

Distance Education Curriculum Support Committee

Course Proposal 2005-2006

Sociology 1 Principles of Sociology

Julee Richardson
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1. Need/Justification

- To allow greater access to working students specifically, those who work fulltime.
- Enrollment trends indicate that Sociology 1 as a telecourse was successful when previously offered. It was only dropped when the Sociology 1 on line course was added to the semester schedule.
- Sociology 1 would be the only sociology telecourse being offered. All other distance education courses are online. Online course and telecourse are very different. The appeal to different student populations and meet different student needs.

2. Course Content Delivery

- The student views a series of 22 half hour television programs. Students either rent a set of videocassettes from the college bookstore or watch/record these televised programs via a local cable channel.
- A sociology text is an integral part of the course and accompanies the video lessons.
- Students meet with the instructor on campus for a two-hour class lecture that meets six times during the course of the semester.
- A part of the first class meeting is an orientation to the telecourse geared to acquainting student with practical matters and educational strategies to maximize student success in the class i.e. text summary as a preview, video lesson titles, "box office preview," note taking from the video lessons etc.
- The instructor is available via e-mail, voice mail and office hours. Office hours (as indicated on the syllabus) are scheduled prior to each class meeting.
- In addition students are encouraged to exchange addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses to create informal study groups outside of class.

3. Nature and Frequency of Instructor-Student Interactions

- This telecourse provides instruction through the ongoing dialogue of the narrator who highlights important concepts in each video lesson. The on campus classroom instructor provides students with a preview of concepts important to each video lesson. The classroom is used to provide feedback, verbal exchange, clarification, comments, questions and the occasional, but much hoped for epiphany. This is the traditional lecture/discussion format and allows for synchronous instruction. The telecourse, virtual learning is always asynchronous.
- Class meeting are approximately three weeks apart. The course syllabus and class schedule provide the dates and time frame for material to be covered outside of class, as well as, during class meetings. The video sessions are to be watched within this time frame, but can be viewed when it is convenient to the student. The student also has access to the instructor through email and voice mail. Class syllabus also includes course objectives, methods of evaluation, attendance requirement, plagiarism and cheating policy.
- At each class meeting the students will receive copies of assignments and tests from the prior meeting. The numerical score earned is translated by the instructor, into an equivalent letter grade to help students understand whether they are making satisfactory progress in the class. At risk students will receive written feedback from the instructor inquiring about their progress in the class with a request to meet with the instructor.

4. Assignments & Methods of Evaluation

- The goals for the class are to promote critical thinking and quality writing skills using the sociological imagination to explore society. The criteria used to substantiate student learning will be:
 - a. Classroom discussion of material covered in the video and text. The class syllabus states that discussion is a key component of the class. It provides the students opportunity to earn credit for responses to questions presented by the instructor during class lecture. Discussion groups will at times also be used. Discussion generated from articles in the popular press and newspaper articles will be used in class, as a follow-up to better internalize the content of both the videos and text.

Assignments and Methods of Evaluation continued

- b. A variety of homework assignments that address differences in learning styles and student strengths. i.e. material culture photo assignment, tests, papers, social class board game etc.
- c. Tests linked to video lessons and class lectures.

5. Technical Support

- Students will need videocassettes available for rental from the college bookstore, access to televised video lessons on local cable stations and a complete set of videocassettes on reserve in the campus library. Support personnel will be needed for providing a schedule with dates and lesson titles and showing the video lessons on local cable stations for student access.

6. Student Services

- Access to student services would be the same as for any student. Students who work fulltime during the day in the past, have on non-work days been able to access college services and resources that can only be accessed during the day. Evening services are also available in many of the areas needed i.e. counseling, A&R, library etc.
- The text *Sociology in a Changing World*,” will be available for purchase through the college bookstore. A textbook will also be kept on reserve in the campus library.
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7. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

- All videocassettes are close-captioned. As per student need or request the instructor is also available to accommodate students with different learning styles (learning disabilities). This includes taping on campus class lectures.
- The telecourse will allow students to watch and review the material as many times as necessary, particularly helpful for students with a different learning style (learning disability). It will also provide a visual presentation to accompany the corresponding reading in the text.

8. Class Size & First Term to be offered.

- Class size would be an enrollment of 44 – 50 students.
- Sociology 1 Telecourse would be offered in the Fall semester 2006

