

Sociology & Criminology 2

Hellgate High School Social Studies Department: 2024-2025 School Year

Ms. Lindsay Thompson

Email: lmthompson@mcpsmt.org

Webpage: <http://mcpsmt.org/Domain/2611>

Hello and welcome to Sociology & Criminology 2 at Hellgate High School!

What is this class all about?

In Sociology-Criminology, students study human social behavior from a group perspective. This emphasis on sociology provides students the background needed to grasp the concepts of criminology, which is the scientific study of crime and criminals. We will also have a number of guest speakers come into class and share their perspective on sociology and criminology. Here's the breakdown for each quarter of what we will learn about:

1st Quarter: Sociology

- Adolescence
- Aging
- Family
- Religion & Education
- Sports and Mass Media
- Economics & Politics
- Urbanization & Population
- Collective Behavior & Social Change

2nd Quarter: Criminology

- Police Agencies
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Criminal Courts
- Victimology
- Juvenile Justice
- Corrections & Punishments
- Cults

What is this document?

This is a syllabus. It outlines my expectations of you in this class. In exchange for keeping it until the last day of this class, I'll offer a "reward" to those that bring their original syllabus to the semester final.

How will this class be taught?

My goal is to provide a learning experience that starts with me sharing with you the critical information that I think one needs to know about each aspect of sociology & criminology we study and ends with you exploring issues through writing, discussing, debating and researching answers to critical questions.

Rules... well, sort of...

Rules are something that I have a hard time enforcing, not because I don't have expectations but because I really believe that mature, deliberately successful behavior is something I should be able to expect out of you. In my humble opinion, no expectation here is out of the ordinary but in case you need specific guidance, I have four simple rules.

1) *You are 100% responsible for all assignments in this class at all times.*

- When you are absent, you need to talk to me *immediately* upon your return. All assignments due and assessments completed during your absence are due *immediately upon return*. If something is assigned in your absence, you must speak with me each and every time and talk about a makeup date. If you don't bother, don't expect me to help you do it later.
- If you will be absent at a future date *for any reason*, you must speak with me as soon as you know about that absence to work out assignments.
- All materials will be located on my website.
- You are to be mindful of deadlines. Organize, plan and get things done!

2) *You are to be prepared for class each and every day.*

- You must bring all materials to with you to class each day, which usually means a notebook, a writing utensil and any assignments or materials for the day.

3) *You are to mind community and society rules and expectations.*

- You are to adopt the expectations of *polite society*. Respect! Say please. Say thank you. Be nice. Act as though you honestly want to have a pleasant relationship with me and your classmates.
- You are to be respectful of your classmates, teacher, alternative points of view, other cultures, this room and other items of value.
- Food and drink are okay, but only if you clean up after yourself. If my room starts to look like a garbage can, then those privileges will be revoked.
- No cell phones out for non-school-related use. It is rude and inconsiderate to be texting during class activities. Expect a stern lecture and other unpleasant consequences if you violate this standard.
- You are to avoid being out of class. Take care of the bathroom needs, watering needs and others between classes.

4) *You are to put effort in this class that matches your expectation for learning and success.*

- If you expect to pass and excel in this class, I expect you read materials and complete assignments without excuses.
- Ask for help! A mark of mature learner is the ability to ask for help when you need it. If you are behind, don't understand instructions or a concept or are just plain lost, ask for help. I am here to help you succeed!
- Do your best! Every choice you make regarding this class will impact the eventual outcome. Make the choice that takes the easy or minimal path? Expect poor performance. Make choices like a champion? Expect success.
- Take responsibility for your learning! I am your #1 fan and will encourage you along the way, but you need to be able to take the initiative.
- High grades, success and learning do not take place by accident. You need to make these items a priority – I already do, but I need you to as well.

So, what happens if you violate a rule? Excellent question. Any of the following punishments are possible for any offense. Avoid these punishments:

- **Unhappy Teacher:** I am laid back most of the time, but I can get quite grumpy if pushed too far. I am good at checking my temper at the door but if you challenge me, you might get a slice...Or the whole pie...
- **Cranky Classmates:** Seriously... for every classmate you think you are impressing with your antics, you are likely causing to mentally write you off of their "Would Like to Get to Know Better" list.
- **Detention:** That's right! 30 minutes with me. I'll give you a 24 hour notice and tell you when and where you have to serve. No excuses, including sports, activities, buses or jobs. Don't get detention.
- **Zero on Assignment:** Ouch – that could hurt!
- **Visit with Principals:** Sounds like fun, does it not?
- **Call to Parents:** We know that's always a blast!

