SOC103 Online
Introduction to Sociology
Fall 2023

Instructor: Terry Francis

Office Location: Maddox Building - Tower Room

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:30 & Friday 8:00-3:30

Summer Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 7:15-5:15, Friday Closed

Online Hours: I will periodically check my email for any questions you may have pertaining to this class and will answer your questions as soon as possible; however, I plan to devote Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 pm-8:00 pm to this online class. I encourage you to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns you may have about this class. I am available by appointment for individual conferences.

Telephone: 479.394.7622 ext. 1460 **Email**: tfrancis@uarichmountain.edu

Prerequisite: A desire to know more about the world around you and the people with whom you share it is the only prerequisite for this class.

Resources:

- Textbook: Schaefer, Richard. (2019). *Sociology: A Brief Introduction* (13th ed). New York: McGraw Hill Publishers.
- Student email: To access this online class, you must have an active UA Rich Mountain student email account, which is available through the UA Rich Mountain Intranet. If you have difficulties setting up your student email, contact Student Support Services. You may access your account from any computer. Even if you have another email account, your UA Rich Mountain student account is the email account that I will use to communicate with you.
- Emailing Instructor: I get numerous emails each day. To prevent my overlooking and possibly deleting an important class email, your emails **must** have the following in the subject line: SOC: your last name and name of assignment. For example: SOC: Francis Syllabus Quiz. For Bonus Point submissions: SOC: Francis Bonus Chap. #
- Computer Skills: Online courses require adequate computer skills. You should be able to navigate websites, open and download files, use a word processor and be able to convert files into rich text format, submit files to Blackboard, and **complete all work using Microsoft Word. Do not** use Google Docs to submit assignments.

- Technical Requirements: You are responsible for ensuring that you have the technology necessary to participate in and complete this class. Adequate technology includes, but is not limited to, a computer with Microsoft Word and reliable internet (trying to complete assignments and exams on your cell phone **IS NOT RECOMMENDED**). Technical difficulties are uncommon, but they do occur. If the difficulties are the result of issues originating from the College, I will make the appropriate accommodations; however, technical difficulties that do not originate from the College (computer crashes, viruses, loss of internet, etc) are not my responsibility and do not have a guarantee of special accommodations.

Course Description: This is a basic course in sociology designed to help the student better understand the interrelationship of group behavior and how these behaviors have their roots in early childhood. The main objective of this course is to teach the student about the interactions and interrelationship between man, society, social behavior, human nature, and the problems related thereto.

Program Outcomes:

- Students will increase competencies in writing, reading, speaking, and listening.
- Students will increase their understanding of the human condition, as well as the culture and society of both the nation and the world in which they live.
- Students will apply technological and research skills to identify, locate, and process information.
- Students will be prepared to compete academically upon transfer to a four-year institution.

Rationale: Introduction to Sociology prepares students to meet the program outcomes listed above. Introduction to Sociology is approved for inclusion in the Associate of Arts, Associate of General Studies, and Associate of Applied Science in General Technology. Additionally, it is listed on ACTS as a course guaranteed to transfer to any institution in the state of Arkansas.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this class, the student should be able to articulate an

- understanding of the sociological imagination, the scope of sociological study, and the basic concepts and theoretical concepts.
- understanding of the socialization process and the impact of environment on the early socialization process.
- understanding of the elements of social structure.
- understanding of the characteristics of groups, the implications of group size, the principles of interaction, and the dramaturgical approach to social interaction.

- understanding of the concepts of deviance and social control from the major theoretical perspectives.
- understanding of social stratification and its effects in the United States and the world.
- understanding of the origins and impact of racial and ethnic inequality.
- understanding of the origins and impact of social stratification by gender and age.

Additionally, upon successful completion of the class, the student should be able to

- use technology effectively.
- employ research and critical thinking skills.
- communicate effectively through writing and speaking.

The successful student will demonstrate these competencies through discussion posts, exams and a movie review at a 70% level.

Topical Outline/Course Schedule: A topical outline and schedule for the course is posted in the "Introduction & Resources" section of the class and titled "Fall 2023 Class Schedule."

Course Conduct: Information for this online course is delivered through the course textbook and is supplemented with lecture notes and various internet sources.

UA Rich Mountain Credit Hour Calculator/Student Commitment: Your commitment will require at least as much time as you would dedicate to a traditional class. For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time online, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing and organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least **nine hours per week** dedicated to the course.

At a **minimum**, you will need to log on to this class **two times** on **two different days** each week; **during the summer**, you should log in **every day**. In addition to reading the lecture notes, you will need to carefully read textbook chapters, explore various web links and watch brief online videos *****, submit discussion responses, submit a movie review (description attached), and complete online exams.

*****Be aware that your exams may include questions from information found on these links and in the videos; it is to your advantage to access the links and watch the videos.

Self-discipline, attention to detail, and skills in reading and writing are critical for succeeding online.

Course Requirements/Evaluation: A = 100-90%, B = 89-80%, C =79-70%, D = 69-60%, F = Below 60%

Class Procedures/Student Requirements: Your grade will be a composite of exams, movie review, homework, and postings to the discussion board. Due dates for assignments and tests are posted in the course schedule and with each section. You must check in regularly to see what assignments have been given and what assignments are due. It **is not** my practice to contact students about missing assignments.

