**VALENCIA COLLEGE**

**SYG 2000 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

**Class Policies & Course Syllabus**

**Spring 2020**

**CRN 23952, MW, 2:30-3:45 ROOM 11-217**

**CRN 24543, TR, 10-11:15 ROOM 11-333**

**CRN 26289, MW, 1-2:15 ROOM 3-213**

**PROFESSOR:** GORDON JEPSON

**OFFICE: None**

**PHONE: 407-299-5000 x1203 (dept. phone)**

EMAIL: [gjepson@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:gjepson@valenciacollege.edu) (only direct contact method)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

**Sociology enables the student to understand social behavior, social processes and become familiar with the vocabulary and methodology of the discipline of Sociology. Emphasis is placed on culture, personality, age, sex roles, family, deviant behavior, social class, stratification, group behavior and social change.**

**TOPICAL AREAS COVERED:**

1. **Orientation to Sociology**
2. **Major Theoretical Perspectives**
3. **Research Methodology**
4. **Introduction to Culture and Society**
5. **Introduction to Socialization**
6. **Introduction to Social Organization and Groups**
7. **Deviant Behavior**
8. **Social Stratification**
9. **Prejudice and Discrimination**
10. **Race and Ethnicity**
11. **Age and Gender**
12. **Sociology of Family**
13. **Sociology of Religion**
14. **Population and Ecology**
15. **Sociology of Change and Collective Behavior**

**These may be covered as discrete topics and/or integrated with other topic areas in an order at the discretion of the professor. It should be understood that this topic knowledge is the minimum level for a grade of D or better. These and other topics may be expanded or elaborated at the discretion of the individual professor and is in no way intended to be comprehensive or all inclusive.**

**This course reinforces the Valencia Student competencies (TVCA) as outlined in the Valencia College Catalog.**

Major Learning Outcomes:

* Each student will understand the basic concepts of sociology and be able to apply the sociological perspective to gain a better overall understanding of self and others
* Each student will be able to effectively communicate using discipline specific terminology.
* Each student will be able to compare and contrast how the major disciplines (theories) in sociology are used to view and describe a specific social issue.
* Each student will be able to identify the major steps in sociological research which are needed to produce valid and reliable findings.
* Each student will develop a heightened awareness of the social inequalities and problems that exist within and among cultures, groups and societies.
* Each student will be able to recognize and understand the basic elements, concepts, and influences of social institutions, groups and organizations.
* Each student will be able to comprehend the characteristics of social change.

Valencia’s Core Competencies:

Valencia’s Core Competencies are Think, Communicate, Value and Act. These competencies have been defined by Valencia faculty to prepare students to succeed in the world community. These competencies are outlined in the College catalog. In this course, through classroom lecture, discussions and group, you will further your mastery of those competencies. Additional information is available in the catalog.

<http://valenciacollege.edu/competencies/>

**REQUIRED TEXT: Required for both regular and Honors students**

**The Real World, 6 edition, Ferris and Stein, Norton Publications (you can use either printed text, or ebook)**

**Honors students only,**

**Down to Earth Sociology, Introductory Readings, 14e, Henslin, Free Press, 2007**

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Each week there will be some additional materials sent to your email. These will include PowerPoint slides for the coming week and any handout materials. Please print and bring these to class to save yourself much note taking.**

**INTERNET RESEARCH STATEMENT: Because of variety of sources, ease of publication, lack of control and proliferation of commercial information on the internet, it is often hard to tell if the information is reliable. Many sites contain research information of high quality. However, unlike traditional print publication or library based electronic sources, there is usually no process of peer review, nor is there an editor verifying the accuracy of information presented on the internet. There are an increasing number of sites containing information or whose content may not be factual. Students should use caution in the use of the internet for their research needs. For academic topics that are addressed in scholarly literature, use of electronic databases or visiting the library may better meet your needs. However, each professor makes the final determination of whaat is or is not accepted as a valid source so review the syllabus for specific guidelines.**

