

Honors Program, SUNY Potsdam

Single-Seat Course Proposal

Proposals are due by the last day of Add/Drop Week of the semester in which the proposed course is to be taught. Early submissions during the previous semester are encouraged and will be considered on a rolling basis. Please send the following to the Honors Program office at Dunn Hall 309 (email to lawrenbs@potsdam.edu is preferred):

1. This form, completed
2. A copy of the course syllabus, complete with stated course objectives, pedagogical methods, and assessment tools

Course Information SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology

Instructor: Frank McLaughlin

Course Department and Number: SOCI 101

Term (e.g. Fall 2011): Spring 2012

Day/Time: MW 8:30-9:45am

Credit Hours: 3

Student: Megan Comins (cominsme192)

Enriched Experience: How will the proposed work or activities provide an enriched experience (rather than just extra work) for the honors student? For example, how much time will be devoted in- or out-of-class to the student's honor's work? What additional readings, if any will be required of the honors student?

Ms. Comins will have an enriched experience in Introduction to Sociology in a number of ways. First, through the reading of Peter Berger's classic Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective (1963) she will explore the development of a sociological consciousness, its centrality to a liberal arts education, and its usefulness in understanding everyday life. Secondly, Megan will use Berger's model to explore her interests in cross cultural practices and rituals surrounding dying, death and bereavement.

An additional component of her honors experience will be the presentation of her work on death, dying and bereavement in class. I will allocate time for Megan to share her application of Berger's theory with other members of the class and, if time permits, also in my upper division Social Thanatology course (SOCI 330).

Ms. Comins and I intend to meet regularly to discuss her engagement with Berger and his sometimes difficult writing style, the nature and progress of her research, and other topics that arise in our work together.

SUNY Potsdam Department of Sociology

SOCI 101 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY Fall 2011

Instructor: Frank McLaughlin, Ph.D., C.T. (Certified in Thanatology: Death, Dying and Bereavement) SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of Sociology

Office: 315 Satterlee Hall

Telephone: 267-2566; e-mail: mclaughf@potdam.edu

Office Hours: 10-11:45am MW/ 2:30-3:15pm M/ 8:30-10:45am TTH/
others by appointment

Sociology is the scientific study of human society and social behavior. Through lecture, reading, documentary film, and discussion we will examine the sociological perspective and utilize it to inform our understanding of the structures of everyday life. Important concepts, such as race, class, gender, norms, roles, society, institutions, and alienation will be highlighted. The role of social theory and both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies will be important themes in this course.

Course objectives:

- Identify the elements of a sociological perspective
- Describe and discuss the social structure of everyday life
- Apply sociological concepts in understanding one's own location in society
- Assess the credibility of research findings and validity of empirical data
- Differentiate between personal troubles and social issues

Texts:

The Sociologically Examined Life - Pieces of the Conversation by Michael Schwalbe (4th ed.)

The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology by Lisa McIntyre (5th edition) Please make certain you get the 5th edition.

Required of all students:

1. All reading assignments
2. Four exams (exam dates are noted on schedule)
3. Two essays in which you respond to questions raised by Schwalbe. Each chapter of his book ends with questions for reflection and you will be responsible for responding to one of those questions in each these essays.
4. Regular attendance and participation.

Grading:

Final grades are based on a total of 100 points. The following are the guidelines for the final grades:

100-96 = A	=	4.0
95-90 = A-	=	3.7
89-86 = B+	=	3.3

Peace unto me, Peace within me.
Peace in my mind,
Peace in my surroundings.
Peace to all. Peace to the Universe.
May there be Peace in the World.
May there be Peace
all over the World forever.

85-80 = B	=	3.0
79-76 = B-	=	2.7
75-70 = C+	=	2.3
69-65 = C	=	2.0
64-61 = D+	=	1.7
60-57 = D	=	1.3
58-55 = D-	=	1.0
54- = F	=	0.0

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Final grades are a composite of the following point values:

Exams - each 20 points	80
Papers - each 5 points	10 (Due by Wednesday, Oct. 5 and Wednesday, Nov. 30)
Attendance/ participation	<u>10</u>
	100

NOTES:

- I encourage your participation in class. Ask questions, offer your observations, let me know what you are thinking. Completing the assigned readings in a timely fashion will assist you in understanding the concepts introduced in class and be the foundation for success on the exams.
- It is critically important to attend class. In my experience it is impossible to do well if you are not "here". More than two unexcused absences will influence the participation portion of the final grade.
- NO, repeat NO, absences from the exams will be allowed. Absences because of illness will have to be certified by duly appointed medical personnel before the end of the day of the exam.
- Read the College's Policy on Academic Honesty and familiarize yourself with its expectations.
- Please be considerate.
- Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations should speak with me as early as possible. Students with disabilities should also contact Sharon House, Coordinator of Accommodative Services (267-3267, Sisson Hall, houses@potsdam.edu) for further assistance. All disclosures are confidential.
- Cell phones are to be turned off in class, no texting in class.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

—-> Read Schwable ASAP. I will be referring to it throughout our time together. <—-

Week of:

Aug. 29	What is sociology?	Preface, Introduction, Ch. 1,2
Sept. 5/12/19	Sociological Theory	Ch. 3, 4
*** Exam ***	Monday, Sept. 19 ***	
Sept. 26	Research Methods	Ch. 5, 6
Oct. 3/ 12	Culture	Ch. 7 (No classes scheduled Oct. 10 & 11, fall break)
Oct. 17	Society	Ch. 8
*** Exam ***	Wednesday, October 19 ***	
Oct. 24	Socialization/ Interaction and Everyday Life	Ch. 10
Oct. 31	The bureaucratic form of social organization	Ch. 9
Nov. 7/14	Social Stratification & Inequality: Race, Class Gender and Ethnicity	

Ch. 12

*** Exam *** Monday, November 14 ***

Nov. 21	Stratification (continued)	Ch.13, 14
Nov. 28/ Dec. 5	Deviance/ Social Change	Ch. 11

*** Exam*** Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 12:30-2:30 pm.
SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

May I be filled with
lovingkindness
May I be safe from harm
May I be well
May I be peaceful and at
ease
May I be happy

