

**Saddleback College  
Sociology 1 (8 Week)  
Spring 2010  
Ticket # 21615**

**Professor Nicole Loftus  
Introduction to Sociology  
Distance Education Course**

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Office Hours: Via E-mail or by appointment  
Class Meets From: 1/11/10-3/7/10  
Office: BGS 314 Faculty Lounge**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **Catalog Description**

A course emphasizing the sociological perspective of human behavior, institutions and patterns for human interaction, origin and nature of culture, the socialization processes, the natural forces and consequences of sociological change.

### **Course Description**

A critical introduction to the basic concepts in sociology and a basic examination of major theoretical perspectives including structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism, and conflict theory. Students learn how to formulate research topics in sociology and evaluate current research through analysis, application, and synthesis. Topics covered include: culture, research methods, socialization, bureaucracies, social networks, social structure, deviance and social control, social interactions, race and ethnicity, education, religion, social class, gender identity, family, the elderly, medicine and health, technology, social problems, and social change.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

- 1) Utilize the higher level thinking processes in Bloom's Taxonomy (application, analysis, and synthesis) to write about, analyze, and apply sociological topics related to society, the media, other cultures, and you.
- 2) Connect sociology to social, political, and economic institutions, general behaviors, and personal attitudes.
- 3) Apply sociological theories, terms, concepts, and data analysis to real life experiences.

### **Required Readings**

#### **Text:**

Henslin, James M. (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> edition). *Essentials of Sociology: A Down-To-Earth Approach*, Seventh Edition. Needham Heights, MA: Pearson and AB Publishing.  
ISBN#0-205-50440-X (7<sup>th</sup> ed.); 0-205-57870-5 (8<sup>th</sup> ed.)

#### **Reader:**

Henslin, James M. (2008). *Exploring Social Life (Readings to Accompany Essentials of Sociology)*, Third Edition. Needham Heights, MA: Pearson and AB Publishing.  
ISBN# 0-205-53053-2

\* You can purchase these textbooks at the Saddleback Bookstore; however, I would recommend first trying to order them online. If it is done in advance, websites such as [www.dealoz.com](http://www.dealoz.com), [www.half.com](http://www.half.com), and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) can help you find cheap textbooks. Remember to order early or do rush shipping as you will be responsible for the all readings. Also, there is a local bookstore on Marguerite, across from the school.

\*Throughout the semester additional required readings and other information will be linked to the course website and/or lecture.

### **E-MAIL AND COMMUNICATION**

An online course requires constant communication between classmates and the instructor and students. The **first** discussion board titled “Student Question Forum” will be available throughout the semester as a means to ask pertinent questions regarding the course. Students who effectively answer questions here (before the instructor) will receive one extra credit point (for up to five extra points throughout the semester). Students must check this question forum on a weekly basis. If a student has a question or concern that he or she does not feel comfortable sharing on the forum, please email the instructor. Lastly, it is crucial that **each student check his or her Saddleback e-mail on a regular basis** throughout the course as this is my way of contacting you. Please provide the course ticket number and course title in the subject area of ALL e-mails sent to me (make sure to include your name). I will respond to crucial dilemmas as soon as possible, otherwise you can expect a response from me within 24-48 hours.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Student Participation and Expectations:**

Your overall success in this class is dependent on your participation and virtual attendance. Every student must have access to a computer with internet and check their email frequently, as well as visit and participate on the Blackboard class site approximately five days a week. Also, it is necessary that you are familiar with the web and Microsoft Word. It is recommended that students check the class site every other day for any new announcements posted. Every student is required to check e-mail (your Saddleback e-mail via Mysite), check announcements, get weekly assignments, read weekly lectures (many test questions as well as assignments are taking from the lecture material- this is located under “Course Documents”), read assigned readings from the text and reader, participate on the discussion board, turn in paper assignments, and take online exams as instructed. Every week under the “Assignments” tab, you will see the weekly assignment including readings (text, reader, lecture), discussion board topic (s), and any other papers or tests that may be required for that week. Each student should allocate an average of eight to ten hours per week to this course.

