

LAKES REGION COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**379 Belmont Road
Laconia, NH 03246
(603) 524-3207**

COURSE OUTLINE/SYLLABUS SHEET

- **COURSE NO:** SOSC 1240L

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Sociology

- **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 Semester Hours

- **SEMESTER:** Fall, 2020

CLASS TIMES: Online Course

- **INSTRUCTOR NAME:** E. Scott Cracraft

- **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** ecracraft@ccsnh.edu

- **OFFICE LOCATION:** # 109 C.A.T. Building

Phone: 524-3207 (work) 528-6692

NOTE: the instructor does NOT mind being phoned at home if you need to speak with him!

CONFERENCE HOURS: Wednesdays: 11-1 p. m.
Thursdays: 3-6 p. m.
Or, by appointment

- **PREREQUISITES:** None

- **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Our daily lives are affected, consciously and unconsciously, by social forces and influences of which we are largely unaware. This introductory course to sociology, the scientific study of society, explores and uncovers the hidden factors behind the behaviors and attitudes of individuals, groups, and societies.

- **TEXT/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED:**

Textbook: You do not have to purchase a textbook! We will be using a free Online

Educational Resource (OER) instead. Here is the link:

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/sociology-understanding-and-changing-the-social-world>

Other Books: Each student will choose, in consultation with and with the approval of the instructor a monographic work on a sociological issue, problem, etc. of interest to the student and write a book review of the book. The book chosen can be on the same subject as the Position Paper and if relevant to the position paper topic, can be used as ONE source.

Other materials: There will be material such as videos, lecture, links, and documents as well as the instructor's "online lectures" in each week's Module on Canvas,

NOTE: Class members are responsible for *all* materials covered in this course!

- **GRADING:**

Grades are assigned on a percentage of total points earned.

Weekly Assignments (13 out of 14 at 50 points ea.):	650 points
Discussion Board Participation: (14 at up to 50 points ea.):	700 points
Book Review:	100 points
Position Paper:	200 points
Total:	1650 points

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59

- **COURSE OUTCOMES/COMPETENCIES:**

At the conclusion of the course, the class member will be able to:

1. Identify the social forces and influences in the development of society.
2. Summarize the principles of group behavior and development.

3. Define key sociological terms.
4. Explain how an individual's place in societal structures influences life's chances.
5. Define individual prejudice.
6. Define behavior that takes into consideration the needs and welfare individuals and groups to which he/she belongs.
7. Know and understand the culture we live in.
8. Plan, compose, and present the results of a research topic that is sociologically significant to the student.
9. List primary problems that our society faces and explain their cause and possible solution.
10. Be more understanding and tolerant of persons different from us. Let us all be a little nicer to each other than we would have been if we had not taken this course.

- **ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND COURTESY**

Like other social sciences, sociology is rarely a "neutral" discipline. Everyone has their own opinions. In this course, differences of opinion (including differences of opinion with the instructor) are not only permitted; they are *encouraged and welcomed*. Debate and argument make a course fun! In our discussion board discussions, the instructor looks forward to some good debate! You can even question or disagree with the instructor and not be afraid it will affect your grade!

A student will never be graded or evaluated on the basis of his or her opinions and ideology but rather on how well she or he understands the material and performance on such measures as tests, other assignments, participation in discussions, papers, and other measures. The only rule is that all class members, as members of a professional academic community, should show respect for one another and give due attention and respect to the positions and opinions of others.

- **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Academic dishonesty includes both *cheating* and *plagiarism*. Plagiarism means presenting someone's words, ideas, art, or other work as you own without proper citation. Other examples of academic dishonesty include writing a paper for another student, obtaining a paper online, or "recycling" a paper from another class.

Please be aware that since you will be submitting your work online via Canvas, the instructor will be using an app to see how much of your answer is found elsewhere. A small percentage is fine and often unavoidable. If you copy the answer right out of the textbook or other source, although it may not be true plagiarism if the instructor knows the source, it will still affect your grade because the instructor will not understand that you really understand the question, term, or course material! Please put it in your own words as much as possible

The person who *helps* the “cheater” is *just* as guilty as the actual cheater or plagiarizer. If you have questions about what is academically honest or dishonest, please consult the instructor. Proven cases of academic dishonesty may result in an “F” for the course and/or other action per LRCC policy.

CANVAS AND EMAIL

This course is 100 percent online. You will be learning and submitting your course work a Canvas. If you are not familiar with Canvas you need to be because that is how this course is delivered. Please do not email assignments to the instructor. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor immediately if you have any problems with or questions about Canvas!

You should also be regularly checking your COLLEGE email AND Canvas inbox. Please use your college email or Canvas inbox to communicate with the instructor and not your personal. Typically, if he has an announcement for the whole class, he will post it under ANNOUNCEMENTS on Canvas and send it to the entire class.

CANVAS MODULES

To make this as easy as possible for you, here are Modules for each week on Canvas. In these modules you will find any assignments or discussion questions due at the end of the week. There will also be posted the textbook readings for that week as well as lectures, online written lectures, videos, links, readings, videos, documentaries and the like to help you with the course material for that week.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

There will be 14 weekly assignments throughout the term. Each will be submitted via Canvas by 5 p. m. on the Saturday ending the week in which it was assigned. Each assignment will be worth up to fifty points. The instructor will only count 13 of these assignments but if you do all 14, your lowest score will count as extra credit point. These assignments may be essays, short essay, short I.D/answer quizzes or some combination. Again, your answers must be complete and in your own words so that the instructor understands that you understand the question and the course material. More detailed information on the specific assignment will be provide on Canvas.

