Principles of Sociology

SOC101- 01
MWF 9:20 – 10:20
Meets in: Field House 100

Instructor:	**G.D. Lilly**
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Course Description

> *"Sociology is the scientific study of how social forces affect individual Behavior"* - Dr. Richard O'Toole, Professor Emeritus, Kent State University

One of the objectives of a liberal arts education should be the development of a variety of perspectives with which to view and understand the world. In this course of study the primary objective is to explore what we call the "sociological imagination", and to learn how to apply it to the world in which you live.

Principles of Sociology is both an Intellectual Perspective (ST) and a gateway course for the further study of sociology. As such, there are a lot of learning goals for the course:

- Develop and use a Sociological Imagination
- Knowledge of major theoretical schools in sociology
- Demonstrate the ability to interpret and critique qualitative and quantitative empirical evidence
- Knowledge of basic concepts used by sociologists
- Knowledge of basic social processes: conflict, consensus, social construction of reality
- Knowledge of how social institutions operate
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively in a group setting
- Conduct archival research
- Present material effectively as part of a group

I would like to emphasize that the responsibility for learning is yours. Learning is an active process and you will be given the opportunity to engage in action rather than just listen to lectures. The more you participate, the more you will get out of this class.

Attendance Policy

Your attendance and participation in class exercises is an important part of the learning process. Not only will you learn from the instructor, you will learn from your classmates. You are required to attend every class. You may miss one class with no excuse – if you miss more than one class without an excuse your grade in the class may suffer. A list of excused absences may be found in the section on *Class Attendance and Excused Absences* in the College Catalog. Be advised that broken alarm clocks and oversleeping are not on the list of excused absences. Remember that part of your grade is determined by attendance and class participation.

I take roll by passing around a sign-in sheet at the beginning of class. If you come in too late for the sign up sheet, it is my option to let you sign in. It is your responsibility to make sure your name is on the sheet.

Electronic device Policy

Good learning environments are free form distractions. Therefore, all use of electronic devices is prohibited. Such devices should be turned off and stored **out of sight** for the duration of the class. Any student found in violation of this policy will forfeit their attendance for the day.

Any exception to this policy requires the agreement of the instructor.

Academic Integrity

I expect your work will be your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. With the advent of the internet it has become very easy to take and use other people's work. Don't do it. The best policy to operate under is, "if you have doubts, footnote the source". Further specification of class policies governing academic integrity may be found in the College Catalog.

Grading

Your grade in Principles of Sociology will be determined by your performance in the following areas:

Tests (3)	45%
Critical Thinking Papers (3)	45%
Group Presentation	10%
	100%

The tests will be essay in nature and usually involve four or five questions. I reserve the right to ask comprehensive questions on the last or final examination. In most cases, I

will give you a list of essay questions a week prior to the test. The papers will be 3 or 4 page essays in which you will demonstrate your ability to think critically and use your sociological imagination. I will give out specific instruction sheets a week or so prior to the due date of the paper.

This semester I will be issuing "nudgies" to selected students. For some time now I have puzzled over how to give credit to students who enhance the class with their presence – by responding to, or asking questions, by offering well thought out opinions, by demonstrating higher order thinking, or by active participation in group activities. I used to go through the motions of attaching a grade for each student but realized that it would be unfair to the student who for one reason or another chose not to actively engage in the class. Consequently, I have decided to admit that there is a certain degree of subjectivity in grading and bestow informal, highly subjective, and variably weighted credit on those students who earn it. Enter the "nudgie", so called because it will be used to "nudge" a student into a higher grade. How much is entirely up to me. You will never do worse than you do on your formally graded assignments, but, if you collect enough nudgies, you may do a bit better.

Texts

Conley, Dalton. 2008. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist, 2nd Edition*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Massey, Garth. Editor. 2009. *Readings for Sociology, 6th Edition*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.