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is **your responsibility to drop or withdraw yourself** from the class if you are no longer participating; however, I have the right to drop you from the course if you do not reply to the attendance emails during the first week, are no longer participating on the discussion board (2 forums or more) AND/OR have not taken the first, second, or both exams (depending on the situation).

**Blackboard:** Your virtual classroom for the semester is the Blackboard learning system. The system includes such features as: class announcements, discussion board (our class discussion forum), lectures, email, assignments, study guides, links to additional readings, exams, and grades. **Course Website Address:** <http://soccdd.blackboard.com>

Your username is your Saddleback College e-mail address given to you at registration (first initial of your first name and your last name plus a number; do not include the @saddleback.edu) and your password is either your pin number plus two zeros or the last four digits of your social security number plus two zeros (whatever you have set it to be).

### **Technical Difficulties:**

If a student is experiencing difficulties with the website, which extends beyond a few hours, as the website could be temporarily down, he or she must immediately contact me. Questions regarding navigating the website usually can be found by reading the Blackboard instructions found through the Distance Education campus website: <http://www.saddleback.edu/de/>

### **Online Etiquette (Netiquette):**

The online classroom should be treated as if you were sitting face to face with your classmates! Please be polite and respectful when making your posts, responding to other students' posts, and in all other written assignments. In addition, offensive language will not be tolerated. If a student is being disrespectful and/or providing a negative learning environment for others he or she will receive a warning or be immediately dropped from the course according to the instructor's discretion.

Please go to the following websites for information on "Netiquette":

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

<http://www.chirpingbird.com/netpets/html/computer/emoticon.html>

### **Library Information:**

Phone: (949) 582- 4314

M-TH 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

F 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sat 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m

Closed Sundays

## **ASSESSMENTS**

### **QUIZ:**

Your first assessment will be a **ten point, multiple choice quiz** assessing your knowledge and comprehension of the course outline (syllabus), orientation information, and blackboard system. Please read the instructions below for completing exams. You will have twenty minutes to complete it. The quiz is located under "Assignments."

### **DISCUSSION BOARD:**

Each student must participate on the discussion board throughout the week. Before **Thursday** at midnight for that week, students must post their main post to the question(s) by clicking on the button that says "thread +". Before **Saturday** at midnight, students must sufficiently respond to

*at least* (more is better) two other students' posts (not just "Good Job" or "I like what you said") using the "reply" button. **Please identify the student you are responding to by using his or her name at the beginning of the post.** Your thorough participation (making comments, posting questions, and adding feedback) on this discussion board throughout the week is necessary for your success in the class. Grammar and spell check is available on the discussion board and should be used as this will also be taken into consideration when grading the assignments. Please use **black font** as well as the **font size default** for your responses and replies as it can be difficult to read otherwise. Each discussion board for the week is different: some you may need to apply material from the class, some you may be organized into groups to discuss different vignettes, others may require additional research (in this instance the student is required to cite the source(s) of the data used), and some are opinion questions. Please see the **"Rubric for Online Discussions"** for additional information on the grading for this assignment. I will be frequently checking the discussion boards and providing input and commentary. The discussion board requirement is worth up to **70 points**.

#### **ONLINE EXAMS:**

There will be three online multiple-choice exams (covering 5 chapters each, which are not cumulative). Each exam includes 50 multiple-choice questions and is worth 50 points (there may be a few extra questions that count as extra credit). The exams usually will be assigned on **Sunday** and due on **Tuesday** at midnight (**except for the final- see dates below**). **Please note:** each exam has a specific deadline in which the exam must be completed by as well as a time limit once the exam is started. Students are allowed one hour and twenty minutes to take each multiple-choice exam. **One point will be deducted for each minute or portion of each minute beyond** the allotted time used to take the exam (up to 25 points can be deducted per multiple-choice exam). **NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE PERMITTED.**

