Section:  34401
Time:  Mon-Wed 4:15-5:30
Instructor:  Michael Kepple, M.Ed
Location:  CL 12
August 25-December 17, 2008
How to contact me:  michael.kepple@gcmail.maricopa.edu
(602) 793-4520 (leave message)

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY/METHOD:  In class, we will learn by utilizing a combination of
lecture, group activities and student participation and discussion. Out of class, you will have
access to GCC’s technology resource for both research and completion of assignments.
Lessons are based on the text and other resources. Students will be expected to read chapters
prior to class to better facilitate class discussion. Since lectures, readings and discussions are
designed to complement one another, your attendance and active participation are critical.
Learning should be fun, not torture; there is a great deal we can learn from each other during
our time together, which includes:

- Promoting your own dignity, providing opportunities for self-expression, and encouraging
  personal responsibilities for learning
- Encouraging dialogue between the instructor and the students
- Encouraging interactions and cooperative activities between students

TEXT:  Sociology (12th edition) - by John Macionis (required)
There is a study guide that accompanies your text. It is optional and may be purchased, if you
wish, at the GCC Bookstore.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Introduction to Sociology. Fundamental concepts of social organization, culture, socialization,
social institutions and social change. Prerequisites: None

COURSE OBJECTIVE:
The objective of this course is to introduce you to the field of and the importance of sociology in
your own life. This is an introductory course, and we will cover a large amount of material in a
relatively short period of time. In order to successfully complete the course, you will need to
have college level reading and study skills and personal motivation.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:
1. Define sociology and explain and how it differs from other social sciences.
2. Explain the sociological imagination and how it operates in everyday life.
3. Describe the basic theoretical perspectives sociologists use to analyze social
   phenomena
4. Name and briefly describe the importance of selected major theorists in the field of sociology
5. List and explain the stages in a basic research design.
6. Describe and differentiate between qualitative and quantitative research methods
7. Define the basic sociological concepts: culture, society, socialization, social structure, groups and institutions
8. Describe values and norms, including mores, folkways and laws
9. Describe societal and structural factors than can influence individual behavior
10. Describe sociological/psychological theories as they relate to the development of self.
11. Describe the influence of selected institutions on society and the individual
12. Describe the effect of race and ethnicity, gender, sex and age on social inequality.
13. Explain major sociological perspectives on social class.
14. Explain how conflict, functionalist and symbolic interactionist theoretical perspectives view deviance and conformity
15. Describe and explain social change, including the influence of collective behavior, social movements and demographic factors.

**CLASS ATMOSPHERE:**

It is expected that all of us will respect the following guidelines, especially important given the nature of this course:

1. **Courtesy and Feedback**
   a. Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinions that are supportable and honest, and these opinions MUST be respected by all of us. You may question what is being said; however, at no time, will you attack the person. We will discuss appropriate feedback early in the semester. You will have the opportunity to present your perspective.
   b. Only one person should be talking at one time; more than one person speaking at a time is disconcerting and disrespectful. “Side-bars” (individual comments or discussions, while someone else has the “floor”) will not be tolerated. I understand there are times when you want to discuss the topic at hand with another class member; however, it is inappropriate behavior. Each student will be afforded the opportunity to present his/her comments or opinions. Therefore, please give the current speaker the same courtesies you desire when you speak.
   c. Please raise your hand, when you wish to speak. I will call students in the order in which I see hands.
   d. Please keep the above courtesies in mind throughout the semester.

2. **Electronic Courtesy:** Please be considerate of your classmates and the instructor; it is quite disturbing to have an electronic device activate during class. Please have all electronic devices turned off or placed in the vibrate mode, and stored in a book bag, purse, or other location where the item cannot be seen, during class. Repeated violations may result in the student being required to leave class and receive an unexcused absence for the class. (See me if there are extenuating/emergency situations that may, on an exceptional basis, necessitate you needing to leave a specific device on.)

3. During class, especially lectures, please refrain from engaging in the following, or similar activities:
a. Sharpening pencils  
b. Disposing of trash  
c. Eating or chewing gum. No food is allowed in the classroom.  
d. Putting on make-up, combing hair, etc.  
e. Sleeping, reading or doing other unrelated class activities.  
f. If a classmate’s view is obstructed, as a courtesy please remove your hat during class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

I recognize that you have multiple responsibilities in your life; consequently, I do not put you in a position of justifying a class absence. However, because there is no alternate means for securing much of the information presented in class, therefore a basic requirement is to come to class.

Because you need to be present to learn the concepts introduced in this course (and for me to certify you as having mastered the materials), attendance and class participation influence your final grade.

Attendance will be taken each class session. You will need to attend the entire time that has been allotted or you will be considered absent.

ABSENCES:

1. General Absences: A combined total of three (3) hours of class (leaving early or missing entire classes) from unexcused absences may be accrued without penalty. Points will be deducted at a rate of two (2) points per unexcused absence after that. Excessive absences may result in withdrawal from the course.

2. Excused Absences: Contact me regarding emergencies and to arrange excused absences when you need to be absent from class.

3. Official Absences: (Student Life release forms for sports, performances, etc.) GCC’s policy for official absences is that you notify the instructor in advance to arrange to make up work missed.

