

SOCI 3374: Sociology of Occupations

**Kennesaw State University
Fall 2012**

Online course--no class meetings
Credit Hours: 3

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Course Content Description:

An analysis of the contemporary occupations, with emphasis on large-scale organizations, the structure of occupations and the nature of work.

Required Texts:

Ehrenreich, Barbara. Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America. Picador, 2011.
Ritzer, George. Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society (20th Anniversary edition). Los Angeles, CA: Sage, 2013.

Course Learning Objectives:

*Students will engage and interpret the course chapters and themes by participating in discussion forums for each chapter, focusing on understanding the transformation of work, trends in income inequalities, and globalization forces that are changing the workplace and the organization of work

*Students will apply sociological perspectives to a sociological understanding of occupations and translate the primary sociological theories, methods and themes into their real life by expressing how these relate to themselves in the discussion threads.

*Students will analyze, interpret, and articulate facts and ideas in writing and develop their communication skills by actively participating in discussion forums for each chapter and practicing responsible and civil engagement of complex, varied and sometimes controversial issues.

*Students will reflect on each chapter, concentrating on the varied social structural factors that facilitate and help perpetuate current work trends. They will determine what they need to understand better, what they do or do not agree with, and what questions they wish to ask. These will all be reflected in the discussion forums.

Weekly Learning Objectives:

Week 1/2-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate salient issues related to job satisfaction.

Week 3-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate factors related to changes in jobs and the job market.

Week 4-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate the changes of balancing work and family responsibilities.

Week 5-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate how healthcare is structured in the United States, focusing on its connection to the workplace.

Week 6-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate how work and leisure time are interconnected.

Week 7-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate how globalization has affected both workers and consumers.

Week 8-- Compare and contrast the European workforce to the American one in terms of length of work weeks, job security and fringe benefits.

Week 9-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate the issues that have led to an increase in outsourcing.

Week 10-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate worker productivity and its place in increasing the competitiveness of the workforce.

Week 11-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate the history and role of unions in the United States.

Week 12-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate how workplace stress coping strategies vary by age, gender and type of job.

Week 13-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate how the U.S. government can discourage age, racial, ethnic and other types of discrimination in the workplace.

Week 14-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate the types of behaviors and workplace climates that may be conducive to sexual harassment.

Week 15-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate strategies to increase ethical behavior on the job.

Week 16-- Analyze, interpret, and articulate the role of occupational aspirations on one's choices of jobs over the years.

Meeting Learning Objectives:

In order to meet the Course and Weekly Learning Objectives students should read the relevant chapters each week, read the journal articles available through GALILEO, and participate in the Lecture Question (LQ) and Discussion Question (DQ) Discussion Boards.

Prerequisites:

While there are no official prerequisites for this course there are some considerations that each student must make. The online method of course delivery is different from the classroom environment and requires the following minimum student preparation:

Self Discipline

With Internet courses the instructor remains a valuable resource; however, the day-to-day instruction is not there and requires the student to become proactive in their learning. The student must be self-disciplined in order to be successful. Time management and organizational skills are a must in order to excel.

Critical Reading

A characteristic of online course delivery is the amount of reading required. Students have become accustomed to instructors explaining the text. This has resulted in students' not reading as much or not paying as much attention to what they read. In an online course, students must keep up with reading assignments and comprehend what they read.

Computer Skills

To do well in this course it is necessary that students have certain computer and Internet skills, such as being familiar with email (including attaching documents), searching databases, netiquette, and reading large amounts of text on screen.

ADA Considerations:

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the disAbled Student Support Services. Carol Pope, the Assistant Director, will gladly assist you. You may contact her at 770-423-6443 or cpope@kennesaw.edu.

Course Components:

The purpose of the course is to give students a better understanding of the role of work in our society and the forces in society that help to shape the workplace. The course consists of the following components--

Participation: It is expected that students will participate in the class each week by contributing to the threaded discussion questions, completing assignments in a timely fashion, and asking questions of your classmates and the facilitator. Participation will be monitored.

