

NOTE: This syllabus is the “contract” between you and me. Make sure to PRINT IT OUT and stick it in your binder.

Instructor: Dr. Yoshinori Kamo (Department Chair)

Lectures: 1:30-2:50, T/Th, (#2 Lockett)

Office: #114 Stubbs Hall, kamo@lsu.edu, 578-5353

Office Hours: 3:00-4:00 Tue. or walk-in (if available). No appointment except emergencies.

Course Objectives: This is a General Education Course in the Social Sciences. The goal of courses in this area is to ensure LSU graduates demonstrate an understanding of factors associated with global interdependence, including economic, political, psychological, cultural, and linguistic forces.

Textbook: Kamo, Basirico, Cashion, and Eshleman. 2012. Understanding Sociology, Fourth Edition. BVT Publishing (available at Union Bookstore). Also available directly from the publisher (https://www.bvtstudents.com/667?filter_name=Kamo 10% off coupon code=USK4113589).

It is a loose-leaf text. Previous editions of bound copies are substantially different and will NOT be a substitute. Used copies are fine, as long as they are of Fourth Edition.

Course Materials: Reading assignments are due on the day of the lecture. I assume that everyone in the class has read the chapter covered on that day. Exam questions will be based upon the content of the book (whether covered in the lecture or not), lectures, and any materials on Moodle (videos, articles, etc.). You have to take good lecture notes. If/when you missed a lecture, obtain a copy of the notes from your fellow students. I will not supply copies of my lecture notes under any circumstances, and you are not allowed to post your lecture notes, cheat sheets (see below), or any other course-related materials to any public forum, either. It’s not fair to those who attend lectures. While outlines are given in each lecture and on Moodle, that won’t be sufficient to prepare for the exams.

Class Rules: Do not disturb other students and the instructor. This includes talking to other students, leaving cell phone on, wearing an ear-phone/head-phone, text-messaging, coming to the class late, and LEAVING EARLY. Points will be taken from violators with my discretion.

Dishonest activities will not be tolerated and will be reported to Dean of Students.

Check your e-mail every day. There are important announcements through e-mail in most classes you take at LSU. Make it a habit. Also learn how to use Moodle if you haven’t done so.

I don’t call the roll. Thus, you have no need to tell me you are missing a lecture.

Evaluation: There are four exams, all given in the regular classroom. The lowest score counts 10% with others counting 30% each. In other words, you can “screw up” (or miss the exam) once without hurting your grade much. My exams typically consist of 32 multiple choice and 5 identification questions. You need a “skinny” version of Scantrons (available at any bookstores or vending machines). The Exam #4 (during the Final Week) is NOT comprehensive.

I will NOT let you take the final before the scheduled date (Dec. 3, the very first day of the Finals week). If you have to leave for break before the final date, you need to drop the class now.

Make-up exams are given only in emergency cases (medical, accident, etc.). In emergency cases, notify me by telephone (leave a message) or e-mail within 24 hours except under extenuating circumstances. Do not wait until the next lecture. I may ask for a proof of emergency (doctor’s notes may be checked by calling the office). Make-up exams may include essay questions.

For each exam, you can bring a “cheat sheet,” ONE WHITE 8.5” x 11” paper on which you can write anything. You can use one cheat sheet (front and back sides) per exam. You can hand-write, type, or use computer, but can’t use printed materials (such as photocopies of textbook pages) or paste/staple/tape anything to the sheet. Learn how to copy double-sided NOW. Also, you have to make your own cheat sheet. You can’t share the same one with your fellow students. Cheat sheets will be collected at the end of each exam to check out the authenticity of your own copy. If/when I find any violation to these rules on your cheat sheet, I may take it away during the exam and I may take some points off. If you are not sure of the legality of your cheat sheet, show it to me before the exam.

I also retain the right to cancel the use of cheat sheet altogether for any exam(s) with my discretion, when the misuse of cheat sheets is found problematic (e.g. multiple cheaters). I had to do that in the past.

There is no term paper.

There are five types of extra credits.

- a. Surprise quizzes during the class (at least 4 x 1pt during the semester). Since they are “extra,” students who are not present when these quizzes are given (e.g. coming late to the class or being sick) will get no credit.
- b. On-line quizzes notified in the class (at least 6 x .5pt during the semester). Students have to finish them on the same day to receive points.
- c. Finding errors in the textbook and make corrections. Though this book has been used for several years, there are some typos/grammatical errors. Make sure that it’s not been reported on Moodle (Textbook Errata) and e-mail me in the same format as they are listed. Once I agree with your corrections, I will add them to the list and you receive 1 point. You can send me as many corrections as you wish until I agree with you. You earn 1 point maximum per semester. The deadline is at the time of Final Exam.
- d. Any contributions you may make toward the lecture; links to relevant articles/videos. If I introduce that in the lecture, you get 1 point (1 point maximum per semester).
- e. (possible) Outside lectures. If I decide to assign them, there will be an announcement in the class/e-mail. Again, since they are extra, students who miss these assignments will have no second chance. Your suggestions for outside lectures related to sociology are welcome.

Students' active participations may be taken into account when they are on borderline grades.

Your grades and breakdowns by each exam will be posted on Moodle. I will not give your grade over the telephone, e-mail, or in print.

Grades are roughly assigned as follows. Revised and exact scales will be posted on Moodle after each exam.

The grading scale on Moodle is the official one.

A+: 100-97 A: 96.99-93 A-: 92.99-90 B+: 89.99-87 B: 86.99-83 B-: 82.99-80

C+: 79.99-77 C: 76.99-73 C-: 72.99-70 D+: 69.99-67 D: 66.99-63 D-: 62.99-60 F: 59.99-0

The overall GPA for the course was around 2.8 for the last couple of semesters. This is relatively low in social sciences, and I want you to know that at the beginning.

Though I don't return exams, you are welcome to go over your exam in my office. You can challenge my "correct" answers. If you are concerned with your grade, come to my office EARLY IN THE SEMESTER to correct your path.

Approximate Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Typical Question:</u>	<u>Chapter Due:</u>
8/21	Do I want to take this course?	
8/23, 28	What is sociology and how did it develop?	1
8/39, 9/4	How do we do sociology?	2
9/6, 11	What is culture?	3
9/13	How do we interact with each other?	4
<u>9/18</u>	<u>Exam #1 (Chapters 1-3)</u>	
9/20	How do we interact with each other? (cont.)	
9/25, 27	How do we become human?	5
10/2	What's deviance?	6
10/4	<u>Fall Holiday: No Class</u>	
10/9	What's deviance? (cont.)	
10/11	What's social class and why?	7
<u>10/16</u>	<u>Exam #2 (Chapters 4-6)</u>	
10/18	What's social class and why? (cont.)	
10/23, 25	Is race still an issue?	8
10/30, 11/1	How about gender?	9
11/6, 8	What's family, anyway?	11
<u>11/13</u>	<u>Exam #3 (Chapters 7-9)</u>	
11/15, 20	What's religion and do we need it?	12
<u>11/22</u>	<u>Thanksgiving: No Class</u>	
11/27, 29	Do we need education and why?	13
<u>12/3</u>	<u>Exam #4 (Chapters 11-13, 3:00-5:00pm)</u>	