I. Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credit: Lecture: Lab</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3:3:0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. Prerequisite: None

III. Course (Catalog) Description:
Course introduces sociological perspective used to study contemporary society, with focus on United States. Content includes culture, socialization, social interaction, groups and networks, deviance and social control, inequality in society, social institutions such as family or education, and processes of social change.

IV. Learning Objectives:

**General education objectives**
The student will:
A) gather and analyze social science data using appropriate research methods, e.g. observations, surveys, and/or secondary analysis, and use theory to interpret these social science data.
B) critically read sociological materials in order to compare and evaluate alternative explanations of social behavior.
C) communicate sociological research and theory effectively in written assignments.

**Course Objectives**
The student will:
D) apply functional, conflict, and symbolic-interactionism theoretical perspectives to real world examples.
E) assess how social institutions and structures (such as schools, the mass media, and the family) foster social stability/instability and inequality that are based on class, race, gender, and sexuality.
F) use the sociological perspective to identify social processes, define opportunities and constraints that arise out of the structure and functioning of social life, and compare and evaluate alternative explanations of social behavior.
G) identify the social forces that have not only shaped the discipline of sociology, but have also influenced the structure of societies, the shape of cultures, the process of socialization and the nature of social behavior from one historical period to another.

V. Academic Integrity:
Students and employees at Oakton Community College are required to demonstrate academic integrity and follow Oakton’s Code of Academic Conduct. This code prohibits:

- cheating,
- plagiarism (turning in work not written by you, or lacking proper citation),
- falsification and fabrication (lying or distorting the truth),
- helping others to cheat,
- unauthorized changes on official documents,
- pretending to be someone else or having someone else pretend to be you,
- making or accepting bribes, special favors, or threats, and
- any other behavior that violates academic integrity.

There are serious consequences to violations of the academic integrity policy. Oakton’s policies and procedures provide students a fair hearing if a complaint is made against you. If you are found to have violated the policy, the minimum penalty is failure on the assignment and, a disciplinary record will be established and kept on file in the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for a period of 3 years.

Details of the Code of Academic Conduct can be found in the Student Handbook.
VI. Outline of Topics:

The World of Sociology
✓ Origins of the Discipline
✓ The Sociological Imagination
✓ Theoretical Perspectives
✓ Research Methods

Understanding the Individual and Society
✓ The meaning and nature of culture
✓ The process of socialization
✓ Social Interaction
✓ Groups and Organizations
✓ Deviance and Social Control

Uncovering the Structure and Nature of Inequality
✓ Social Stratification
✓ Global Stratification
✓ Gender Stratification
✓ Race and Ethnicity
✓ Politics and power

Social Institutions
✓ The Economy
✓ Marriage and the Family
✓ Mass media
✓ Health and the sociology and the body

Social Change
✓ Urbanization and population dynamics
✓ The Environment
✓ Social Change

VII. Method of Instruction:
A. Lecture and discussion: In most cases, class time will be divided between lecture and discussion by the class as a whole. Lectures will usually pertain to assigned readings, but may also incorporate materials that are not covered in the text or outside readings. Students will be responsible for all material covered in lecture.

B. Small group discussion and activities: Students will routinely be assigned to small groups for the purpose of discussing course material and working on class activities.

C. Use of videos: Throughout the semester, videos will be incorporated into lectures and discussions for the purpose of illustrating core concepts. Students will be responsible for information presented in any videos shown during class time. If a student misses a video, she/he should check with me about the possibility of viewing the video outside of class, although this may only be possible with videos owned by OCC and not those rented for a limited space of time.

VIII. Course Practices Required:
A. Reading: College-level reading skills are expected. Students should complete reading assignments in advance of class time.

B. Writing: College-level writing skills are expected. Students will be required to write the equivalent of at least 12-15 pages of material that will be graded not only on the basis of content but also grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

C. Critical Thinking: While enrolled in this course, students will be expected to put aside their preconceived notions of social life and engage in the process of looking at and thinking critically about the world around them. This involves taking nothing for granted and being able to look below the surface in order to understand why we do what we do within our society.