GRADED DISCUSSION BOARDS

There will be one or more weekly “discussion” questions in the form of a graded discussion board each week. There will be a total of 14 discussion boards worth up to 50 points toward your grade. At a minimum, you should respond at least once to the instructor’s posts and each post by a classmate. While you should have them done by 5 p. m. on the Saturday ending the week, please start posting by Wednesday so we can get a good discussion going. Remember, your grade on the discussion boards will depend on

how much you participate and contribute to the discussion. You are free to respond to any comments the instructor may make on the question whether you agree or not!

BOOK REVIEWS

Each student will choose, in consultation with and the approval of the instructor, a monographic work dealing with a sociological issue, problem, theory, school of thought or question. Note: by the fourth week of class you need to have your book and your position paper approved by the instructor. 90 percent of the time, if it has any relevance to this course, he will approve it but he wants to approve it first.

Students will read the books and then write a 2-3 page review of the book. The book review is worth up to 100 points toward the final grade. They should be submitted online via Canvas on the due date.

More information on the book reviews will be provided on Canvas in the Module for the week they are due.

- **POSITION PAPER**

Each student will complete a position paper. The student will choose a fairly narrow sociological topic in collaboration with and with the approval of the instructor. Note: by the end of the fourth week of class, you should have contacted the instructor to have your “outside” book and your position paper topic. It is a good idea to send the instructor two or three topics you are interested in as well as the title, author and subject of two or three books. He will either tell you that all choices are fine or perhaps tell you which one is better. You may use the book on which you write your book review as one of your five sources for the position paper!

Then, each student will write a position paper on the topic. In this paper, you will take a position on a sociological topic or problem that is of interest to you, but you must back up your position with evidence and sources. There should be an annotated works-cited page and the works should be cited using the APA method. Using someone else’s words, ideas, artwork, graphs, etc. without giving them credit is plagiarism.

The position paper should use no less than five (5) sources and at least some of the sources should be primary historical sources. Position papers should be 5-6 pages in length and be double-spaced in a # 12 font. The papers should be carefully proofread for errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, usage, style, etc.

The Position Paper should be submitted via Canvas on the last day of the last week of the term. More information on the Position Paper will be provided on Canvas.

EXTRA CREDIT

The instructor *may* provide opportunities for extra credit. *This is at the sole discretion of the instructor.* Extra credit is not “substitute” credit. In other words, extra credit opportunities will only be offered to the class as a whole and not to individual students who have done poorly on other assignments and exams.

DUE DATES AND LATE WORK

The assignments and discussion board questions as well as the Book Review and the Position Paper are due no later than 5 p. m. on the Saturday ending the weeks. If you are having any difficulty doing this, for whatever reason, you must contact the instructor immediately, preferably before the due date. The instructor will deal with late work on a case-by-case basis.

NEED HELP?

Every student sometimes needs additional help. That is part of the instructor's job. Student's experiencing difficulty with the course material should contact the instructor in person, by email, or by phone as soon as possible. **THE INSTRUCTOR DOES NOT MIND STUDENTS CALLING HIM AT HOME AND IS COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF EVERY STUDENT!**

If the student has an issue, problem, question. or needs help the instructor cannot help him or her with, he will do his best to refer the student to resources that can help!

The instructor is not a psychic or a mind reader. He does not know if a student is having difficulty unless the student makes him aware.

DEPARTMENT CHAIR INFORMATION

It is my hope that this course meets your every expectation as a challenging, engaging, and respectful learning experience. If you find this not to be the case, I would welcome the opportunity to address your concerns. This is not only a courtesy; it is a matter of process and procedure. Should be fail to arrive at a mutually satisfactory understanding, you should take the matter to my immediate supervisor, Professor Stephen Freeborn, sfreeborn@ccsnh.edu.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE

Wk. Ending	Topics	Readings
Sep 5	introduction to course; what is sociology?; a brief history of sociology; sociology and the other social sciences; "the sociological imagination;"	****
Sep 12	theoretical perspectives in sociology	
Sep 19	sociological methodologies; applied sociology	
Sep 26	what is culture?; subcultures and countercultures; language	
Oct 3	social groups, roles, and organization; the socialization process; primary and secondary socialization.	

Oct 10	social deviance and social control
Oct 17	crime and punishment; the death penalty debate
Oct 24	social stratification and inequality
Oct 31	race and ethnicity; racism; genocide
Nov 7	gender; sexual and gender identity age
Nov 14	social groups and institutions; families
Nov 21	religion and its social roles; religious institutions; educational institutions; Book Review Due
Nov 28	Happy Thanksgiving! No work due
Dec 5	political systems, economic system, and health care systems
Dec 12	political and social movements and social change \
Dec 19	Position Paper Due

***** The readings from the OER and other readings will be posted in the weekly Canvas Modules on Canvas.**

Note: This is a *tentative* schedule. If anything in this schedule is different than what is in the Canvas Modules, the material in the Modules take precedence.