Discussion Boards: There are two discussion board forums for the class—Lecture Questions (LQ)—based on the text and Discussion Questions (DQ) based on the discussion articles available through the Academic Search Complete database. This database is available at the following link:

<http://www.kennesaw.edu/library/libres/libres.htm> Choose Off-campus access to GALILEO through either of the two options. For help in accessing this database or general searching techniques please go to <http://galileo.usg.edu> . For additional help please contact the KSU Reference Desk at (770) 423-6325.

You should reply to all five LQ's each week and the DQ. On top of that you should reply to the comments of two other students--altogether that is at least eight responses each week that you need to post. For example, you could respond to someone's Lecture Question response and to someone's Discussion Question response, you could respond to the Lecture Question responses of two other students, or you could respond to the Discussion Question responses of two other students. Please note that participation points are only given for the current week.

A response of 'That's great!' or Wow! To the post of another student will not be counted as a response. Responses must be substantive and show evidence of reflection and thought. Responses should add new information, or in some way enhance the learning of others in the course by providing additional resources.

Your Discussion Questions (DQ) and Lecture Questions (LQ) are due by midnight server time (eastern zone) on Sunday of each week. Submit your DQ and LQ posts to the appropriate Discussion Board. Length requirement is a minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words for each DQ. Points will be deducted for responses that fall below this minimum. There is no length requirement for LQ's.

In order to receive full participation points you need to answer all five LQs and the DQ each week and respond to the posts of at least two other students. Participation points are only given for the current week. For extra credit you may revise any LQ or DQ responses for which you did not receive full credit. Email them to me and I will revise your grades.

Determining the number of characters (no spaces) does NOT mean writing your responses with no spaces. It is simply a count of the letters in your response, not including the spaces. Try this: Open a blank MS Word document on your desktop. Type your response. Select Tools from the Tool Bar at the top of the page, then Word Count. Note the number next to Characters (no spaces). Copy and paste your work into the message box of the post on the discussion board.

There will also be a discussion board entitled Sam's Speakeasy. Please use this section to post questions you have about how to complete an assignment, something about the course you do not understand, or use it as a place to ask questions in general of each other. If you would like to ask the Instructor a question please put "Question for Sam" in the subject line. Check this section each week to see if you can be of help to anyone else in the class. Responses and questions posted here will NOT count toward weekly participation points.

Research Paper:

For your research paper please select one of the topics that we will be covering in the coming weeks or a related topic.

Requirements: The body of the research paper--not including the title page and bibliography--must be 4-5 pages, typewritten (Times New Roman font, size 12), and double-spaced. If you have posted the outline and bibliography to the Discussion Board they do not need to be included with your paper. However, if you have added or deleted sources from your bibliography since it was posted please include the revised bibliography with your paper. You are required to use at least four articles that are in one of the databases available through Academic Search Complete or another of the databases available through GALILEO.

APA or MLA style may be used for in-text citations and the bibliography. No abstract or title page is required for the research paper.

You are not permitted to use books for the research paper unless the complete book is in electronic form, in which case put [e-book] next to the citation in your bibliography. A bibliography is a listing of the bibliographic citations of the sources that you will use for the research paper. For each source list the author of the article, title of the article, title of the journal, date, etc—an example appears below.

APA format:

Author's last name, Author's initials (Year of publication). Article title. Journal title, Volume number(Issue number), pages of article. Retrieved from Name of the database.

Sample citation using APA format:

Curley, A. M. (2005). Theories of urban poverty and implications for public housing policy. *Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*, 32(2), 97- . Retrieved from Academic Search Complete database.

Points will be deducted for including books or Internet sources other than databases that are available through GALILEO.

Points: The research paper will comprise 17 percent (170 points) of your final grade. An additional 50 points will be given over a period of weeks for selecting a topic for the paper, writing a bibliography, an outline, and an introductory paragraph.

The outline should contain headings for the major points in the paper and subheadings for the minor ones. Headings may be ordered by indentation, numerals and/or letters.

For your research paper you may use footnotes, endnotes or include (author, date) in the text. A bibliography should always be included.

Grading: The research paper will be evaluated on content, grammar, and composition. Points will be deducted if you include paper books, Internet sites or sources other than what is found in databases that are part of the Library website.