IX. Instructional Materials:
I recognize that the price to purchase this book unused is steep, but you should be able to pick up a used book at a savings. In addition, you have some other choices available to you:

- The publisher offers this book in an e-book version; you have the choice of buying access to the book online or as a downloadable PDF at a considerable saving. If you are interested in this option, you can get more information at http://www.nortonebooks.com/welcome.asp.
- The OCC bookstore is now offering a plan where you can rent the textbook for the semester. The books you rent must be returned to the bookstore at the end of the semester.
- The OCC library in Skokie has a copy of our textbook on the shelf in the library. You can not check the book out, but are able to use it in the library for 2 hours at a time.

Note: Here are some website addresses that you might want to bookmark, since we will be using them throughout the semester:

- Everyday sociology: http://nortonbooks.typepad.com/everydaysociology/what_is_this_site_about/index.html
- Companion website for the 7th Giddens et al. text: http://www.wwnorton.com/college/soc/giddens7/

Other Reading Assignments: The following only includes readings from the text. Throughout the semester additional readings will be distributed in class or posted on the website and students will be expected to complete them by the next class period.

Class Meeting Schedule/Topics/Reading Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Textbook reading assignment (Begin on the date assigned and complete by next class period)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>Introduction to course</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>Introduction to the sociological imagination</td>
<td>Start reading Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>Basic sociological research</td>
<td>Finish reading chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>Research in the real world</td>
<td>Start reading Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>Continue reading Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>Finish reading Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>Today’s global society</td>
<td>Study Chapters 1-3 and any additional readings for Test #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>TEST #1</td>
<td>Begin reading Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/21</td>
<td>Socialization</td>
<td>Finish reading Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>Socialization</td>
<td>Read Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Social Interaction</td>
<td>Begin reading Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>Groups in society</td>
<td>Finish reading Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>Rationalization</td>
<td>Start reading Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Understanding deviance</td>
<td>Finish reading Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Crime and Deviance</td>
<td>Study Chapters 4-7 and any additional readings for Test #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14</td>
<td>TEST #2</td>
<td>Begin reading Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Stratification</td>
<td>Finish reading Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>Inequality in the U.S.</td>
<td>Read Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Global Inequalities</td>
<td>Read Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>Gender Inequalities</td>
<td>Read Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>Race and ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>Politics and power</td>
<td>Study Chapters 8-11, 13 (pp. 381-404) and any additional readings for Test #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/9</td>
<td>TEST #3</td>
<td>Read Chapter 14, pp. 423-444</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
X. Evaluating Student Progress

A. Exams: There will be four non-cumulative tests over the course of the semester. The format of the tests will be multiple choice and short answer/application questions. I will distribute study guides one week prior to the test and you may bring a “test aide” the size of a 3X5 index card with you to the test.

Test Dates:
Test 1: September 16, 2010
Test 2: October 14, 2010
Test 3: November 9, 2010
Test 4: December 9, 2010

Information on tests...
• You will find “diagnostic quizzes” for every chapter on the publisher’s website (http://www.wwnorton.com/college/soc/giddens7/). You are encouraged to use these diagnostic quizzes to review for the tests. I will take a portion of the test questions directly from these diagnostic quizzes.
• I will drop the lowest test score at the end of the semester. If you have taken the first three tests and are satisfied with your grades on those three tests you do not have to take the last test; it will be treated as your dropped test.
• If you are going to miss a test because of illness or some other acceptable reason, you should notify me prior to the time of the test (you may call my office at 847-635-1628 and leave a voice message or e-mail me at gnyden@oakton.edu).
• If you have notified me, I will leave a makeup exam in the testing center; you have until the following class meeting day to make up the exam in the testing center.
• In the event you must take a make up exam, I reserve the right to substitute the multiple choice/short answer version of the in-class test with an all-essay test.
• If the exam is not made up by the next class period, you will receive a grade of “0” for that test.

