



NAME OF COURSE: EXPLORING SOCIETY
(Introduction to Sociology)

COURSE #: SOC100.910

FACULTY: Paul Olson, Sociology/Anthropology Instructor

OFFICE: Academic and Professional Center (APC) room 286

OFFICE HOURS: [Call for an appointment](#)

PHONE NUMBER: (630) 466-7900, ext. 2558
(630) 466-7900, ext. 2402 Distance Learning Office

E-MAIL ADDRESS: polson@waubonsee.edu (When sending me an email, please set your email tracking "send options" to send you a confirmation that the email you sent me was successfully delivered.)

TIMELINE: You must complete all course work on or before [December 8, 2008.](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of society, including rules, interactions, and cultural patterns that organize everyday life. Analysis of social conflict, the structure and function of institutions, the dynamics of individual and group interactions, social stratification, and interactions among diverse groups of people.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to provide opportunity for the student to:

1. review the general theoretical frameworks by which the sociologists analyzes society;
2. analyze the concept of culture and social systems;
3. appraise the methods utilized to conduct social research;
4. recognize the socialization process which teaches the individual the norms, attitudes, and values of the culture;
5. examine social institutions within American society and the impact they have on the individual;
6. describe the functional and dysfunctional aspects of deviant behavior in American society;
7. examine the impact of social stratification on the individual in society;
8. discuss the forces that are transforming American society;

TEXTBOOKS & MATERIALS:

You may obtain the textbooks from the Waubonsee Bookstore at either the Sugar Grove or Aurora campus on online at <http://waubonsee.collegestoreonline.com/>. Books may be ordered individually if not in stock.

Kornblum, William, Sociology In a Changing World, 8th ed., Belmont CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 2003

Penny, Jane A. Telecourse Study Guide for Exploring Society, Introduction to Sociology, 3rd ed., Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 2003

GRADING POLICY:

Your grade will be determined according to the total number of points you receive on the three (3) exams. There is a maximum of 150 points.

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>TOTAL POINTS</u>
A	131
B	116
C	101
D	86

SEQUENCE:

The textbook and the study guide are the reading materials for the course. The pages you are to read in the textbook are stated in the study guide. For example, on page 1 in your study guide there is a box entitled “Reading.” In that box are the page numbers you are to read in the textbook for Lesson One. This continues throughout the study guide.

Also, in the study guide in each lesson there is a short reading and there are study aids. By answering the study questions and doing the pre-test, you will know you are on your way to mastering the course materials. These aids will serve as very helpful tools in preparing for the exams.

EXAMS:

In order to successfully complete this course, you must take three exams. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. The questions are taken from the readings, the study guide material, and the videos.

The exams will be made available on [August 25](#) and should be taken at Waubonsee’s Center for Learning Assessment either at the Sugar Grove campus (Collins Hall, first-floor – Room 137) or at the Aurora campus (first-floor – Room 110). It is your choice. A photo ID is required to take a test. Be prepared to leave your textbooks, notes, handbags, etc. with assessment staff outside the testing room while taking the exam. Exams should be taken after completing the following lessons according to your Study Guide.

<u>Exam #</u>	<u>Material</u>	
1	Lessons 1 – 6	See study guide for corresponding chapter readings.
2	Lessons 7 – 14	
3	Lessons 15 – 22	

The exams will be given on a computer at the Center for Learning Assessment. You should receive your exam score directly after taking your exam.

HOW TO SUCCEED:

For many of you, this will be the first time you have taken an independent study course. This course was designed to allow you to earn college credit by fitting the course into your schedule.

The DVD lessons have been designed to illustrate and enrich the concepts that you are reading about in the textbooks. You will learn the most from the videos by completing the assigned reading, working in the study guide prior to viewing, and by taking notes while observing them.

Students must complete the course on or before **December 8** unless other arrangements are agreed upon.

Further, all students who register between the first day of **Fall** registration (**May 5th**) and the first day of classes (**August 25th**) must complete the first and second exams 8 weeks into the semester (**Oct 20th**). If you enrolled after the first day of classes (**August 25th**), you must take the first and second exams during the first 8 weeks of your enrollment. If you do not remember when you registered, contact the Distance Learning Office. Keep in mind that all **Fall** students must complete all three exams no later than **December 8th**. If you register the last possible day (**October 15th**), not only do you have to have your first two exams taken within 5 weeks, you also have to finish the final exam by the same time.

IMPORTANT: If for any reason you are unable to meet the above deadlines, please contact me in writing (please date your letter) and we may be able to work out an alternative.

After several years of experience with this type of course, I have found that the successful students are able to set a regular schedule to work on the course *and* keep to it.

In other words, they approach this course much the same way they would for a face-to-face course, doing something each week, instead of trying to do all the readings and watching all the videos at the end of the semester. For many students, the flexibility is an exciting new way to earn college credit, for others it is a disaster.

You have paid for a service from me and have the right to expect it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

One last thing, completion of this course depends on your ability to meet the above requirements. It is very advisable to schedule yourself for the units. Regardless of when you registered, you should make sure your schedule allows you to finish all the units on or before **December 8**. I must remind you that it may be very tempting to put the work off until the last

few weeks. Try to avoid this since your performance will reflect your “cramming.” What I am trying to say is don't procrastinate. Make a schedule and stick to it. Remember, time does not fly but it certainly walks fast. **Good Luck!**

**UNIQUE FEATURES
OF COURSE:**

Complete sets of DVDs are available to borrow through the Distance Learning Office. The Distance Learning Office is located on the Sugar Grove campus in Collins Hall room 145. There is no fee to borrow a set of telecourse DVDs. If you are unable to come to the Sugar Grove campus to pick up a set, please call to explore your options. The phone number is 630-466-2402.