



**SOC 101- Introduction to Sociology**  
Social & Behavioral Sciences Department

**Semester:** FALL 2009

**Catalog Course Description:** This course emphasizes the fundamental concepts and principles of sociology, including culture, socialization, interaction, social groups and stratification, effects of population growth, technology in society, and social institutions.

**Prerequisite(s):** RDG 100 or ESL 100/ENG 032  
**Credit Hours:** 03  
**Departmental Website:** <http://www.midlandstech.edu/sbs/>  
**Instructor:** Dr. Abercrombie  
**Office:** 227 Robinson Bldg, Airport Campus  
**Telephone:** (803) 822-3227  
**E-mail:** [abercrombiew@midlandstech.edu](mailto:abercrombiew@midlandstech.edu)  
**Campus Mailbox:** 214A Robinson Bldg, Airport Campus  
**Personal Website:** <http://www.midlandstech.edu/sbs/abercrombiew/>  
**Departmental Assistant:** Jayne Harris (822-3292)  
**Department Chair:** Cindy Roof ([todd\\_roofl@midlandstech.edu](mailto:todd_roofl@midlandstech.edu))

**Class Schedule:**

Course	Day	Time	Location	Section	Begins	Ends
<u><a href="#">CRI 125 I01 Criminology</a></u>		Internet	OFST	85000	08/24/09	12/16/09
<u><a href="#">SOC-101-A05 Intro to Sociology</a></u>	TTH	11:10AM - 12:35PM	AC	201	08/24/09	12/16/09
<u><a href="#">SOC-101-A07 Intro to Sociology</a></u>	TTH	12:45PM - 02:10PM	LX	182	08/24/09	12/16/09
<u><a href="#">SOC-101-A08 Intro to Sociology</a></u>	TTH	02:20PM - 03:45PM	LX	182	08/24/09	12/16/09
<u><a href="#">SOC-101-H01 Intro to Sociology</a></u>	MW	08:15AM - 09:45AM	OFST	87000	08/24/09	12/02/09
<u><a href="#">SOC-101-I01 Intro to Sociology</a></u>		Internet	OFST	85000	08/24/09	12/16/09
<u><a href="#">SOC-101-L01 Intro to Sociology</a></u>	TTH	11:10AM - 12:35PM	BLEC	118	08/24/09	12/16/09
<u><a href="#">SOC 101 A36 Intro to Sociology</a></u>		MW 02:30PM - 03:45PM	CO			
110	10/19/09	12/16/09				

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mondays: 07:00AM to 08:00AM  
10:00AM to 11:00AM  
Tuesdays: 08:30AM to 11:00AM  
Wednesday: 07:00AM to 08:00AM  
Thursday: 08:30AM to 11:00AM

**Textbook(s):** Sociology Now by Kimmel and Aronson (Pearson 2009)

**General Education Core Competency Statement:** This course is designed to meet the college's general education core competency for Individual or Social Behavior, which states: "Graduates should understand factors which influence behavior. They should recognize the complex and dynamic nature of human actions and experiences."

This course also meets the college's general education core competency for Scientific Reasoning: "Graduates should understand and be able to use scientific methodology and principles."

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the fundamental goals of sociology as a science and understand the logic and the application of the "scientific method" in the study of society and human social behavior.
2. Apply major sociological theories in the analysis of social issues and phenomena, and describe the structural and institutional forces that shape and influence individuals.
3. Describe major social institutions, understand the impact of the institutional changes on human behavior, and explain the social issues concerning the institutional arrangement of society and problems existing in the systems.
4. Understand the dynamic forces leading to social changes.
5. Understand human interaction, social groups and group dynamics as defined by sociology.
6. Define deviance and crime from the sociological perspective and understand the social causes of deviant behavior and different means of social control.
7. Define social stratification, describe its forms and dimensions, analyze issues of social inequality from both a national perspective and global perspective and by using sociological theories.
8. Learn and be able to use basic sociological concepts.
9. Use sociological perspectives in analyzing popular media materials and current social issues.

**Course Outcomes and Competencies:**

**Intended Course Outcome #1:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of factors which impact patterns of human social behavior.

**Course Competency:** Students will demonstrate understanding of theoretical approaches to the analysis of social issues, institutions, change, stratification, deviance, and human interaction in groups.

**Performance Measurement Instrument:** A standardized departmental final exam developed by the sociology faculty based on the course learning objectives will be administered each semester.

**Intended Course Outcome #2:** Students will understand the scientific method as applied to studying human social behavior.

**Course Competency:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the application of the scientific method as used to explain and predict human social behavior.

**Performance Measurement Instrument:** Students will complete a set of embedded questions in the course standardized examination.

**Course Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for all class work, lectures, and assignments whether they are present or not.

