

Soc 101 – Sociology and Social Problems
Spring 2009

Instructor: Don Luidens

Office: VZN 264

Hours: MW 9-10:30 and TR 1:30-3 or by appointment

Office phone: 395-7554

E-mail: luidens@hope.edu



Have you ever wondered why older women refer to themselves and their female friends as “girls”? Why do younger women often refer to themselves as “guys”? Have you noticed that Rap stars sing about the conquest of women by aggressive, misogynistic young males – and make a lot of money by selling their albums to females? And denigrate blacks, and make a lot of money by selling albums to African Americans? Have you wondered why this is so?

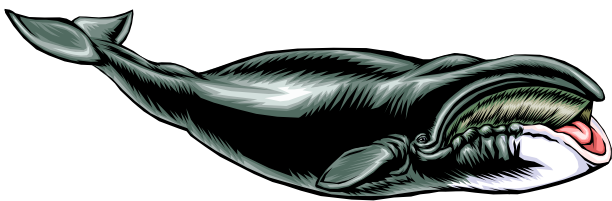
Hope prides itself on being a “friendly place.” Just ask any student who’s been here awhile. Everyone says “hi” to everyone else. Right? Wrong! Have you ever noticed who is not included in this embracing environment? Have you ever greeted the groundskeepers – often your age and race peers – in this warm way? Do you know the names of the folks that clean your dormitory toilets? Why not?



Have you ever wondered if you would have been a Muslim if you had been born in Egypt? A Confucian if born in China? A Hindu if born in India? Does the possibility give you pause? Were you “lucky”? “Chosen”?

Does the fact that first year students have to pay more for their parking permits bug you? Why (or why not)? Who made it happen? Why?

These are just some of the world-defining issues that we will deal with this semester. Strap yourselves in; you’re in for a whale of a ride (ever wonder where the expression “whale of a ride” comes from? Check out Moby Dick)! Welcome to sociology, where everything we experience on a daily basis is up for reconsideration, where what we “take for granted” is revealed as a (sometimes intended, sometimes unintended) construct of society, and where each of us is the student and subject matter at the same time! **WARNING: NOT FOR THE TIMID!**



Course Purpose

I have two principal objectives in this course:



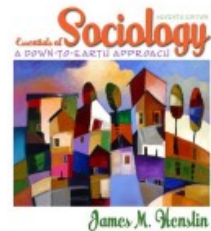
- a. to invite you into the world of sociological understandings by exposing you to some of the premier sociologists, past and present; and
- b. to initiate in you the rudiments of a "sociological imagination" from which you may better view and comprehend the social world in which we all live.

Approach

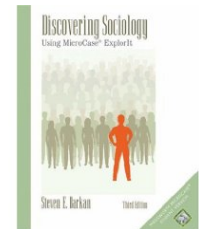
My approach can best be described as "eclectic"; I will use a variety of formats including small group activities, audio-visually, readings, writing exercises, and assorted lectures. **AT ALL TIMES YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS.** *[I love challenging questions and strong rebuttal. In fact, some of my best friends are (present and former) students who like to challenge me.]*

Required Texts

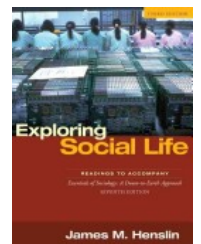
We will be reading James Henslin's, Essentials of Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach, 7th Edition. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon, 2007. I'm very excited by its many facets. Henslin has long used "everyday life" to inform his sociological thinking, and this text follows that approach. We'll work our way through much of the text together. This book will be listed as "H" in the reading assignments below.



In addition to Essentials, we will be using a laboratory manual entitled Discovering Sociology: Using MicroCase ExplorerIt, 3rd Edition, by Steven Barkan. Bellevue, WA: Thompson-Wadsworth, 2006. **You will need to obtain a new copy of this exercise book because there will be "tear-out" sections to hand in. DO NOT BUY THIS BOOK ON LINE, it is probably useless.**



There will also be several readings which will come from James Henslin's edited book, Exploring Social Life: Reading to Accompany Essentials of Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach, 7th Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2008. This book will be referred to as "Reading" in the assignments below.



I have decided not to require purchase of a Study Guide for this class. However, the publishers of the text have developed a superb website that includes much of the material that usually appears in a study guide. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this website: www.ablongman.com/henslin. It provides chapter summaries, discussion topics, and practice multiple choice and fill-in exams.

Special notes:

1) This class is a “flagged” course. This means that a majority of the material will deal with issues of class, race, gender, nationality, or age. Sociologists have long been interested in how these social characteristics become culturally defined and, in the process, culturally valued. You are required to take four credits of “flagged” courses during your Hope College career. (I encourage you to take more!) When you complete this course you will have completed the “diversity” requirement.



2) There will be ten in-class writing exercises. These will help to cover the reading for the day as well as provide discussion starters. In-class writing exercises will be unannounced. **You will be held accountable for eight of the ten.**

3) I expect you to attend class sessions and participate in class discussions. I expect you to listen when your classmates are talking so that you will give others an equal opportunity to participate and be heard. There will be a variety of pedagogies used to insure that everyone gets an opportunity to actively engage the class material.

4) All class work not picked up by the end of finals week will be destroyed at that time (with the exception of the finals, which will be kept through May Term).