What is homework?

I will try to avoid endless packets of mindless worksheets and other stuff that I consider to be waste of our time. That means that you will be assess more heavily on your performance on class assessments, discussions, examinations and projects. That means that you will be required to complete assignments that may or may not look like homework, including:

- *Reading:* reading assigned class readings. I may choose to assess these with a quiz, test, essay, discussion or other means. If I assign something to read, I expect you to be ready to discuss the reading when it is due or have questions ready to help me help you understand.
- *Consuming:* listening to or watching assigned class media. I may choose to assess these with a quiz, test, essay, discussion or other means. If I assign something to listen to or watch, I expect you to be ready to discuss the audio or video clip when it is due or have questions ready to help me help you understand.
- *Researching:* using available resources to help answer questions. I may choose to assess these with a quiz, test, essay, discussion or other means. If I ask a question or make a problem available to the class, I expect you to be ready to answer the question or propose a solution when it is due or have questions ready to help me help you understand.
- *Producing:* using tools to produce a product. I may choose to assess these with a presentation, sharing time or publishing medium. If I ask you to construct a diagram, audio response or other product, I expect you to be ready with your product when it is due.

Plagiarism Information

A student must always submit work that represents his or her original words or ideas. If any words or ideas are used that do not represent the student's original words or ideas, the student must cite all from an identifiable source. I do not tolerate plagiarism. I know that often students “work together” to complete an assignment. Even the closest collaboration, however, should not produce assignments that are nearly identical in wording. **DO NOT DO THIS.** I will treat these cases as cheating.

Flexibility

I would ask you a favor. In exchange for my respect for you and your learning environment, I ask you do the same for me. Part of that respect is offering me the opportunity to try new stuff. Your flexible attitude makes me want to try harder to make the class interesting and informative. Thanks! ☺

Grades, Grades and Grades

Learning is only partially measured by grades due to the very nature of the concept, however, I believe grades are critical to not only functioning learning communities but critical for teaching the nature of external evaluation. That said, I have a few words of wisdom on grading.

- I have adopted a common grading school: 90%-100% (A); 80%-89% (B); 70%-79% (C); 60%-69% (D); Below 60% (F).
- In Soc-Crim, I have adopted this grading system. You will receive a grade for each quarter and semester. Both are made up of classwork and assessments from that time period.
- Late work: I have a sliding scale system for late work. The later it is, the higher the penalty!

About me...

Professionally: I am a Montana native who graduated from Capital High School in Helena a while ago. I then went onto college, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and History from Carroll College and then went onto to receive a Master of Arts Degree in American and East Asian History from Washington State University. I worked for a year at Montana GEAR UP, which is a program that helps kids from underprivileged areas prepare for college and career. It was there that I realized I wanted to be a teacher, so I quit my job and went back to school. I earned my teaching certificate and Master of Education from the University of Montana. I was fortunate enough to get a position the summer I graduated and spent three years teaching Government and Economics at Kellogg High School in Northern Idaho. I also started teaching online while in Idaho too. I had a great time with my students, but the whole time I missed my home state, so I moved back and took a teaching job with Helena Public Schools. I was then lucky enough to receive a job with Missoula County Public Schools the next year! This is my eleventh year teaching at Hellgate High School (but my fifteenth overall) and I am teaching Sociology & Criminology (Soc-Crim) 1 & 2 and Government!

Personally: I live here in Missoula with my son and miniature dachshund. I love to read, watch movies, play with my pup and little man, listen to music, and hang out with family and friends. I am an only child, my favorite color is red, my favorite TV shows are the Great British Baking Show, iZombie, Lucifer, Good Omens, and Ghosts (US Version) and I tend to enjoy sparkly things...Well I want to be honest with you! ☺ The most important thing to know about me is that I am thrilled to be here at Hellgate teaching social studies!