To ensure that there are no **TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES** while taking the online exams you will need to **close all OTHER BROWSERS, block all POP-UPS, and DO NOT click on "Refresh" or the "Back" button** as this can cause the website and the exam to freeze up and kick you out of the system. In this instance it will show that you have completed the exam and any questions you have not answered or saved will be marked incorrect. Please make sure you **click on "submit"** once you have completed the exam (if you only chose "save" the exam is not submitted to me). You may save your answers throughout (there is a save button to the right of each question). Make-up exams will not be allowed for such avoidable technical difficulties. Also, make sure your internet connection is not moving slower than usual before you take the exam as this could cause your exam to not be processed upon submitting it. Make sure you do not wait until the last minute to take exam as technical difficulties will not be considered if it is within the last three hours allotted to complete the exam. It is best if you have downloaded **"Firefox"** (go to [firefox.com](http://firefox.com)) on your computer and use this as your browser to access the website.

#### **PAPER ASSIGNMENTS:**

There will be **two** paper assignments. Grades will be based on your adherence to the specific instructions, your use of application and sociological analysis (concepts, terms, social theory, and data from class), grammar and spelling, and your overall competence and delivery of the issue. Please make sure to read over all guidelines thoroughly as this is a major factor in the grading

process. Specific paper instructions will be provided a week and a half prior to the due date. **No late papers will be accepted.** I do NOT except papers through e-mail.

**1) Application and Analysis Paper #1 – Film (*Freedom Writers*):** You will be required to incorporate application and analysis from the class (specifically the Deviance and Social Control chapter) to the film *Freedom Writers* which you will need to rent. You will be incorporating application of terms, concepts, theories, and data from class. Specific instructions will be available at least one and a half weeks prior to the due date. Grading will be based on your adherence to the specific paper requirements, your use of application and sociological analysis, grammar and spelling, and your comprehensive coverage of the issues presented. **This paper is worth 50 points.**

**\*\*PAPER 1 will be UPLOADED INTO TWO PLACES:** 1) via our Blackboard website to “turnitin” (under the assignments tab) AND 2) a copy to the paper assignment link (under the assignments tab).

**2) “My Sociological Life” Application and Analysis Paper #2 (Discussion Board):** This paper is a **comprehensive assignment** incorporating issues discussed throughout the semester. You will be analyzing, applying, and synthesizing different topics/ issues that were covered in the LECTURES to your life. The particular assignment will be to incorporate application (terms, concepts, theories, and data from class lecture), analysis (from a sociological standpoint; describe, explain, and predict the outcomes of your issues), and synthesis (bring related issues together; cause and effect relationships and correlations) to your personal life experience. Specific instructions will be provided two weeks prior to the due date. **This paper is worth 100 points.**

**\*\* PAPER 2 will be UPLOADED INTO TWO PLACES:** 1) via our Blackboard website to “turnitin” (under the assignments tab) AND 2) copy and paste your paper (from Microsoft Word) to the discussion board forum.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** See the syllabus for the dates the papers will be assigned as well as the due dates.

**Feedback Time:** I will be active on the discussion board, commenting and asking questions, throughout the week. I will not necessarily respond to everyone’s post; however, I do read every post and provide a final “wrap-up” for each week’s topic(s). Midway through the semester you will receive a progress report on your discussion board participation. I will provide my feedback to your application papers within 10-14 days of the due date. To check your grades go to “Student Tools” and “Check Grade.” **Please make sure you read my personal feedback to you on your papers (click on your score to read the feedback).**