It is your responsibility to keep me informed. If possible, please contact me in advance of any absence. I generally call you if you miss two successive classes and will try to help you arrange to make up classes, without forfeiting the class.

- Absences do not excuse you from completing assignments on time or being prepared for classes or examinations. By the way, I can replay the class for you when you come by the class; so be sure to make contact with a classmate for notes or other information.

Being Late

I understand, occasionally, there are circumstances beyond your control that will cause you to be late. Should you need to be late, please enter quietly and unobtrusively and see me after class. Failure to see me after class will result in an unexcused absence being recorded.

I will begin class on time and expect you to be present. If you have a continuing conflict that means you will be late to class (for example, job schedule/location), let me know.
STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
Please read the section in your current GCC student handbook about students’ rights and responsibilities. College academic policies, Student Life policies, course schedules, calendars and other information are also available at the GCC website: http://www.gc.maricopa.edu

AUDIO-VIDEO TAPING:
Due to the course content and expectation of student interaction, audio taping, use of video cameras, or cell phone cameras in this class is prohibited, unless special permission is requested and granted prior to taping. All students must be aware, in advance, that someone wants to tape a session. Any tapes are for personal study only.

SPECIAL NEEDS/DISABILITIES:
If you have special needs that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you may need to notify the Disability Services and Resources Center located in TDS 118. Their phone number is 623-845-3080.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL:
Each student is responsible for withdrawing in with the guidelines set forth in the GCC Handbook. If you do not withdraw officially, it can result in a letter grade in this course. Check the GCC class schedule to obtain student initiated withdrawal dates (check with the Admissions office if you need clarification of dates) Students are also responsible for any consequences of withdrawal related to financial aid.

TESTING AND GRADING (EVALUATION PROCEDURES)

1. **Exams** (100 points each, 300 points total) There will be a total of three (3) exams covering the textbook, lectures and class discussions. Exams will be composed of multiple choice questions, fill in the blank questions, true and false questions, matching and short answer/essay questions. *(For these exams, you will need a number 2 pencil and a SCANTRON to class)*

   **Make-up exams:** See me to schedule make-up exams. Make-up exams may be structured differently than the regular exam. Under extenuating circumstances, exceptions may be made by the instructor.

2. **Individual /Group Presentations/Projects:** (Point values and total points available will vary) Various projects requiring individual/group discussions/research/presentations/etc. during/outside class may be assigned during the semester, Point values will be determined by the degree of effort.

3. **Quizzes:** (Point values vary, but will not exceed 10% of the course total). These may be announced or unannounced. There will NOT BE ANY MAKE UP QUIZZES.

4. **Class Participation:** (50 points). Your interaction during class is vital to the success of the class. Therefore, being prepared (at a minimum having read the material under discussion) and actively contributing to the topic is expected. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have. I am certain there will be other students who will have the same or similar questions. Please be respectful of others and remember every student has a right to be heard. Please do not comment, merely to comment; make your questions or comments relevant.
5. Extra Credit: (Point values and total points will vary) There may be short, special or extra credit assignments given. These assignments will NOT be accepted late.

6. Completed Work: Written assignments and test scantrons will be returned to you. I will bring materials to class one time after I originally return them. After that, it is your responsibility to get them from the Sociology Office (Faculty Building 05). If there are extenuating circumstances, you may request an alternative arrangement. It is your responsibility to maintain these works until you receive and agree with your final grade. Only by retaining your works, will you be able to contest the grades I have recorded. Therefore, ensure you properly secure your works.

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<th>GRADING SCALE:</th>
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<tr>
<td>A- 90% and above all possible points</td>
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<tr>
<td>B- 80-89% of all possible points</td>
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<td>C- 70-79% of all possible points</td>
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<td>D- 60-69% of all possible points</td>
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<tr>
<td>F- 59% or less of all possible points</td>
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CHEATING/PLAGIARISM:
I take cheating very seriously. It is wrong and it is unfair to the other students who do their own work and study for exams. Any student caught cheating will automatically receive a grade of “F” in the class and will be expelled from the class. Plagiarism is using the works, words, or thoughts of others in your assignments without giving credit to the original sources. Plagiarism will also result in an “F” for the course and immediate expulsion from the class.

STUDENT CONCERNS:
You have the right to expect that I am punctual, prepared, and courteous to you as an adult. I have the right to expect you to be punctual, prepared and courteous.

If at any time during the semester you have concerns about my policies, teaching philosophies, or professionalism, please feel free to talk to me. I promise to be receptive, whether or not we ultimately agree. If you are dissatisfied with our discussion, you can contact my Assistant Department Chair, Dr. Glenn Sims at 623-845-3694 or Eileen Johnston, Department Chair at 623-845-3280.

Additionally, feel comfortable talking with me about topics of concern or interest to you, before or after class or at a mutually agreeable time.

COURSE CONTENT
The course content may vary from this outline to meet the needs of this particular group. This syllabus is as complete and accurate as possible. However, I recognize that unusual circumstances might result in a scheduling change or replacement of one assignment by another. While there will be no major changes in the course requirements or policies, I reserve the right to modify the syllabus as necessary. Students will be notified of any changes.