All students are required to attend a minimum of 85% of their regularly scheduled classes. The maximum number of allowable absences for a class meeting two days per week over the fall and spring semesters is four (4). Absences are counted from the first day of class. All absences are counted. There is NO such thing as excused absence.

**Withdrawal:** Should the maximum allowable absences be exceeded prior to midterm, a "W" will be submitted to the registrar to be recorded on the student's transcript. Should the maximum allowable absences be exceeded after midterm, a "W" will be submitted to the registrar if the student was passing the course at the time of withdrawal OR a "WF" will be submitted if the student was failing the course at the time of withdrawal.

## College Policies

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**Students are expected to read the student handbook and abide by its policies. Copies of the handbook may be obtained at various locations on campus and is located on the web: <http://www.midlandstech.edu/planner/>**

**Academic Dishonesty:** The Student Code addresses what constitutes academic dishonesty. All forms of dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism, collusion and falsification, will call for discipline.

CHEATING ON TESTS includes:

- Copying from another student's paper.
- Using materials during a test not authorized by the person giving the test.
- Collaborating with any other person during a test without permission.
- Knowingly obtaining, using, buying, selling, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of any un-administered test.
- Bribing any other person to obtain information about tests.
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself.

PLAGIARISM is the appropriation of any other person's work and unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit.

**Campus Emergency Protocol:** Students and employees are asked to report safety concerns or suspicious activities to Campus Security at 7199 (on campus) or 738-7199 (cell phone or off campus). In the event of an emergency, employees and/or students should immediately call Campus Security or local 911. If an emergency occurs, the college will use a variety of methods to communicate additional information and instructions including the MTC Information Centers, campus loud speakers, MTC Alerts! ([http://www.midlandstech.edu/Phone\\_Alert.htm](http://www.midlandstech.edu/Phone_Alert.htm)), voice mail, email, college Intranet, and the MTC website homepage.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** In the event weather conditions or other emergencies cause the closing or a delayed start of Midlands Technical College, announcements will be made over local radio and TV stations, on the MTC Web site, and on the college's information line (803-738-8234). Notices will be sent to students via Campus Cruiser Mail when applicable. Separate announcements may be made for day and evening classes as weather conditions change during the day.

If the college closing or reopening means that there is at least 30 minutes of a class remaining, plan to attend that class. For example, if the college opens at 10:00 a.m. in TTH, classes that normally meet at 8:00 a.m. will not meet, but classes beginning at 9:30 a.m. will meet. If the college closes at 8:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. classes will meet for their regular time, but 7:35 p.m. classes will not meet since there are fewer than 30 minutes remaining in class.

**Student E-Mail Accounts:** All MTC students are assigned a college e-mail account upon admission to the college. This account is called "Campus Cruiser Mail." Campus Cruiser Mail is the primary mode by which the college communicates with students. Students are responsible for checking their college e-mail on a regular basis for important information and announcements about registration, financial aid, cancelled classes, emergency announcements and other notices. Students can use their college e-mail accounts to communicate with faculty, staff, fellow students, and others, in support of their educational pursuits. In addition to e-mail, students will also have access to maintaining personal calendars and "tasks lists" through their Campus Cruiser e-mail account.

**Student Evaluation of Instruction:** Students have the opportunity to evaluate this course. The confidential evaluation process is conducted through MTC Online using the individual student's username and password. Announcements will be made during the term concerning how and when to complete the online evaluation. Students are encouraged to participate in this process.

**Students Requiring Special Accommodations:** If special accommodations are needed for a student with a disability, the student should go to Counseling Services on Beltline or Airport Campus for assistance. Documentation regarding a specific disability is required in order for special arrangements to be made. Confidentiality of information received will be maintained.

## Course Requirements

### Course Grading:

There will be three (3) tests given during the semester and a final exam. These tests will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions (2 points each). Students are required to be present for all scheduled tests and the final exam. The average of the

test scores will constitute 70% of the students' final average. The final exam will constitute 20% of the students' final grades. The final exam is mandatory and cannot be dropped. It is the students' responsibility to take tests and exams on the posted dates in class. The course research paper will account for 10% of the students' final grade. Papers handed in late will have one letter grade subtracted for everyday the paper is late – this includes weekdays and holidays. **Papers will not be accepted through email.** The testing schedule and grade scale is listed in this syllabus below:

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	90-100	A	Superior Work
	80-89	B	Good Work
	70-79	C	Average Work
	60-69	D	Below Average Work
	0-59	F	Unsatisfactory Work

**Testing Schedule:**

	<b>SOC 101 A05</b>	<b>SOC 101 A07</b>	<b>SOC 101 A08</b>	<b>SOC 101 A36</b>	<b>SOC 101 L01</b>	<b>SOC 101 H01</b>
<b>Test 1</b>	<b>09-22</b>	<b>09-22</b>	<b>09-22</b>	<b>09-23</b>	<b>09-22</b>	<b>09-21</b>
<b>Test 2</b>	<b>10-27</b>	<b>10-27</b>	<b>10-27</b>	<b>10-28</b>	<b>10-27</b>	<b>10-19</b>
<b>Test 3</b>	<b>11-24</b>	<b>11-24</b>	<b>11-24</b>	<b>11-23</b>	<b>11-24</b>	<b>11-18</b>

**Classroom Rules/Other:**

For students who need special accommodations for class or tests, documentation regarding a specific disability from the Counseling Service is required for accommodation arrangements. When informed, the instructor will make necessary accommodation arrangements for students. Confidentiality for the information received will be maintained.

