

**RANGER COLLEGE**  
**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY SYLLABUS**  
**FALL 2010**

**Course Number and Title:** Sociology 1301 – Introduction to Sociology

**Credit Hours:** 3 HRS; **Class meets weekly in Jameson 1 on Monday evenings from 6:30-9:15**

**Name of Instructor:** John Riddlesperger

**Office Hours:** Available by appt. M-F

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**I. Catalog Description**

The study of the basic elements of human society; human behavior, culture, personality, social groups, social institutions; the social processes as a product of group and community organization.

**II. REQUIRED BACKGROUND / PREREQUISITES**

Passing score on THEA reading section or equivalent alternate test.

**III. Textbook; Reading materials**

Macionis, John J. (2010). Sociology (13<sup>th</sup> ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc.

Supplementary Instructional Aids:

1. Video Tape/CD
2. Clippings, pictures, news and magazine articles, ect. on various topics
3. Various internet sites

**IV. Methods of Instruction**

Lecture, discussions, demonstrations, group discussion, and written /oral reports on related topics selected by students (B1,B2,B3,B4, and B5).

**V. Exemplary Educational Objectives**

The purpose of the Exemplary Educational Objectives is to contribute to the students' intellectual and personal growth and to assist them in understanding and appreciating not only their heritage but also to prepare them for responsible citizenship and the ability to adapt to a rapidly changing and highly technological world.

- S1. To employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
- S2. To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.
- S3. To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
- S4. To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
- S5. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study.
- S9. To recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research.
- S12. To identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

## **VI. Basic Intellectual Competencies**

The basic Intellectual Competencies listed below are components of a process designed to assist and prepare students for becoming well-educated individuals who are intellectually flexible, articulate, and have the capacity to become responsible and creative members of society. These competencies are included in this course and they are noted by the following numbering system.

- B1. Reading – the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials, books, documents, and articles.
- B2. Writing – the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience.
- B3. Speaking – the ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience.
- B4. Listening – analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing and reading.
- B5. Critical Thinking – the ability to apply both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter to evaluate arguments and construct alternative strategies.

## **VII. Course Objectives**

Overall Learning Objectives

1. Recognize a vocabulary of sociological terms (B1).
2. Rudimentary level of understanding of human behavior and mental processes (B1, B2, S1, S3)
3. Identify the contributions of the people who have influenced and shaped the field of sociology (S3, S4).

### Specific Learning Objectives:

1. Define sociology; outline the growth of sociology as a science over the last 200 years (B1, B5, S1, and S3).
2. Understand that the Sociological Perspective may be described as, “seeing the general in the particular” (B1, B5, S1, S3, and S5).
3. Realize that the sociological investigation involves the human condition, and as such, cannot ever be considered an “exact science” (B4, B5, S3, S5, S9, S10).
4. Understand that culture is more than language, religion, and material objects; it is also a way of thinking and acting (B1, B5, S1, S2, and S5).
5. Realize that after the sexual revolution of the 1960’s and 1970’s; along with the increasing technologies that have led to huge advancements in communications, sexuality has been placed on a pedestal among many in our nation and others alike (S2, S5, B1, B4, and B5).
6. Take into consideration that while deviance might be described as the violation of society’s norms, we are a multicultural nation, and as such; it is sometimes difficult to determine when that line has been crossed when dealing with such diverse groupings (S1, S4, S3, S12, and B5).
7. Understand that social inequality and stratification involves more than just the economic; it also includes divisions according to race, gender, disability, age and social class (S3, S4, S12, B1, and B12).
8. Realize that of all of the social institutions, the economy has the greatest influence on the others, namely, the family, government, religion, education and health care (S2, S5, S12, B1, and B5).
9. Understand that social change is an ongoing process, that it is not always intended or welcomed, and that some changes are more important than others (S2, S4, S12, B1, and B5).
10. Realize that sociological research is often driven by theory, or through deductive reasoning, while at other times theory is generated during or as the result of the research process itself, or through inductive reasoning (S1, S3, B1, B4, and B5).

### **VIII. Course Calendar**

The following schedule for this course is subject to change.

August 23 – Introduction to Sociology, Chapter 1

August 30 – Review Chapters 1 and 2

September 6 – Labor Day, No class

September 13 – Review Chapters 3 and 4

September 20 – Review Chapters 5 and 6; Review study guide for chapters 1-6

September 27 – Review for **Test I, Take Test I**

October 4 – Review Chapters 7 and 8; Choose topic for term paper

October 11 – Review Chapters 9 and 10; work on paper  
October 18 – Review Chapters 11 and 12  
October 25 – Review study guide for Chapters 7-12, work on paper  
November 1 – Review for **Test 2, Take Test II**  
November 8 – Review Chapters 13 and 14, work on paper  
November 15 – Review Chapters 15 and 16  
November 22 – Thanksgiving Break; Study **for Test III, work on paper**  
November 29 – Take **Test III**; Review Chapters 19 and 20  
December 6 – **Papers Due**, Review for Final Exam  
December 13 – **Final Exam**

## **IX. Grading**

Four tests will be given during the semester, with each covering 4-6 chapters in the textbook. A few of these chapters will be supplemented or replaced with a handout for study. Tests will include multiple choice questions as well as short answer and written paragraph responses.

A final exam will be given on the last day of class. The format for the final will be the same as for the four regular tests, and all tests (four tests and final) will carry equal weight when computing the final grade.

A 3-5 page term paper, typed and double spaced, will be due on the next-to-last day of classes. Topics are to be related to any of the chapters in the textbook. A minimum of three references must be used and properly cited for the paper. Some class time will be allotted for library research. An oral presentation may be substituted for the written paper if desired.

Written papers may be submitted to the instructor at any time during the semester for review and suggestions.

A grade for class participation will also be given in the course. This grade will be based upon attendance and in-class assignments. Attendance is important as a missed class will also lead to missed written assignments. Please call the instructor at the phone number(s) listed above if you miss a class so that other arrangements may be made.

Final grades will be determined by the following formula:

Test I:	15 points
Test II:	15 points
Test III:	15 points
Test IV:	15 points
Final Exam:	15 points
Research Paper:	15 points
Class Participation:	10 points
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	100

**Final Grade**

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: Below 60