Introduction to Sociology, SOCI 1101-03
Spring 2015

No prerequisites required.

Instructor: Tiffany A. Parsons
Office: Pafford 207
Hours: M/W 1 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Phone: 678.839.6335
Email: tparsons@westga.edu

Class Meetings: M/W 3:30 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Course Description: A general introduction to the sociological perspective; including theoretical orientations; methodological approaches; the content of society and culture; the process of socialization; social institutions; and social stratification. A survey of the discipline of sociology. Topics will include sociological theory, methods and selected substantive area.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Identify and apply basic concepts and perspectives.
2. Connect sociological concepts to issues and events outside of the classroom.
3. Analyze social issues and current events using sociological perspectives.
4. Construct an organized, informed, and detailed description of the nature of culture and social structure.
5. Construct an organized, informed, and detailed explanation of the reciprocal relationship between the individual and society.
7. Demonstrate an ability to think critically and write well.
8. Engage in scholarly dialog with others.

Required Text: Sociology In Our Times: The Essentials by Diana Kendall
- ISBN#: 9781305499980 OR 9781305812390
  - One of these is digital only and the other is digital with a loose leaf version of the text. You may choose either of these options.
- UWG Bookstore: http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/

Attendance Policy: All enrolled students may attend class. No student is required to attend.

Participation Policy: Enrolled students must earn the right to participate in class.
- To be eligible for participation during class, students must complete the required coursework and have submitted all required tasks prior to class.
  - It is expected that students will pass (70%) out-of-class graded activities. If one consistently does not pass, I will contact her/him to set up a one-on-one meeting
with me. Once contacted, students will be unable to participate in class until this meeting has taken place.

- If one is ineligible to participate, she/he may still attend class and actively listen. She/he, however, may not participate in the activities and will earn a grade of 0 for all graded activities completed during that class session.

**Late/Make up work:** Under most circumstances, I do not accept late work or give make up work. If you are contagious, have a severe illness, have a car accident on the way to class, give birth, or have a funeral during class time or out of town, you may ask for an exception during my office hours. In either of two last cases, the request should precede the event.

**Communication:**

- **Westga.edu email:** Only use this address for non-course related communication & emergencies.

- **CourseDen email:** You should only email me to set up a one-on-one meeting with me in the event office hours conflict with your class schedule. Use the subject line “Meeting Request.” Your message should include at least two times when you would like to meet and a brief (one to two sentence) description of the reason for the meeting. Email for any other reason will not be considered or acknowledged. I will respond to appropriate CourseDen emails within 48 hours, Monday – Friday.

- **Class Lounge:** Post and reply to questions or advice pertaining to the class, teacher, texts, instructions, schedule, content, lectures... All questions about the syllabus, assignments, etc., that are not private or do not only and directly relate to you should be posted in the class lounge. You are responsible for checking the Class Lounge regularly and answering questions as you have knowledge.

- **Before & After Class:** I am unavailable to speak with students one-on-one immediately before and immediately after class, unless prior arrangements have been made.

**Changes, Notices, etc.:** I reserve the right to change the schedule, assignments, or requirements. I will announce changes via CourseDen News or email within the course. You are responsible for knowing changes.

**Technology outside of class:** This is a technology enhanced class. You are 100% responsible for access to reliable and properly working technology and knowing how to use CourseDen as well as the technology and software required for this course. You will need

- a reliable computer and internet access capable of streaming movies.
- basic computer literacy skills. You will be required to do the following:
  - complete interactive activities
  - take timed quizzes,
  - read text in html, and
  - watch linked videos.
NOTE: Tablets, Smartphones, and Internet Explorer are not compatible with some functions in CourseDen.

DISTANCE ED: The following is a link to UWG Online Connection website (includes links to Orientation, basic software/hardware requirements, Online Student Guide, and all student services) - http://www.westga.edu/~online/
  ◦ If you have a computer, software, or CourseDen questions, contact distance education: 678.839.6248 or http://www.westga.edu/~distance/webct1/help/

Technology in class: You may not use any electronic technology in class – other than that which is permissible under the ADA. This includes laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, ipods, etc. Any sighting of, sounds made by, or distracting use of (eg. flashing lights when ringer is on silent, texting in your lap…) electronic technology in class will result in the deduction of 5 points off your final grade.

Respect for others: You are expected to be respectful to all other students, including when you disagree with or have had an alternate experience than the one being shared and interrupting or speaking while others are speaking…

Other Classroom etiquette:
1. Be on time for class. Do not enter class late.
2. Wait to pack up your belongings until dismissed.
3. Stay in the classroom until dismissed.
   a. In the case you must leave class for an emergency, take all of your belongings with you, do not return to class, and visit me during the very next scheduled office hours.
   b. In the case there is a legitimate reason why you may need to leave class (family member in the hospital, you’re a volunteer fire fighter, etc.) discuss this possibility with me prior to class.
4. Stay alert and focused during class.
   a. Sleeping, doing other work, or carrying on private conversations with classmates during class will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity & Honesty: You read and agreed to the UWG Honor Code, which includes academic honesty and integrity, when you applied to UWG. You are responsible for knowing and understanding this policy. You will be held to this standard. A copy of the Academic Honor Code Pledge Statement that you signed is available for review in the Welcome Module.