This course format includes viewing videos and listening to audiotapes during the class. Sometimes these presentations or films deal with violence, death, nudity, poverty, crime, religious issues, war, terrorism, and contain curse words. Learning materials are selected to reflect the natures of the societies we are studying while affording opportunities to apply the sociological imagination and method; course materials are not chosen with the intent of making students feel uncomfortable. If a student objects to such materials it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor at the beginning of the course so that alternative assignments can be developed for him or her.

*Note: The tests and examinations will be based on the materials covered in class lectures, textbooks and other sources made available to the class. The student is responsible for all class work, including all the additional materials covered in class discussion and in reading assignments. If students miss a class lecture, it is the student's responsibility to acquire the information and assignments reviewed in the meeting. Students are encouraged to make appointments with the instructor for individual help if needed.*

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic dishonesty in all its forms, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will not be tolerated. Students found responsible for acts of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions ranging from grades of zero on coursework, failure of course, probation, suspension or expulsion from the College. Each student should be aware that plagiarism is the act of presenting a product as one's own when it was derived from an existing source (including the text, journal articles, handouts, instructor's materials or other students' work). This practice is unethical, and can be avoided by completing written assignments in your words as well as by properly noting sources.

**Student Conduct:**

Students who engage in behavior that is disruptive to the learning process will be asked to leave the classroom. This includes but is not limited to talking at inappropriate times, sleeping, use of tobacco products, eating food or candy, failure to turn off a cell phone, text messaging, discourtesy to faculty or fellow students, obscene language and gestures, or any uncooperative or aberrant behavior. Depending upon the nature of the offense or if it occurs during an exam, the Instructor will require the student to see the Director of Campus Life before returning to class. The student will be counted absent for any classes missed due to disrupting the learning process and/or obstruction of academic instruction. Campus Security will be called for any threatening or violent behavior.

**Course Lectures:**

Students are also expected to purchase and read their books. Students are expected to arrive ready to take notes: bring paper and something to write with. The course format also includes viewing videos and listening to audiotapes during the class. Sometimes these presentations or films deal with violence, death, nudity, poverty, crime, religious issues, war, terrorism, and contain curse words. Learning materials are selected to reflect the natures of the societies we are studying while affording opportunities to apply the sociological imagination and method; course materials are not chosen with the intent of

making students feel uncomfortable. If a student objects to such materials it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor at the beginning of the course so that alternative assignments can be developed for him or her.

### Course Research Paper:

This course requires a scientific research paper, *not a personal opinion paper*. Students must first come to an understanding with the instructor about what topic they will research for their paper. *The instructor has to approve of a student's research topic*. Students will not start research until this understanding has been reached. A list of possible topics for the paper is provided at the instructor's website, but the student is not limited to the topics listed. The topic due date and the paper due date for course sections are listed below:

	<b>SOC 101 A05</b>	<b>SOC 101 A07</b>	<b>SOC 101 A08</b>	<b>SOC 101 A36</b>	<b>SOC 101 L01</b>	<b>SOC 101 H01</b>
<b>Topic Due</b>	<b>09-22</b>	<b>09-22</b>	<b>09-22</b>	<b>09-23</b>	<b>09-22</b>	<b>09-21</b>
<b>Final Paper</b>	<b>10-27</b>	<b>10-27</b>	<b>10-27</b>	<b>10-28</b>	<b>10-27</b>	<b>10-19</b>

The process for creating the course paper can be broken down into three distinct phases:

1. Students will need to select a paper topic.
2. After the topic is approved by the instructor, students will construct both a paper proposal and outline to guide the development of their paper.
3. Using the instructors comments as a guide, students will create a finished paper.

Keep in mind this is a social science research paper. The purpose of the paper task is to illustrate the student can properly apply the scientific method and the sociological imagination to the study of social phenomena. The paper is to be computer generated or typed. The paper must be presented in ASA style. Your paper is required to be typed or computer generated. If you do not have access to a typewriter or computer then you need to talk to your instructor the first week of class. Your paper should be between 9 to 11 pages of text and should be double-spaced, this page count includes the title page and reference pages. All important information or factual statements must be referenced in text or by footnote. Do not simply include a source page or bibliography (a list of sources at the end of the page). You must site information at the point you present it in your paper.