B. Doing Sociology Assignments: One of the goals of this course is to apply the material you are learning to the world around you. Therefore, throughout the semester you will be given short assignments to complete.

C. Final assessment Essay: All students will be expected to complete a final assessment essay, discussing what was learned and assessing its value. A description of this assignment will be distributed in early November and the essay will be due on December 2, 2010.

D. Data Exercises: On Thursdays (with the exception of test dates) I will give you a short data exercise to complete at the end of the class. These will be related to material we are covering in class and must be completed in class. If you miss class on a day that a data exercise is distributed, regardless of the reason for your absence, you may not make it up. These exercises will be graded “pass/fail.”
E. **Participation**: A final component of your grade will be class participation. This is based primarily on your attendance. As noted elsewhere, students are expected to attend class regularly. Your participation grade will be affected if you routinely come to class late, leave early, or miss more than 4 classes throughout the semester.

**A NOTE ABOUT LATE WORK, INCLUDING SUBMITTING PAPERS VIA EMAIL:**

While you may have professors who are happy to accept emailed papers, my policy is NOT to accept papers through email. I have this policy for a number of reasons that I am happy to elaborate on, but I want you to know that any papers sent to me will not be accepted unless I have previously indicated that I am willing to receive a paper in this format.

All work must be turned in on the due date at the beginning of class. If you do not turn an assignment in “on time,” your grade will be lowered.

F. Calculating your Final Grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components of Your Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Exams (3 out of 4)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>A=90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Doing Sociology assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>B=80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Final assessment essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>C=70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Data exercises</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>D=60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>F= below 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ABOUT EXTRA-CREDIT:**

Often, at the end of the semester students will ask me if there is any extra-credit work they can do and I generally tell them I do not offer such opportunities. First, there are “easy” ways to earn credit throughout the semester – handing in assignments on time and attending class are two examples of this. Second, I will drop the lowest test score at the end of the semester, so if you do poorly on one of the exams it will not detract from your final grade. Finally, I would rather you focus your attention on the work that is assigned in order to do the best job possible; the few points you might earn by doing some “extra-credit” will not compensate for a low grade on a writing assignment or an exam.

Throughout the semester, if you have invested time and energy in the course but your efforts are not reflected in any one grade or your overall grade, I invite you to schedule a time to come in and talk with me about your concerns. Together we will be able to find a way to make sure that the hard work you have put into this class is reflected in your grades.

XI. **Other Course Information**

A. If you have a documented learning, psychological, or physical disability you may be entitled to reasonable academic accommodations or services. To request accommodations or services, contact the ASSIST office in the Learning Center (2400 DP). All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements. The College will not waive any essential skill or requirement of a course degree program.

B. Students are strongly encouraged to use the full range of student support facilities available at Oakton, including Instructional Support Services.

C. I have set up a WebCT site for your use. I will use the site to post copies of class assignments, links to readings, and study guides for upcoming tests. The web address for logging into WebCT is [http://online.oakton.edu:8900/webct/public/home.pl](http://online.oakton.edu:8900/webct/public/home.pl). Your OCC I.D. and password will be needed to log into the site.
D. **Your rights as a student:** Listed below are some of the rights you have as a student enrolled in this class at Oakton Community College.

1. You have the right to a syllabus, which provides you with information about the learning objectives, the topics covered in the course, the methods of instruction, the course practices and instructional materials required, and the methods of evaluating student progress, including how your final grade will be determined.

2. You have the right to expect a classroom environment that supports your learning. If you encounter threats of a physical, sexual, or emotional nature, you have the right to file a complaint against the offending party, whether another student or a faculty member. Such complaints should be filed with the Office of the Vice-President of Student Affairs.