Submission: Please submit the paper using the Assignments link. All other parts of the research paper (the topic, bibliography, outline, and introductory paragraph) should be submitted to the **Research Paper Discussion Board**.

NOTE: The Writing Center, located in Room 242 in the Humanities Building, is a free service available to all members of the university community. Tutors assist writers in all aspects of writing: inventing topics, organizing, drafting, revising, grammar, punctuation, documentation, and composing on the Word Processor. Students needing information about the Regents Test and/or practice in writing the essay itself should contact the Writing Center. Check the door of the Writing Center for current hours this semester, or click on the following link: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter/>

Etiquette expectations for online discussions and email

I would encourage you all to contribute to the discussions in the Forums--Lecture Questions Forum and Discussion Questions Forum. Remember: Participation is essential and important. Please be respectful of your classmates in these discussions. Derogatory comments, inflammatory remarks, violent references, etc. will not be tolerated. Before posting your first message become familiar with some issues regarding e-mail etiquette found at [www.dynamoo.com/technical/etiquette.htm].

Discussion Board Forums Grading Outline:

Criteria	A (90-100) Outstanding	B (80-89) Proficient	C (70-79) Basic	D/F (0-69) Below Expectations
Critical Thinking	*rich in content *full of thought, insight, and analysis	*substantial information *thought, insight, and analysis has taken place	*generally competent *information is thin and commonplace	*rudimentary and superficial *no analysis or insight is displayed
Connections	*Clear connections to previous or current content to real-life situations	*connections are made, not really clear or too obvious	*limited, if any connections *vague generalities	*no connections are made *off topic
Uniqueness	*new ideas *new connections made with depth and detail	*new ideas or connections *lack depth and/or detail	*few, if any new ideas or connections *rehash or summarize other postings	*no new ideas *“I agree with ...” statement
Timeliness	*all required postings early in discussion throughout the discussion	*all required postings *some not in time for others to read & respond	*all required postings *most at the last minute without allowing for response time	*some, or all, required postings missing
Stylistics	*few grammatical or stylistic errors	*several grammatical or stylistic errors	*obvious grammatical or stylistic errors *errors interfere with content	*obvious grammatical or stylistic errors makes understanding impossible

Course Requirements:

1. Lecture Questions (16%)

Lecture Questions are worth two points each. There are a maximum of five lecture questions per week. Over the 16 week course you may earn a possible 160 points from lecture questions.

Grade breakdown: 2 points *5 lecture questions *16 weeks = 160 points

2. Discussion Questions (30%)

Discussion Questions are worth 20 points each week. You are responsible for Discussion Questions during Weeks 2-16. Points will be deducted for responses that fall below the minimum of 1,600 characters/letters (no spaces)--NOT words.

Grade breakdown: 20 points *15 weeks = 300 points (there is no discussion question due the first week)

3. Participation (32%)

Participation is worth 20 points each week. Students will participate in online discussions posted on the Discussion Board, answering at least two posts per week. 10 points will be given for one response per week; 20 points will be given for two or more responses per week. To receive full credit (160 points for the 16 weeks) for Participation, you should make at least two responses per week to the comments of the other students in the class--for example, a response to someone's LQ post and to someone's DQ post. Participation points will only be given if responses are made to all Lecture Questions and Discussion Questions for a particular week.

Grade breakdown: $20 \text{ points} * 16 \text{ weeks} = 320 \text{ points}$

4. Research Paper (22%)

The Research paper is worth a total of 220 points: Choosing a topic: 10 points; Bibliography: 10 points; Outline: 10 points; First paragraph: 20 points; Final paper: 170 points

Grade breakdown: $10+10+10+20+170 = 220 \text{ points}$

Receiving extra credit and credit for late or revised assignments:

I will grade your assignments as receiving zeroes, for administrative purposes, if they are not posted by the deadline. Post late assignments to the Discussion Board. They will be graded the week after they are posted.

You will receive the grades that you would normally have received and will not be penalized for lateness.

Please note that participation credit may NOT be made up—it is only given for the current week. For extra credit you may revise any DQ or LQ responses for which you did not receive full credit. The deadline for all late assignments and extra credit is the last day of class as noted on the syllabus.

