

Sociology 108--Discussion Section 1, 3 and 7 Outline

Contact Info

Who: Mehrad Sayyar bsayyar@siu.edu

Where: Faner Hall 4337 or 3414

When: Monday & Wednesday 10am-12pm and Tuesday 1pm-3pm

Objective

In discussion sections we *build upon* what you have learned from the lectures and your readings. Remember, this is not a repetition/review of the lecture and neither the lectures nor discussion sessions are substitutes for your individual/group reading. To get the most of your time, please read the readings *before* the lecture, *then* attend the lecture where you get highlights of the material and overview of key concepts and *then* you will get a better understanding of it all through discussing the topics in more detail in our Friday meetings and also among yourselves.

Requirements

This is all about getting a better understanding of sociological concepts in a friendly environment. You are expected to read your textbooks and other required materials, attend all lectures and discussion sections and hand in your assignments and papers *in time*. Roll-call is the primary way of keeping an eye on who is around. However, as I do not like roll-calls (just like you), I may sometimes supplement or substitute them with pop-quizzes or in-class exercises. If you miss them, you lose attendance points for that session. In case of emergencies, please contact me and/or your professor in advance. Please remember that attendance is not participation. You are expected to contribute to discussions.

Grading

Discussion sections contribute 300 points (30%) to your total grade of this course. Here is the breakup:

75 points	participation (5 points for each session)
75 points	attendance (5 points for each session)
150 points	3 papers (assigned by the professor, 35, 35 and 80 points respectively)

Policies/Remarks

All policies stated in your course syllabus are in effect here as well (please refer to the [course Blackboard](#) or [Sociology department website](#) for your course syllabus). Just a few more points:

1. As a lifelong student, I encourage you to have your *quality time* with your buddies doing your coursework readings together. Believe me, it is a more productive way of having fun. After all, we are in college primarily to learn.
2. Please feel free to ask your questions. When it comes to learning, there is no dumb question; rather, there are dumb answers and these come from people who are under the impression of knowing everything. Fortunately, I am not one of them. If I have the answer, you will get it. If not, I will either get back to you as soon as I can or direct you to resources to find the answer.

3. Email is one of the most useful, most underused resources in college. Please send emails if you have questions or need help. College/corporate Email servers sometimes consider Emails sent by Yahoo, Hotmail, Gmail (and other free Emails) as spam and filter them. Please use your SIU Email to contact me. I check Emails almost every day and reply as soon as I can. If you do not hear back from me after two days, your Email has been probably lost in a cyber-storm or something. Please send it again. Also, please remember that I receive tons of Email every day; to help me help you, please choose an appropriate subject for your Email so that I know which Emails to read first.
4. In case you have any problem that would interfere with your attendance or exams or assignments or need help or any special accommodations for that matter, please contact me well in advance (or in case of emergencies, as soon as you can). Please bring official documentation (medical situation, athletic events, etc).
5. Sleeping, chatting, reading newspapers/magazines (or other non-relevant readings), playing with your cell-phone or any other gadgets would not be considered participation and you will lose points for that.
6. No food or beverage please. This is a classroom. You can have your bottle of water. In case you have any medical condition that requires certain accommodations, please keep me informed well in advance. Otherwise, see number 7 below.
7. Disruptive, distracting or demeaning behavior will not be tolerated. After one warning, you will be asked to leave. This includes cell-phones or other noise-making devices.
8. For some disruptive behaviors (including but not limited to hate speech or other forms of social misconduct), there will be *consequences* beyond simply being dismissed from the class and losing points. Please refer to the [Student Conduct Code](#).

I reserve the right to make changes/amendments to this discussion outline. Changes will be announced in our Friday sessions and the updated version will be available online via [Sociology department website](#).