**Makeup Examinations/Late Paper Policy:** The instructor is under no obligation to accept late papers or give makeup examinations and will only be considered 1) if **discussed with me in advance** (prior to the due date or examination date) or 2) in the instance of a **medical emergency**. In either situation, you must contact me **prior to** the scheduled due date or examination time and **written proof** of the absence will be required in order to be considered for approval of a makeup exam or the turning in of a late paper. Approved late papers and makeup examinations must be turned in or completed in a timely manner and will result in a deduction of

total possible points (**10% will be deducted for each day past the due date or assigned examination date**). Note: makeup examinations and late papers are rarely approved.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is cheating (obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means). Aiding someone with any of the above actions is also academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated. Examples of academic dishonesty include: plagiarism (using another individual's words as your own and/or not citing another individual's work), unacceptable examination behavior (communicating with other students, copying an exam from another person, allowing another student to copy your own exam, using cheat sheets or other unauthorized material), unauthorized collaboration (including allowing other students to read your completed papers), fraud, and document falsification. The penalty for committing academic dishonesty will result in a zero on the assignment, lowering of the final grade in the course, or the student receiving a failing grade in the course. It is up to the instructor on how to handle each situation. If you are unclear on the parameters of academic dishonesty please see me for clarification. **Please note: The "turnitin" program will be used for all papers to check for plagiarism.** See the Student Handbook for more information on academic dishonesty, <http://www.saddleback.edu/media/pdf/handbook.pdf>

### **Special Services**

"Special Services provides support services and specialized instruction for students with disabilities." If you feel that you are in need of special services please contact the Special Services office: (949)582-4249; Office location: SSC113 (Student Services Center 113; first floor); Website: [www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/](http://www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/)

**Note:** please feel free to discuss special services issues with me. If you have already been assessed through Student Services please discuss accommodations with me and get the paperwork to me as soon as possible. **Learning Assistance Program (LAP)**

The LAP is available for tutoring and can help you with writing assistance for this course. Please call or visit the LAP department. (949)582-4519 or Library, room 114 [www.saddleback.edu/library/](http://www.saddleback.edu/library/)

### **RUBRIC FOR ONLINE DISCUSSIONS**

- ***Discussion Boards:*** The discussion boards are a very important feature of our class and serve as our main means of communication for the semester. It is crucial that you are actively participating in our forums several times a week (at least three), offering comments, questions, and feedback to each other. Every week you must post an original thread in response to the information posted on the week's Discussion Board. You are required to post your original thread by **Thursday at midnight** and make a thorough response to at least two (more is better) classmates by **Saturday at midnight**). **You will not receive any credit for responses posted after the week's end.**

I will use the following rubric to evaluate online discussions:

- 0-3 points ○ No original postings (replies do not count as

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>original postings)</li> <li>○ Too long/rambling/unorganized thoughts</li> <li>○ Lack of respectful consideration of classmates' opinions</li> <li>○ Grammar and spelling errors detract from expression of thought</li> <li>○ Incomplete response</li> <li>○ Postings clustered all on one day</li> </ul>
4-6 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Appropriate, basic original posting with at least 2 appropriate replies to classmates (note: appropriate replies to classmates go beyond social comments such as "good idea" or "I agree")</li> <li>○ Includes all information asked for</li> <li>○ Postings spread throughout the week</li> <li>○ Spelling and grammar do not detract from meaning of post</li> </ul>
7-10 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Original posting contributes to overall learning and knowledge of the class. May include links to additional resources on the topic</li> <li>○ Replies expand upon classmates contributions</li> <li>○ Succinct and to the point, yet complete</li> <li>○ 3 or more posting spread throughout the week without overpowering the topic.</li> </ul>

**Point Distribution**

Quiz	10 points
Discussion Board	70 points
Exams	150 points (50 points each)
Film Application Paper #1	50 points
Personal Application Paper	100 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380 points</b>

**Keep Track of Your Total Points Below**

Quiz	_____
Discussion Board	_____
Exam#1	_____
Exam#2	_____
Exam#3	_____
Film Application Paper #1	_____
Personal Application Paper	_____

Extra Credit Points \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

### Grading Scale

342-380 A  
304-341 B  
266-303 C  
228-265 D  
227 or below F

### Tentative Course Outline

The following dates are subject to change and any changes made will be announced on our Blackboard website only. Our class week begins on Mondays and ends on Saturdays (exams will be available on Sundays when assigned). All discussion board assignments are due on Saturdays by midnight (main posts due on Thursdays at midnight); however, there are a few instances in which there is a variation in due dates (please see below). **See “Assignments” on our Blackboard website on a weekly basis.**