Grading

Final grades will be calculated on the following basis:

Exams	3 x 100 = 300
Final Exam (cumulative)	140
Computer lab exercises	12 x 10 = 120
In-class exercises/class attendance	8 x 5 = 40
TOTAL	600

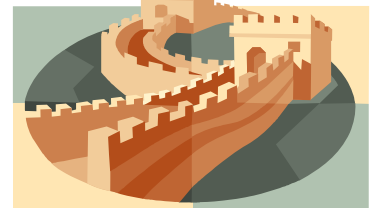


The four *exams* will consist of multiple-choice questions covering the readings and class notes. The computer-based *lab exercises* correspond to the readings for that week. Lab assignments are due on the day they are scheduled as noted in your syllabus; **late labs will not be accepted.** There are 12 lab assignments listed in your syllabus, plus one lab that will be completed during class time. The 13th lab (number 17) is optional. If you submit that lab, it will replace your lowest grade on the regular labs.

The *in-class exercises* will be a series of unannounced activities that happen during class time throughout the semester. **You must be in class that day in order to receive credit for the in-class exercise.** There will be 10 opportunities for in-class writing, of which 8 will be counted toward your grade.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>	<u>Reading and Lab Assignment</u>
Jan. 7 (W)	Course Introduction	
Jan. 9 (F)	Role of Theory I	H: 2-20
Jan. 12 (M)	Computer Lab Exercise (Room to be announced)	H: 20-31 Bring Barkan workbook! In-Class Lab Exercise #1: The Sociological Perspective
Jan. 14 (W)	Role of Theory II	Reading 1
Jan. 16 (F)	What Is Culture?	Reading 2 Lab 2: Culture and Society
Jan. 19 (M)	What <u>Else</u> Is Culture?	H: Chapter 2
Jan. 21 (W)	Socialization: Introducing . . . US	H: Chapter 3
Jan. 23 (F)	Socialization to What?	Reading 3 Lab 3: Socialization
Jan. 26 (M)	Where Does Society Come In?	H: 82-96
Jan. 28 (W)	What Are Society's Structures?	Reading 4
Jan. 30 (F)	Presentation of Self	H: 97-109 Lab 4: Groups
Feb. 2 (M)	** EXAM #1 **	
Feb. 4 (W)	Groups and Formal Organizations	H: 112-129
Feb. 6 (F)	Group Dynamics	H: 129-135 Lab 5: Deviance and Crime
Feb. 9 (M)	WINTER BREAK	
Feb. 11 (W)	Deviance, Crimes and Labeling	H: Chapter 6
Feb. 13 (F)	Social Control and Prisons	Reading 6



SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>	<u>Reading and Lab Assignment</u>
Feb. 16 (M)	Inevitability of Social Class?	H: Chapter 8 Lab 6: Social Stratification
Feb. 18 (W)	What does Social Class do?	Reading 7
Feb. 20 (F)	Social Class in the U.S.	Reading 8 Lab 7: Race and Ethnicity
Feb. 23 (M)	Global Stratification	H: Chapter 7
Feb. 25 (W)	Racism American Style	H: Chapter 9
Feb. 27 (F)	Institutional Racism	Reading 9 Lab 8: Gender
Mar. 2 (M)	Sex and Gender	H: 254-276
Mar. 4 (W)	Gender Inequality in the Workplace	Reading 10
Mar. 6 (F)	** EXAM 2 **	
Mar. 9 (M)	Social Institutions: The Family	H: Chapter 12
Mar. 11 (W)	“Traditional” Family Roles?	Reading 12 Lab 11: Family
Mar. 13-22	SPRING BREAK	
Mar. 23 (M)	Social Institutions: Government I	H: 291-304
Mar. 25 (W)	Social Institutions: Government II	Reading 11
Mar. 27 (F)	Social Institutions: Economy	H: 304-319 Lab 13: Work
Mar. 30 (M)	Social Institutions: Religion	H: 366-379
Ap. 1 (W)	Cults, Sects and Churches	Handout
Ap. 3 (F)	Social Institutions: Education	H: 352-366 Lab 12: Education and Religion



SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Date Class Topic Reading and Lab Assignment

Ap. 6 (M) Power and Education Reading 13

Ap. 8 (W) **** EXAM 3 ****

Ap. 10 (F) Good Friday – No Class

Ap. 13 (M) Urbanization H: 397-410

Ap. 15 (W) Demographics of Holland, Mi. Reading 14

Ap. 17 (F) Population H: 382-397

Lab 16 Population/Urbanization

Ap. 20 (M) Role of the Industrial Revolution H: 414-424

Reading 15

Ap. 22 (W) Social Movements and technology H: 424-436

Optional Lab 17

Ap. 24 Wrap-up session



Final Exams are scheduled as follows:

Soc 101-01 (8:30-9:20 am MWF)	Thursday, April 30 at 3:00 pm
Soc 101-02 (9:30-10:20 am MWF)	Thursday, April 30 at 9:00 am
Soc 101-03 (10:30-11:20 am MWF)	Monday, April 27 at 12:30 pm
Soc 101-04 (1-1:50 pm MWF)	Tuesday, April 28 at 9:00 am
Soc 101-05 (2-2:50 pm MWF)	Tuesday, April 28 at 3:00 pm

