

Dr. Kathleen Korgen  
[korgenk@wpunj.edu](mailto:korgenk@wpunj.edu)

## PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

### Course Description:

This course provides students with an overview of the field of sociology. The point of reference for the course is the notion of democracy as a system of governance that instills power and responsibility in citizens and sociology as a means to understand how society operates and how individuals can influence it. During the semester, students will learn the basic concepts of the field of sociology. In particular, they will become familiar with sociological theory, methods, and the primary areas of sociological inquiry: race, class, and gender.

### Course Objectives:

After taking this class, students should be able to

- 1) comprehend the relationship between social structure, culture and individual/collective agency.
- 2) have a deeper understanding of the issues of race, class and gender.
- 3) understand and utilize the primary sociological theoretical perspectives.
- 4) utilize and critique basic methodological approaches in the field of sociology.
- 5) apply sociological concepts and theories to their everyday life.

### Course Outcomes:

After taking this course, students will be able to

- 1) discuss the relationship between social structure, culture and individual/collective agency.
- 2) show an understanding of sociological theories and be able to use them in a paper.
- 3) write coherently about issues of racism, sexism, and classism.
- 4) describe the major methodologies utilized in sociology, explain why they prefer particular methodologies over others (in certain situations), and carry out a research project.
- 5) show that they can relate sociological concepts and theories to their own life experiences.

### Readings:

*The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community*, 4th EDITION (PLEASE BE SURE TO GET THE 4th EDITION--THE TESTS ARE BASED ON THIS NEW EDITION) by Kathleen Korgen and Jonathan M. White (Sage, 2014)

LATE PAPERS AND POSTINGS WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED!

DB 1 due BEFORE 10:00 A.M. Monday, December 30th

Paper/Exercise due BEFORE 10:00 A.M. Friday, January 3rd

DB 2 due BEFORE 10:00 A.M. Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

Be sure to follow the directions for each DB and the paper/exercise! You MUST cite your book and use proper spelling and grammar.

Methods of Evaluation:

Discussion Boards 15% each (2) = 30%

11 multiple choice tests 4% each (11) = 44%

Paper/Exercise = 26%

You MUST use proper grammar and spelling in order to receive a decent grade!

TESTS MAY BE TAKEN AT ANY TIME BUT MUST BE COMPLETED BY NOON ON THE FIRST DAY OF FINALS (January 14th)

***I will use the Rubric below to grade the Discussion Board Postings***

**You may earn up to 10 points (100%) per Board.**

**9 points = 90%**

**8 points = 80%**

**7 points = 70% (etc.)**

**Writing: Content (3 possible points)**

0 points ) Content is less than minimal AND/OR there are several factual errors.

1 point) Includes only minimal information about the topic.

2 points) Displays clear knowledge about the topic. Subject knowledge appears to be good and is different from postings submitted by other students earlier.

3 points) Covers topic in-depth with details and examples that are different from those submitted by other students earlier.

Subject knowledge is excellent.

**Writing: Grammar/ Clarity (3 possible points)**

0 points) Contains so many grammatical and/or spelling errors it is difficult to comprehend.

1 point) Contains multiple grammatical and/or spelling errors that make it somewhat difficult to follow.

2 points) Contains few grammatical and/or spelling errors. The quality of writing is not a distraction.

3 points) There are very few/no grammatical and/or spelling errors and the writing is excellent.

**Locates, uses, and cites information appropriately (using**

**ASA style**

<http://homepages.nyu.edu/~mma235/race05/styleguide/index.html> .)

**(1.5 possible points)**

0 points) Shows inability to find pertinent information and cite correctly.

.5 points) Shows the inability to find some key information and/or does not cite the work properly.

1 point) Shows the ability to find enough good information for a strong posting and cites properly throughout the posting.

1.5 points) Shows the ability to find information that makes an exceptionally strong case and uses proper citations throughout the posting.

**Discusses topic effectively with others (2.5 possible points)**

0 points) Does not mention any other student's posting.

1.5 points) Mentions a student's posting (including the name of the student to whom you are responding)

but does not discuss it in any depth.

2 points) Discusses a classmate's posting in some depth and

with some substance (and includes the name of the student to whom you are responding).

2.5 points) Discusses a classmate's posting effectively and offers

a substantive critique of or support for it (and includes the name of the student to whom you are responding).