with the students enrolled in the class. The midterm exam will be worth 25% of the student’s final grade.

**FINAL:** The final exam will assess the student’s knowledge of all the material covered from the day after the midterm exam to the day before the exam is administered. Like the midterm, the final exam format has not been decided and will be negotiated with the students enrolled in the class. The final exam will be worth 25% of the student’s final grade.

Therefore the final grade comprises of the following:

Paper 1	15 %
Paper 2	15%
Paper 3	15%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%
Attendance/ Participation	5%
<hr/>	
Final Grade	100%

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Date	Focus/Topic	Readings/Assignments
<b>Week 1</b>		
Day 1: May 26	Syllabus/Course Expectations/What is Sociology?	None
Day 2: May 27	The Sociological Perspective	Chapter 1
Day 3: May 28	Culture	Chapter 2
Day 4: May 29	Socialization	Chapter 3
<b>Week 2</b>		
Day 5: June 1	Sociological Theory (Conflict)	Chapter 4/Chapter 7
Day 6: June 2	Sociological Theory (SF)	Chapter 4/Handout
Day 7: June 3	Sociological Theory (SI)	Chapter 4/Chapter 6
Day 8: June 4	Sociological Research	Chapter 5
Day 9: June 5	Deviance and Social Control	Chapter 8

<b>Week 3</b>		
Day 10: June 8	Social Stratification	<b>PAPER 1 DUE</b> Chapter 9
Day 11: June 9	Social Stratification	Chapter 10
Day 12: June 10	REVIEW FOR MIDTERM	REVIEW FOR MIDTERM
Day 13: June 11	NO CLASS	KAMEHAMEHA DAY
Day 14: June 12	MIDTERM	<b>MIDTERM</b>
<b>Week 4</b>		
Day 15: June 15	Sex and Gender	Chapter 11
Day 16: June 16	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 12
Day 17: June 17	Education	Chapter 17
Day 18: June 18	Health and Medicine	Chapter 19
Day 19: June 19	Religion	Chapter 18
<b>Week 5</b>		
Day 20: June 22	Politics	<b>PAPER 2 DUE</b> Chapter 15
Day 21: June 23	Economy	Chapter 14
Day 22: June 24	Marriage and the Family	Chapter 16
Day 23: June 25	Population and Urbanization	Chapter 20
Day 24: June 26	The Media	Handouts
<b>Week 6</b>		
Day 25: June 29	Social Movements and Social Change	<b>PAPER 3 DUE</b> Chapter 21
Day 26: June 30	Social Movements and Social Change	Chapter 22
Day 27: July 1	REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM	REVIEW FOR FINAL
Day 28: July 2	FINAL EXAM	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>

**GENERAL ISSUES:**

**CELL PHONES AND COMPUTERS:** Students are expected to silence/turn off their cell phones during the class period. It is also expected that students will not use their cell phones in the classroom during instruction. While the use of computers is not prohibited during instruction, it is expected that students be using the computer for content related to the lecture. If it is clear that students are using computers for other purposes (eg. Facebook, myspace, etc.) students will be asked to discontinue using the computer. If this becomes a consistent problem, the use of computers will be prohibited during class time unless instructor grants the student approval to use the computer.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Students should strive to turn in their assignments on time, as late assignments will suffer a substantial reduction in points. For everyday that an assignment is late (this includes weekends, as papers can be turned in via email) the assignment will automatically lose 5%. Assignments more than two (2) days late will not be accepted.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** There may be a possibility that extra credit will be offered during this course. However, in order for any extra credit to be applied to the final grade all

course work must be completed. If a student fails to complete an assignment or an exam the extra credit will not be counted towards the student's final grade.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** The University of Hawaii at Manoa explicitly prohibits cheating or plagiarism in the academic environment. Section IH of the student code of conduct defines these as:

*“Cheating includes but is not limited to giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination; obtaining unauthorized information about an examination before it is given; submitting another’s work as one’s own; using prohibited sources of information during an examination; fabricating or falsifying data in experiments and other research; altering the record of any grade; altering answers after an examination has been submitted; falsifying any official University record; or misrepresenting of facts in order to obtain exemptions from course requirements.”*

*Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual’s work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another’s idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student’s language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.”*

**ACCOMODATIONS AND KOKUA:** Students who need accommodations in this class due to the impact of a disability are encouraged to contact both the instructor and KOKUA to ensure the appropriate accommodations are made. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612. KOKUA is located in room 013 of the Queen Lili’uokalani Center for Student Services.

**\*\*The instructor reserves the right to change the order/content of the syllabus to accommodate scheduling conflicts and any other unforeseen circumstances.**