- Exams: An exam worth 100 points will be given at the completion of each chapter. On the weeks that you have an exam, **the exam will be available from Monday at 5:00 am until the following Sunday at 11:55 pm** (times are CST). Consult your course schedule for the exam dates; exams can be opened only once and will be time-limited. Exam schedule discussed above applies to the fall and spring semesters only. **Summer term- refer to the "Summer I Course Schedule" for the schedule of your exams.**

- **Tests automatically submit when time expires. If you finish before time has expired, be sure to click the submit button.** You will be free to use your book and notes during the exam but will not have time to search for answers to the questions. You should prepare for these exams the same as you would for a similar exam in the classroom. **Remember:** Information from the textbook, lectures, web links, and videos may find its way to the exams. **Make-Up Test Policy**: There will be **no** make-up tests; however, you may exercise the following option for **one** test only: if you miss a test, the next test will count double. If circumstances arise that may cause you to miss a test, you may arrange to take the test early.

- Discussion Topics: There will be several discussion topics related to a chapter we are studying. You are expected to write a well-developed paragraph in which you address the question/topic presented to you. Each paragraph is worth a maximum of 25 points. **If you do not adhere to the standard conventions of English grammar, such as proper spelling, punctuation, and sentence construction, your submission will not be graded.** These discussion topics are an important and required part of the class.

- Caution: Blackboard gives you two options when working on an assignment: S**ave and Close** or **Submit. Save and Close** allows you to work on your assignment and come back to it at a later date; your work is saved as a draft. **Note**: I am not able to view your work when it is in draft form. When you are ready to turn in your assignment, you must click on **submit.**

- Movie Review: A description of this project may be found on the main page under important documents. Your review is broken into three main components, each with its own due date. Refer to the movie review directions and Course Schedule for due dates.

- Late Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted if submitted within one week of the original due date; 5% will be deducted for each day it is late. For example: If a 100 point assignment that is due on a Friday but is not submitted until the following Monday, 15% will be deducted from the final grade; therefore, an assignment that would normally receive 100% will receive 85% after the point deduction.

FYI: Because of the numerous grading opportunities offered in the course of the semester, I DO NOT give extra credit assignments.

Student Support Services (SSS): SSS is located in the Johnson Learning Commons and offers free academic support in almost all subject areas. This program is an excellent source for supplemental instruction and tutoring. I strongly encourage you to make use of their services. If you are having extreme difficulties, please make an appointment with me to discuss your difficulties.

Academic Dishonesty I encourage you to familiarize yourself with UA Rich Mountain's policies regarding academic dishonesty. These policies are found in the UA Rich Mountain Catalog under **Code of Student Conduct> Prohibited Conduct > Dishonesty.**

I have an additional requirement. You must do your own work. All homework, discussions, and exams must be completed by you without assistance beyond what is specifically authorized by me. I expect each student to do his/her own work on assignments and exams. Cheating on an assignment or test will result in a zero (0) for that work. Even though you are allowed to use your book and notes on exams, the exams are not meant to be a group project. This means don't take or help each other with the exams; they are meant to be an individual effort. Additionally, all instances of cheating/plagiarism will be reported to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Word to the wise: if you can find it on the internet, so can your instructor. If plagiarism or collusion is suspected, you will be "invited" to discuss the situation with your instructor.

Disability Policy: It is the policy of UA Rich Mountain to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law, and the college's commitment to equal educational opportunities. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the beginning of the semester. The student and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will contact the faculty member as to the accommodations needed for the course. To contact the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, call 479.394.7622 ext. 1400.

Arkansas Clean Air Act: Effective August 1, 2010, and in compliance with the Arkansas Clean Air on Campus Act 8, UA Rich Mountain is a smoke and tobacco free facility. Students and guests are to refrain from the use of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, while on campus. For details on Act 8, please refer to the Arkansas State Legislature website.

Student Misconduct: Students committing misconduct are subject to disciplinary sanction(s) and or restrictions. Misconduct or prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to endangerment, harassment, disruption, sexual misconduct, dishonesty, illegal drugs and/or alcohol, fire or safety issues, gambling, property violations, computer violations or other violations as listed in detail in the UA Rich Mountain catalog.

UA Rich Mountain Mission: UA Rich Mountain provides transformative education to all learners.

See Something ... Hear Something ... Say Something

Suspicious behavior should be reported to Deputy Sheriff Raul Toribio at (479) 394-6811 OR through the anonymous email link found on UA Rich Mountain webpage (uarichmountain.edu), bottom right-hand corner. Deputy Toribio's office is located in the Spencer Building across from the Johnson Learning Commons.

One Last Thought: This course is intended to introduce you to a way of observing, questioning, interpreting, and understanding the social world around you and your relationship to it. We tend to take our social environment for granted and seldom ask why things are the way they are and why we do the things we do. Many times, our search for answers raises more questions, which just adds to the adventure of our search. During this course, it will be our task to raise questions that spark our imaginations and to think critically about what we see, hear, read, and think about.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement: The following link will take you to UARM's Title IX and Nondiscrimination policies. Title IX & Nondiscrimination Policies