**EVALUATION:**

**Tests and Assignments:**

**There are three examinations during the term. Additionally there are three optional extra credit homework assignments. The dates of exams are listed on the course schedule. Each exam is worth 1/3 of your grade. Additionally there are three homework assignments which are offered for extra credit. These specific assignments will be discussed and handed out on the first class period. Satisfactory completion of each homework assignment will add a maximum of 3 points to your final test average. Maximum extra points are 9 added to your exam average. Honors students will have additional activities which will be discussed during our first class period. An addendum will be provided.**

**MAKE UP EXAMS: In the event of a documented emergency the student will be allowed to make up a missed exam in the testing center. You are allowed one week to make up a missing exam otherwise a grade of 0 will be awarded. If a curve has been used you will NOT be included in the curve since your grade was not used in its calculation. Taking exams at the assigned time is expected and only documented emergencies are acceptable as excuses for missing an exam. If you fail to take the final exam as scheduled, you will receive a grade of 0 which will be averaged with your other grades. Exceptions can be made for a documented emergency.**

**Withdrawal Policy:**

**A student is permitted to withdraw from a class on or before the withdrawal deadline as published in the College calendar. A student is not permitted to withdraw from a class after the withdrawal deadline. The professor is permitted to withdraw a student from the class for violation of the professor’s attendance policy or any violation of class rules and regulations. See catalog for the specific deadline withdrawal.**

**A student who withdraws from a class before the withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of "W." A student who is withdrawn by a professor will receive a grade of "W." A student who is withdrawn for administrative reasons at any time will receive a grade of "W" or other grade as determined in consultation with the professor. Any student who withdraw or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F". The grades of “WP” and “WF” are eliminated.**

**Final course grades of "A", "B", "C", "D", or "F" shall be assigned based upon the student's academic achievement upon the completion of all course work, including the required final examination. A student who fails to take the required final examination will receive an automatic grade of F for the course. Exceptions to this policy can apply in the case of a documented emergency or unless something is prearranged with the professor ahead of time.**

**Grade Calculation: There are three exams in the course. Additionally there are three optional homework assignments for extra credit. The exam dates are on the class schedule and cover the materials up to the date of the exam. The homework assignments are also due on the exam day. The specific homework assignments are discussed later in the syllabus. They can add a total of 9 points to your final test average so take them seriously.**

**Grade Scale:**

**A 90-100**

**B 80-89**

**C 70-79**

**D 60-69**

**F <60**

**CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

1. Valencia's attendance policy is that a student will be present for all class meetings. After three absences, a student will receive an excessive absence notice and must schedule a conference with the instructor immediately. A student may be withdrawn after four absences (excused or unexcused). Continual tardiness will be viewed as absences and treated as such. Two occurrences of being tardy will equal one absence. A student coming in more than 15 minutes late will be counted as absent for that day.

2. A student is responsible for all material covered during absences. Make-ups for scheduled tests must be requested before the test date and are subject to approval of the instructor. Unscheduled tests cannot be made up.

1. There will be no eating or drinking in the classroom. Class begins at a scheduled time and is over when the instructor dismisses class. Leaving early without prior permission will result in a class-work grade of zero and an absence.

4. Students must do their own work; there are no exceptions. Students who plagiarize or cheat, in anyway, risk dismissal from the class and expulsion from the college.

1. Students must have an active Atlas account. Students must check their Atlas e-mails regularly as to not miss any important messages from the professor. Missed messages via Atlas or any other medium (in-class, etc.) may affect your grade and are the responsibility of the student. Each week the PPT slides are sent to the student for the upcoming classes. It is advised that each student print and bring these to class.
2. Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations   
   must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)   
   and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first   
   two weeks of class.  The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodation based on appropriate documentation of disabilities (West Campus  SSB 102, ext. 1523).
3. Anything that is deemed disturbing to the students or instructor will not be allowed. This includes getting up and walking out of class, except in emergencies. This is very disruptive. Telephones and texting are prohibited during class hours.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES BY WEEK

WEEK 1-6 Introduction to course and to major sociological theory

Assignment: Read chapter 1

WEEK 1-13 Continuation of Sociology Theory

Assignment: Finish chapter 1 and begin chapter 2.