Week of:

#1 (1/11) **DUE BY THURSDAY:** 1) Read the first announcement, syllabus, and orientation information (under “Course Information”) 2) Navigate through the blackboard course website 3) Read my introduction under “Faculty Information” 4) Read “Rubric for Online Discussions” (syllabus and in “Course Information”) 5) Take the quiz under the “assignments” link assessing your knowledge of the orientation, blackboard site, syllabus, and the requirements by THURSDAY 6) Introduce yourself on our discussion board forum titled, “Introductions,” AND respond to “The Fierce People” and read other students’ introductions/forums and respond to other students. **(main posts for each forum due by Thursday, responses to others due by Saturday).** 7) Let me know if you have any questions.

#1 **Continued... DUE BY SATURDAY (to stay current on the week’s assignments and readings, make sure the following is read by Saturday):**

Lecture	Under “Course Documents”
Chapter 1	Sociological Perspective
Reader	<i>An Invitation to Sociology</i> (skim)
Chapter 2	Culture
Reader	<i>The Fierce People</i>
	<b>Discussion Board: Introductions AND The Fierce People (responses to others)</b>

#2 (1/18) Lecture  
Chapter 3 Socialization  
Chapter 4 Social Structure and Social Interaction

- Reader *Diary of a Homeless Man*  
 Chapter 5 Social Groups and Formal Organizations  
 Reader *Just Another Routine Emergency*  
**Discussion Board: Social Structure and Social Interaction OR Agents of Socialization**
- #3 (1/25) Lecture  
 Chapter 6 Deviance and Social Control  
**Exam #1 Available Sunday 1/24, must be completed by Tuesday 1/26 (Lectures, Reader, Text: Lectures, Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)**  
**Application Paper #1 Assigned: Film -Freedom Writers (due by Tuesday 2/2 by midnight)**  
**Discussion Board (optional): Freedom Writers**
- #4 (2/1) Lecture  
 Chapter 7 Global Stratification  
 Chapter 8 Social Class in the United States  
 Reader *The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All*  
**Discussion Board: Country Research OR Poverty (Paper #1 due Tuesday 2/2 before midnight)**
- #5 (2/8) Lecture  
 Chapter 9 Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity  
 Reader *Showing My Color*  
 Chapter 10 Inequalities of Gender and Age  
 Chapter 11 Politics and the Economy  
**Discussion Board: Prejudice and Discrimination OR Gender Socialization**
- #6 (2/15) Lecture  
 Chapter 12 Marriage and Family  
 Chapter 13 Education and Religion  
 Reader *College Athletes and Role Conflict*  
**Exam #2 (Available Sunday 2/14, must be completed by Tuesday 2/16 (Lectures, Reader, Text: Chapters: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)**  
**Discussion Board: Education**  
**Discussion Board (extra credit): Religion and Jonestown**  
**“My Sociological Life” Paper #2 Assigned (Due by Sun. 2/28)**
- #7 (2/22) Lectures  
 Chapter 14 Population and Urbanization  
 Medicine and Health (Lecture)  
 Chapter 15 Social Change: Technology, Social Movements, Environment  
 Reader *The McDonaldization of Society*  
**Discussion Board: Optional Paper 2 DB Forum**

**“My Sociological Life” Paper #2 Due Sunday 2/28 by midnight posted on the discussion board; response to student due Tuesday 3/2**

#8 (3/1)	Continued Paper #2	Chapters 14 and 15 <b>“My Sociological Life” response to student on discussion board forum due Tuesday 3/2 by midnight</b> <b>Optional DB (extra credit): Journal Article (post due Thursday)</b>
	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Covers lecture, reader, and chapters: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (Available Thursday 3/4, must be completed by Sunday 3/7 by midnight)</b>

GOOD LUCK!

**FINAL NOTE: DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!!** Every student must stay organized and on top of his or her work. It is extremely difficult to make up for lost time in an online class (specifically an eight week online course).