

# **“Sociology of Culture”**

## **SOCI3320 / 01**

Fall, 2012  
Credit Hours: 3  
Location: Mas 213  
Time: T-R 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

Instructor: Thomas Riley, M.A.  
Office: Kricker 129  
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Office Hours: M-W-F 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
and T-R 10-11 a.m.

### **Text:**

1. Griswold, Cultures and Societies in a Changing World\_ Sage Publications (suggested)

### **Course Description**

Introduction to the fascinating and complex concept of culture, which is shown to vary in complexity, inventiveness, cohesion, and totality. Various theories of culture are explored. This course reveals how culture has developed over history, with special emphasis on industrialization and the postmodern world.

### **Major Objectives**

1. To broaden your definition and understanding of culture and subcultures.
2. To analyze the current mode of socially defined deviance using the sociological perspective, relevant sociological theories, and current sociological research.
3. To explore specific types of micro and macro culture, including counterculture, pop culture, high culture and subcultural forms.
4. To develop awareness of the social forces of control, their relationship to social conceptions of culture, and their implications for individual behavior and social policies of prevention and control.
5. To examine the ways in which different cultures and situations based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, social class, age, race, ethnicity, geographical region, and nationality define difference, deviance, and social control.

### **Attendance**

1. Attendance in class is crucial to develop a firm grasp of the material discussed. You are encouraged to attend all lectures possible and will be held accountable for any information discussed in your absence.
2. Attendance will be monitored routinely.
3. While in class, students are required to silence all cellphones.

### **Absences**

1. Should you need to miss a scheduled exam it is vitally important that you contact me either by email at least one day before the exam.
  1. Consideration for completing a make-up test will be given to those students who contact the instructor prior to the scheduled date.
  2. Excused absences include: (1) university-sponsored activities, for which the student has obtained an official excused absence form; (2) documented illness or accident; or (3) documented family emergency.

2. Should circumstances prevent you from contacting me prior to the date and time of the scheduled exam, you will need to provide documentation for an excused absence through the office of Student Affairs. (see above)

### **Blackboard**

1. Students should be aware that this course will make use of the Blackboard program accessed via the **My SSU** homepage. Copies of the syllabus, handouts and assignments will be made available through this program and bulletins will be posted occasionally.
2. If you have any question about how to access Blackboard, please contact their help desk in the basement of the library.

### **Grading**

1. Two examinations will be given including the final exam. Exams are worth seventy percent (66%) of the final course grade.
2. A research paper will be discussed throughout the term and is due before the start of finals. The research paper is worth twenty-five percent (33%) of the final course grade.
3. Class participation (or lack thereof) will be factored in as part of the student's final grade. Each student is encouraged to participate in class discussions. Class participation is worth five percent (5%) of the final course grade.
  1. Texting while in class will result in loss of credit at the instructors discretion.
4. Make-up Exams must be discussed with the instructor and confirmed via email for each missed test.
  1. Make-up exams must be completed prior to the start of the **next** scheduled lecture.
  2. Exams not completed prior to the next lecture will be considered 'missed' and you will receive a zero (0) for that test.
5. Academic Dishonesty: In accordance with the University's policy, if you are caught cheating you will receive a zero (0) for that test and the matter will be brought to the attention of the Office of Student Affairs.
6. Attendance: Attendance in class will be considered as a component of the student's participation in class and averaged into the final grade.
7. Grading Scale:
  - 90 = A-
  - 89 = B+
  - 80 = B-
  - 79 = C+
  - 70 = C-
  - 69 = D+
  - 60 = D-

### **For Students with Disabilities**

*Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended in 2008 require Shawnee State University to provide reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities that would not compromise the integrity of the academic program.*

*Students seeking accommodations must meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services,*

*Student Success Center, Massie Hall, 740-351-3276. After meeting with the Coordinator, students are required to meet with their instructors to discuss the student's needs related to their disabilities.*

*If a student chooses not to make a timely request for disability accommodations and/or fails to meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services and the professor, no disability accommodation(s) will be provided.*

### **Tentative Course Outline SOCI 3320/ 01**

Any change to the schedule will be announced in class.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Starting Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
1	Aug 20	Syllabus Review Course Introduction and expectations & Basics of Sociology Culture
2	Aug 27	Perceptions of Culture Acquisition of Culture
3	Sep 3	(University Closed Monday, September 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Peer Group Socialization Socialization and Society
4	Sep 10	Cultural Theory
5	Sep 17	Cultural Theory <b>Discussion:</b> "Why do we have culture?"
6	Sep 24	Presentation of Self within Culture Emotional Display Rules
7	Oct 1	Cultural Bonding and Social Connections
8	Oct 8	<b>Midterm</b>
9	Oct 15	Sub Cultures
10	Oct 22	Cultural Shifts Organic vs Synthetic Culture
11	Oct 29	Cultural Decay
12	Nov 5	Commodification of Culture
13	Nov 12	(University Closed Monday) Culture Clash
14	Nov 19	<b>Papers Due</b> (University Closed Wednesday – Friday for Thanksgiving)
15	Nov 26	Post-Modern Culture

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| 16 | Dec 3  | (December 7: Last Day of Classes)<br>Neo-Tribal Culture  |
| 17 | Dec 10 | <b>FINALS WEEK:</b> CHECK SCHEDULE FOR FINAL TIME & DATE |