Student Handbook: http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php. (for more information and definitions on cheating, plagiarism, and academic honesty and integrity, click the Honor Code and Appendix A.)

Any incident of academic dishonesty, intended or unintended, whether the assignment is worth 1% or 75%, will result in an F for the course and a letter to the VPAA. If you already have a violation of Academic Honesty on your record, I will seek your expulsion from the University.
Tasks: I will do my very best to have all grades posted in CourseDen within one week.

Chapter Modules: readings, videos, and online activities linked into the module are to be completed (in order) by 3:30 p.m. on the days they appear on the schedule. Each chapter module covers only one chapter of the text, however, some chapters have two parts. Parts will include the following.

Think: an activity to get you started thinking about the topic under study.
Variable: Some parts will contain a video clip or classic reading others will not.
Text: the assigned portion of the chapter from the text book.
Flashcards: of the key words to assist you in studying.
Matching: an activity to help you both assess your own understanding and ability to apply theory as well as assist you in studying. (Chapter 15 part 2 does not include a Matching exercise.)
Questions: a graded task that will assess your knowledge of the topic under study.
Connect Concepts: a graded task that will assess your ability to connect sociological concepts to the world outside of the classroom.
Study Center: a platform that will, based on your performance of previous activities, direct you in studying for the portion of the Unit Exam covered in this Chapter Module.

In Class: Class time will be spent in groups working through difficult concepts, critically thinking, applying the knowledge you gained outside of class, analyzing and discussing social issues, developing answers to in-depth sociological questions, and presenting the applications and answers.

Questions for Parsons: a time for you to ask questions about course material or concepts with which you are struggling or need clarification.
Applications: a graded task that will assess your ability to apply sociological concepts.
Discussions: a graded task that will assess your ability to demonstrate critical thinking about sociological concepts and engage in scholarly dialog with other academics.
Answers: a graded task that will assess your in-depth knowledge of sociological concepts and ability to construct an organized, informed, and detailed response to sociological questions.

This would be a good time to revisit the Participation Policy.

Notes about group work:
- You may vote group members off the island! The in-class graded assignments rely on each individual group member coming to class informed (having completed, studied, and learned the assigned course material) and actively participating. In the case, a group member is not pulling her/his weight, the group may vote to kick her/him off the island.
  - Procedure:
    1: A representative (1 person!) from the group is to speak with the offending group member and ask her/him to step up her/his game.
2nd: A majority of group members are to come to my office hours prior to class. If I judge the group to have completed step 1 and the offending group member to continue to be acting in bad faith, I will notify her/him of the consequences.

- Those kicked off their islands will form a new group. Under the circumstance that only one person has been kicked off their island, she/he will work alone on in-class activities.
- If you believe your group’s answers, applications, or discussions are incorrect, you may turn in a personal assignment. HOWEVER:
  - If you turn in a personal assignment and it is incorrect or scores lower than the group assignment, you will earn a 0.
  - If the group assignment is, in fact, incorrect or scores lower than your personal assignment, the remainder of the group will earn a 0.

**Pre-Assessment:** You must take the pre-assessment before attending the second class of the semester. You must take it before you will have access to the first Chapter Module. The grade you earn does NOT affect your grade in the class. I use this, along with the post-assessment, to measure my own effectiveness.

**Post-Assessment:** You must take the post-assessment before you can take the last Unit Exam. The Pre-Assessment and Post-Assessment are exactly the same.

**Unit Exams:** Each unit concludes with an exam. They consist of 50 true/false and multiple choice questions. The questions are randomized such that no two tests are alike.

NOTE: Working together – any collaboration – while taking or after having taken a unit exam constitutes academic dishonesty and will result in all parties failing the course.

**Grading:** Notice that I do not round up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90+</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89.9999</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79.9999</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69.9999</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.999 &amp; below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE:
- Poor behavior and/or participation may result in the loss of points from your final grade.
- Excellent participation may result in the addition of points to your final grade.
- Academic dishonesty will result in failing the class without regard to your other grades in the course.

Library: http://www.westga.edu/library/

Common Language: http://tinyurl.com/UWGSyllabusPolicies

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:**
If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the Center for Disability Services. A CDS Counselor will coordinate those services:
http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php

If you are entitled to and desire accommodation: Email me your packet immediately – before the end of day Monday, Jan 12 – along with a list of the accommodations you desire – through CourseDen with the subject “ADA Accommodations.”

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT:**
No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by UWG.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT:**
University of West Georgia adheres to affirmative action policies to promote diversity and equal opportunity for all faculty and students.