Completing assignments ahead of time:

You will not be penalized for completing assignments before they are due. This includes commenting on the responses of other students. However, participation credit will not be given once the deadline for the week has passed.

Grading (points):

Lecture Questions (160)

Discussion Questions (300)

Participation (320)

Research paper (170)

--Choice of topic (10)

--Bibliography (10)

--Outline (10)

--First paragraph (20)

Total points (1000)

Class Schedule:

See the Topic Outline below.

Grades:

A (900-1000 points)

B (800-899 points)

C (700-799 points)

D (600-699 points)

F (Less than 600 points)

Instructor Responsiveness and Availability:

The instructor will respond to all e-mails and discussion board questions within 24-48 hours. Grades will be posted within one week of the assignment due date.

Topic outline:

Week 1. August 17 - 26, 2012. Introduction

Chapter 1: Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society

There is no Discussion question this week.

Lecture Questions (based on the text)

--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 2. August 27 – September 2, 2012. Job Satisfaction

Submit the topic you have chosen for your research paper to the Research Paper Discussion Board (10 points)

Chapter 2: Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)

--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)

--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 3. September 3 - 9, 2012. Changes in Jobs and the Job Market

Chapter 3: Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)

--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)

--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 4. September 10 - 16, 2012. Work and Family

Submit the bibliography for your research paper to the Research Paper Discussion Board (10 points)

The reason for submitting the bibliography at this early date is to encourage you to get started on your research.

Please submit your final bibliography with the research paper--you may add or subtract sources from the bibliography that you posted with no penalty. If you do so please submit a revised bibliography with the research paper.

Chapter 3, continued: Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)

--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)

--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 5. September 17 - 23, 2012. Work and Healthcare

Chapter 4: Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)

--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)

--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 6. September 24 - 30, 2012. Work and Leisure

Submit the outline for your research paper to the Research Paper Discussion Board (10 points)

Chapter 4, continued: Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)

--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)

--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 7. October 1 - 7, 2012. Globalization

Chapter 5: Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)

--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)

--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 8. October 8 - 14, 2012. The European Workforce

Submit the introductory paragraph for your research paper to the Research Paper Discussion Board (20 points)

Chapter 6: Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)

--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)

--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 9. October 15 - 21, 2012. Outsourcing

Chapter 7: Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)

--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)

--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 10. October 22 - 28, 2012. Worker Productivity

Chapter 7, continued: Ritzer, The McDonaldization of Society

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)
--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)
--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 11. October 29 – November 4, 2012. April Unionization

Research Paper due. Submit using the Drop Box. (170 points)

Introduction: Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)
--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)
--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 12. November 5 - 11, 2012. Workplace Stress

Chapter One: Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed

Discussion Question (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)
--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)
--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 13. November 12 - 18, 2012. Discrimination in the Workplace

Chapter Two: Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed

Discussion Questions (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)
--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)
--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 14. November 19 - 25, 2012. Sexual Harassment

Chapter Three: Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed

Discussion Questions (based on the discussion article or your own experiences)
--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)
--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

Week 15/16. November 26 – December 2, 2012.

**Ethics in the Workplace
Occupational Aspirations**

Evaluation: Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed

Discussion Questions (based on the discussion articles or your own experiences)

--post your reply to the Discussion question forum for this week

--TWO are due this week

Lecture Questions (based on the text)

--post your replies to the Lecture question forum for this week

-- TEN are due this week

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In no case will academic dishonesty be tolerated. Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the undergraduate and graduate Catalogues. Section II of this code addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an 'informal' resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester requirement.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by KSU.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Kennesaw State University supports the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order #11246, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. No person shall, on the basis of age, race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or disability, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the college. Any individual with a grievance related to the enforcement of any of the above provisions should contact the Assistant Director of Human Resources, Ombudsperson.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you have not yet initialized or need help with your NetID account, then please go to <http://netid.kennesaw.edu> for assistance.

For other Vista help, visit the Online Support Center at <http://help.view.usg.edu> or contact the KSU Service Desk.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

For Academic Support please go to the following website:

http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/alp/academicsupport.shtml

STUDENT SUPPORT

For Student Support please go to the following website:

<http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~shagin/KSUhelp>