



Peru State College  
**SOC 201 Principles of Sociology**  
Syllabus – Spring – 2010

**Instructor:** Dr. Douglas Devaney  
**Office Hours:** 10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. on T & R or by appointment  
**Office Telephone:** (402)872-2397  
**Email Address:** ddevaney@peru.edu  
**Course Meets:** 2:00 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. T & R

**Required Textbook:** Henslin, J. M. (2009). *Essentials of Sociology*. (8<sup>th</sup> ed.).  
Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon

**Required Software:** Internet access and access to Microsoft WORD.

### **Course Description & Objectives**

This course is an introductory study of group and social dynamics, cultures, social problems, social institutions, inter-group relationships, and the impact of social policies.

Prerequisites: none

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Communicate both verbally and in writing in a professional and scholarly manner.
2. Demonstrate adequate understanding of basic social processes and human interaction.
3. Demonstrate adequate understanding of sociological theories and how they are applied to real world situations.
4. Understand the purpose of sociological research, its limitations, and how social research is done.
5. Demonstrate adequate understanding of various terms and concepts in sociology, including culture, diversity, socialization, etc.
6. Demonstrate understanding of the history and development of sociology as an academic discipline.

At the beginning of the course, we will discuss how these objectives fit into the College's and School's mission and goals.

## **Expectations & Instructional Approach**

Classes will include required group exercises involving small groups. Students are required to participate in these discussions and any broader class discussions as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Students are expected to read the text and any assigned materials, be attentive during class, and take notes. PowerPoint presentations, lecture, handouts, and other delivery methods may be utilized in the course at the discretion of the instructor to assist students in developing and enhancing knowledge of fundamental concepts and issues and the critical thinking skills needed for understanding and discussing sociological theories and concepts. Course content is designed to allow students to gain a greater depth of understanding about social processes.

Attendance and participation are vital to the learning experience. Consequently, I expect you to be at each class having read the material and ready to participate in the day's discussions and exercises. Please be in class on time. In order to foster a climate conducive to learning, please join me in treating your classmates with respect. I encourage students to ask questions, seek my help when they need it, and help their classmates understand the material. It is vital to be prepared for each class and students are expected to turn off cell phones and other devices while in class. Use of laptop computers or other devices is prohibited during class times and students are expected to take notes and have text and other course materials with them for each class. Food is prohibited in class.

## **Assessment and Grading**

Students are expected to gain passing scores in each of the following assessment and grading categories.

### Class Attendance and Participation:

Students will be assigned to participate in group discussions with a subgroup from the class at the discretion of the instructor. All students are expected to critique and provide commentary on assigned topics. Students are expected to use critical thinking skills and demonstrate adequate preparation for discussion and debate. Students are expected to complete weekly assignments and must turn in any assignments before class begins. Students are required to be in class on time and grades may be impacted by absences or late attendance. Students failing to consistently demonstrate adequate class attentiveness and participation risk having points deducted from their grade. Class participation accounts for 10% of the final grade.

### Weekly Assignments:

Weekly assignments include reading and quizzes at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be given frequent quizzes, usually about one a week based on reading

assignments and lecture notes. Quizzes are usually multiple-choice or true or false format. These quizzes account for 20% of the final grade.

### Project:

Each student will be required to complete a research project. The project must be completed in APA format (include title page and bibliography), be double-spaced with 12 point Times Roman lettering. Project length should be no less than 5 typed pages, aside from the title and bibliography. The project requires preparation and submission of a topic, from choices provided, in week 2 of the course. Students may choose from a cultural diversity experiment, family history research, or social observation experiment. These will be explained further during class and directions must be followed closely to avoid grade deductions. Class project will account for 25% of the final grade.

### Exams:

Midterm and Final exams will be given based on text and lecture material. Midterm is worth 20% and Final is worth 25% of final grade. Final exam is comprehensive. Quizzes throughout the semester are used as review and preparation for these exams, which will be derived mainly from quiz material. Students are expected to take these exams when scheduled and need prior approval from the instructor to alter scheduling.

### Late Assignment Policy:

Late coursework is generally unacceptable in this course. All work should be submitted by the assigned times and dates.

### Grading Scale

Your final grade will be based upon culminated scores of the capstone paper and presentation, final examination, quiz scores, and participation. The grading scale is:

Quizzes=20%, Midterm exam=20% Final exam=25%, project=25%, participation=10% for a total of 100%.

**Please note a grade of “C” is required for CJ majors to pass this course.**

### College’s Incomplete Coursework Policy

To designate a student’s work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade only when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are registered prevents them from completing course requirements. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course’s major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.

Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

### College's Academic Integrity Policy

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding the completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty members who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from the statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.

NSCS Board of Trustees Policy 4220 states that each College “. . . will establish

a distance learning assessment policy that will include, at a minimum, a substantial culminating experience that is proctored.” Peru State College’s policy is that each course that is offered entirely online will feature a proctored final exam that substantially measures the extent the course’s stated learning objectives are achieved. Online course syllabi will clearly state that, regardless of grades earned previously, the proctored final exam must be passed in order to receive credit for the course. Courses which feature graded site-based activities (e.g., teaching demonstrations) and/or video-taped presentations that occur near the end of the term, and that are designed to substantially assess the achievement of learning objectives, can be considered in compliance with this policy. Project-based capstone and graduate courses utilizing real-time discussions held by web-cam, phone or in person with the faculty member as part of the assessment process can also be considered in compliance with this policy.

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course. Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend students for two semesters found to be responsible for multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student’s transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof of intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic honesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeals.

### **Title IX Compliance Notice**

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College’s nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230.

Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).

## Tentative Course Schedule

<b>COURSE CHANGES AND SCHEDULE:</b> The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the course, and any changes will be communicated to students in advance.	
<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Chapter 1-2 Project Assignment Directions
2	Topic Assignment Quiz 1 and 2(possible)
3	Chapter 3 Project Assignment check
4	Chapter 4 Quiz 3-4
5	Chapter 5
6	Chapter 6 Project Check Quiz 5-6
7	Chapter 7 Midterm Review
8	Midterm Chapter 8
9	Chapter 9 Quiz 8-9
10	Chapter 10
11	Chapter 11 Project due
12	Chapter 12 Quiz 10-12
13	Chapter 13
14	Chapter 14 Quiz 13-14
15	Chapter 15 Final exam Prep Final Exam
16	