Paper sources should reflect the criteria of the scientific perspective and sociological imagination. Do not use psychology sources for a sociological paper. A minimum of four scholarly references is required; this reference count requirement does not include your textbook, non-scholarly magazines, encyclopedias, interviews, or internet sources. The research paper is to be divided into sections and presented in ASA (American Sociological Association) style. The sections are listed and described below (you can also refer to the instructor's faculty webpage for further instructions and examples at [www.midlandstech.edu/sbs/abercrombie](http://www.midlandstech.edu/sbs/abercrombie)):

#### *Title page:*

This page consists of the title your paper, your name, and the date the paper was turned in to the instructor, the title and section of the course and the name of your professor.

#### *Introduction:*

The introduction tells the reader what topic the student will be discussing and why it was chosen (personal experience, a major topic, realistically being able to research it, etc.). This section introduces the researcher's specific interests within the subject matter and how it will be explored.

#### *Review of literature:*

In the review of literature students should be accomplishing two things. First, the student will describe the topic he or she selected to research. This description will be based upon a logically organized review of the information found in the researched sources (newspapers, interviews, texts, books, journal articles, magazine articles, government documents, etc.). All statements or information presented about the topic should be referenced. The works cited should support the interests identified in the paper's introduction. All key terms should be clearly defined, all major points should be illustrated with examples.

#### *Presentation of theory:*

The student will clearly and in a detailed manner define and describe a sociological theory the student has selected from course readings or lectures. The student will then, in detail, apply that theory to explore the nature of the topic: what purpose it serves, how it was created, how it is maintained, the effect/affect it is having upon society, what social groups or aspects of society it is effecting, how serious or strong the effect/affect is, etc. This section presents a formal sociological theory, explains it in properly referenced detail and then uses the theory as a template to access or explore the information presented in the literature review about the topic. The review of literature shows you recognize and can apply the sociological imagination to a social subject and the theory presentation section illustrates how well you can properly formalize and apply the sociological imagination through a scientific approach; these are the core elements of the paper.

#### *Conclusion:*

In this section of the paper the student will present conclusions about the topic based on the research presented in the paper's literature review. The primary purpose of this section is to allow the students to determine if the information about the topic found during his or her research reflected the assumptions and predictions of the theory they chose. In addition, students are encouraged to present their personal opinion in this section, which usually consists of a review of what aspects of the information and theory application supported and/or contradicted their original understandings of the topic chosen.

*References:*

The reference section of this paper is the last page and will have the title centered and at the top of the page. All sites in the paper will be referenced. References will be constructed using ASA (American Sociological Association) format.

You will be expected to clearly apply ideas and perspectives discussed in class (scientific perspective, sociological imagination, social theory, etc) and apply them in guiding the exploration of your paper's subject. This is the key aspect of your paper- do not use a psychological, philosophical or personal perspective. The paper should illustrate your understandings of the course's concepts and apply them as they relate to the subject matter of your research by applying a sociological theory to explain it. Papers are required to be typed and double-spaced. Students must have at least four scholarly references other than non-scholarly magazines, textbook, encyclopedias, interviews, or internet sources.

Papers are the only assignments that will be accepted late; however, the paper's grade will be penalized 10 points for each day late (this includes Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays), the paper will be counted late at the end of the class period the paper was due. Do not do any of the following with your paper: place in the instructor's mail box, email to the instructor, give to another instructor for delivery, tape on the hood of the instructor's car, slide underneath the instructor's door, give to a parent or friend to be delivered, place underneath the windshield wiper of the instructor's car, give to an administrative assistant or secretary. It is the responsibility of the student to place his or her paper in the instructor's hand - any other form of submission is unacceptable.

**Course Topic Outline/Course Calendar with Assignments:**

Week One to Four -	<b>Topic Due, Test 1</b> , Sociological Perspective	Chapters 1-3
Week Five-	Socialization, Crime & Deviance	Chapters 4-6
Week Six to Seven -	Stratification, Class, Ethnicity, Gender	Chapters 7-8
Week Eight	<b>Test 2</b> , Sexuality & Age	Chapters 10-11
Week Nine-Ten	<b>Paper Due</b> , Family & Economy	Chapter 12-13
Week Eleven -Twelve	Politics, Government, Religion & Science	Chapters 14-15
Week Thirteen- Fourteen	<b>Test 3</b> , Health, Illness & Education	Chapters 16-17
Week Fourteen-Fifteen	Mass Media, Environments & Review	Chapters 18-19
Week Sixteen-	<b>Final Exam</b>	

**PLEASE NOTE: Should change become necessary, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the requirements, pace, or scheduling of this course. Any change will be announced in class before it becomes effective.**