Introduction to Scientific Methodology

Assignment: Finish chapter 2

WEEK 1-21 Introduction to Culture and Society

Assignment: Chapter 3

WEEK 1-27 Culture and Society

Assignment: Chapter 3

WEEK 2-3 Socialization

Assignment: Chapter 4

WEEK 2-10 Groups

Assignment: Chapter 5

EXAMINATION #1 Covers Chapters 1-5 including lecture notes.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT #1 Due date of exam.

WEEK 2-17 Deviant Behavior

Chapter 6

WEEK 2-24 Social Stratification

Chapters 7,8

WEEK 3-2 Prejudice/Discrimination, Race, Ethnicity and Gender and Age

Chapter 9

WEEK 3-16 Finish Chapter 9 and EXAMINATION #2 AND HOMEWORK ASSIGN. 2

WEEK 3-23 Religion

Chapter 10

WEEK 3/30 Family

Chapter 12 Chapters

WEEK 4-6 Finish Family.

WEEK 4-13 Population/Collective Behavior/Social Movements

Chapter 15, Handout

WEEK 4-20 Final Exam Week. EXAMINATION 3 Chapters 10,12,15,Handout

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT #2.

NO CLASSES 1-20 March 9-13

Sociology Common Sense Test: Take a guess, True or False

1. Most marriages end in divorce.
2. Property values diminish when minorities move into a neighborhood
3. World population is growing due to an increase in births.
4. In mate selection, opposites attract
5. Most Americans do not believe in God
6. Drug addicts and alcoholics can be cured thru rehabilitation
7. Putting a homosexual in jail will cure them
8. We have a natural instinct to mate with members of the opposite sex
9. Most Americans never receive welfare
10. Americas highest social classes are Jewish
11. Most murders go unsolved.
12. Religious people are less afraid of death
13. Social Security is a good guarantee that older people will not live in poverty
14. Hiring an older worker is a bad idea because they are not very reliable
15. Most people do not have prejudices
16. Living together before marriage helps ensure a good marriage
17. The middle class is getting larger and stronger
18. Romantic Love is necessary to make a marriage work
19. African Americans commit most of the crimes
20. Murderers are bad parole risks
21. Most people life in mid size and large cities
22. Premarital pregnancy rates are going down due to birth control
23. Poverty rates in U.S. are at an all time high
24. Most married males will have an affair
25. Religious people have fewer prejudices

**OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:** These assignments are for extra credit and they are optional. Completion of each can add a total of three points to your final grade average. ( a total of 9 extra points to your final test average) They must be completed and handed in on the assigned date.

1. Due week 9/30 Select any three articles from a credible source. Read each article and write a brief overview of each article indicating which Sociological theory seems to best support the article. What is important is that you see the importance of theory in readings articles. Satisfactory completion of this assignment will add three points to your final test average. You must include a proper academic reference to receive full credit for the assignment.
2. Due week 10/28. Google up Implicit Association Test. Find a site which offers demonstration tests and test yourself for prejudices against any three groups. Write a brief overview paper (no more than 2 pages) and identify what you learned about yourself. Satisfactory completion of this assignment will add three points to your final test average. You must include a proper academic reference to receive full credit for the assignment.
3. Due Week of 12/10 Watch one of three videos. Your options are: Al Gore’s movie “An Inconvenient Truth”. The second option may be a bit more difficult to locate. It is called “Obsession” and it was released several years ago. It deals with the Muslim extremist Jihad against the West. You can find versions on the web. An abbreviated version will suffice if that is all you can find. Your third option is : Hillary’s America 2016. After viewing one of the above, write a two page paper over viewing the video and answer the following questions: (Be sure to insert a proper academic reference)
4. What is the nature of the social issue overviewed by the video?

2. What type of Social Movement is illustrated by the video?

3. How does the theory of relative deprivation relate to the video?

4. What Tricks of the Trade are illustrated in the video?

5. What do you feel is the current stage of the social movement?

Note: These videos are not considered objective, but represent a political position on an issue. As such, you may or may not agree with the position. That is irrelevant to the assignment. What is important is that you tie the video to the topic of social movements. Satisfactory completion of this assignment can add 3 points to your final test average.