3. In the event that you are charged with violating the Code of Academic Conduct, you have the right to due process, including the right to appeal the finding of academic misconduct and/or the imposition of sanctions.

4. You have the right to appeal a final grade in this, or any other, course. Such appeals are directed initially to the chairperson of the department in which the course is offered.

For more detailed information on your rights, consult the Student Handbook.

E. In this class you will learn about the social norms that govern our behavior. Every social group establishes “rules” concerning the expectations about appropriate behavior. The following are the norms that I would like to see observed in this class:

**Late arrivals:** Every effort should be make to get to class on time. You can expect me to be in the classroom, ready to begin class at the start of the period; likewise, I expect you to be in the classroom at the beginning of the period. If you are late, please make every effort possible to find a seat quietly, without disturbing the class in progress.

**Early departures:** Occasionally it is necessary to leave class early. If for some reason you know you will be leaving class before the end of the hour, please notify me at the beginning of class, try to find a seat in the back, and slip out quietly when the time comes. Like late arrivals, early departures are interruptions that can be distracting.

**Private conversation:** By this point in your educational career you should know that “talking during class” is inappropriate behavior. Yet some students continue to treat class time as an opportunity to catch up on news with friends they have not seen in the last several hours, days or weeks. These private conversations are disturbing; they make it difficult for other students to hear what is going on, and they distract me from teaching the class. If you carry on such private discussions you will be asked to leave class.

**Civility:** In this class we will all strive to be civil to one another. This means treating each other with respect, especially when others express ideas that are different from our own. We will avoid attacking or demeaning the people who have those views and will avoid using insulting terms or saying offensive things to or about individuals or groups. Civil discourse demands that we engage in critical analysis of ideas and opinions, challenging them on the grounds that they are not consistent within the framework of sociology, without attacking the person who may hold those ideas or opinions.

**Attendance:** The classroom is a social group in which both students and professor are expected to participate. You will not learn, and I cannot teach, if you do not attend class regularly. I generally take attendance at the beginning of each class. This helps me to get to know all your names as well as have a record of one aspect of your participation in the class. If you arrive after I have taken attendance, it is your responsibility to make sure I have recorded your presence. If you leave before class is over without having notifying me in advance of your plans for an early departure, your attendance points for that day’s class will be withdrawn.

If you know in advance you will miss class because of some important event or condition (e.g., a medical condition that requires periodic treatment, conflicts because of child care or other family care-providing obligations, work schedules, etc.), please let me know. I can then make arrangements for you to receive
assignments and/or get completed work back to me in a timely fashion. If you must leave the area for an emergency, please make an effort to contact me – by telephone or e-mail, as soon as possible.

Excessive tardiness and/or absences will have an impact on your final grade. You will not be able to perform as well on tests if you have not been in class when the material was discussed. Additionally, you will not receive credit for class activities if you are absent.

**Cell phones:** Cell phones have become a ubiquitous part of our daily lives, yet as a society we are still working out the norms regarding appropriate cell phone use. If you have a cell phone with you, please remember to turn it to vibrate/silent before class begins and then put it away. If you need to answer a call during class (emergency purposes only), please go out to the hall to talk.

Just as many movie theaters routinely make announcements not to text during a show and many cities/states are outlawing texting while driving, I would appreciate it if you do not text during class. It not only shifts your attention away from what is going on in class, but it is distracting and disruptive to other students sitting around you.

**Grading:** Under normal circumstances, tests will be graded and returned by the next class period. Writing assignments are graded and returned within a week of being turned in. Work that is handed in late will be graded and returned within two weeks of the date it was turned in.

**Office hours:** I am available to meet with you on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00-11:00 and again from 1:45-2:30. If you need to talk with me and these times are not convenient, I am happy to try and find an alternative time to meet. I check emails regularly and will try to respond to any messages within 24 hours of receiving a message.

**College calendar:** For information on important college dates, you should check out the Academic calendar posted at http://www.oakton.edu/academics/acad_calendar/index.php.