

Sociology 128: Models of Social Science Research

Fall 2013

TF: Asad Asad

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Office: 563 William James Hall

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 8AM-10AM; by appointment

Section: Wednesdays, 4PM (Location: Sever 210); Thursdays, 8AM (Location: Sever 101)

Course Requirements:

Four short written assignments (60% of final grade)

DUE: 9/25, 10/16, 11/6, and 12/2

Section participation and attendance (15% of final grade)

A cumulative final exam (25% of final grade)

EXAM DATE: 12/14

Section Basics

There will be 10 weekly sections, the purpose of which will be to clarify the lectures and to discuss the assigned readings and videos. Students are **required** to attend all sections. Section participation counts for **15% of your grade**. **Students who miss more than two sections risk failing the course.**

Section is a place for us to better understand the work of sociologists: to evaluate the research design of the pieces we read, to discuss the benefits and disadvantages to the choices authors make, and to be able to articulate what makes a compelling argument about the social world. These skills will help you to be a better consumer of sociology and to prepare you to think about the design of your own future projects. They will also help you be a more active and critical reader, which will be useful in your other sociology classes, as well as your coursework more generally.

You should expect me to be engaged, available, and helpful. As section leader, I see my job as helping to shape discussions that result in further insight about the readings and an improved understanding of the discipline of sociology. You should also expect me to provide feedback to your work that can help you sharpen your analytical skills and rigor. Ideally, section will provide you with both content knowledge and broader skills that are useful outside our classroom.

I will be available to meet with you during my regularly scheduled office hours. If you let me know that you plan on coming by (and what you'd like to discuss), it helps me be better prepared to meet you, but you're always welcome to just drop by. Office hours are a particularly useful time to discuss your work and my feedback on it; if you do not understand how you are being evaluated, it is your right and responsibility to come talk to me about it. I like getting to know students, so consider this an open invitation to stop by to chat about anything or nothing in particular.

I will answer emails sent Monday-Friday within 24 hours, but if you write me after 5PM on Friday, I reserve the right to respond on Monday morning.

Student Expectations and Section Policy

Please come to section on time, with questions and opinions about the readings. I will plan sections to be active and engaging, but this format only works well if you are present, both physically and mentally. Most weeks, section will include at least some small-group discussion, which means that you will depend on one-another to be properly prepared.

Attendance is mandatory, and I will be taking attendance at all section meetings. Students only get credit if they are present at section for the entire hour. There is no way to make up the credit for missed sections, including attending the sections of other TFs. However, with Jessica's permission, you may sit in on her section to gain the

missed material. If you are unable to make it to our section, I appreciate an email letting me know, but absences will only be excused for extraordinary circumstances. I will upload all section materials to my website (linked above) after all weekly sections have been held.

Laptop computers are not permitted during section meetings. As someone who takes notes faster on the computer, I sympathize with those of you who feel the same. However, this is not a lecture-based section, and the absence of laptops will create a better teaching and learning environment for all of us.

Paper assignments are due on the dates indicated. Late papers will be penalized. If you are sick or otherwise absent, you will need to contact me explaining the reason. Please be prepared to provide a doctor's note for medical reasons.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to email Professor Waters or me. I look forward to a great semester with you all!