

Walters State Community College

Sociology of Citizenship

SOCI 2210

**COURSE NAME & NUMBER:** SOCI 2210 Sociology of Citizenship

**SEMESTER AND YEAR:** Spring 2011

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jason Dixon

**OFFICE LOCATION:** MBSS 119

**OFFICE PHONE:** 423-318-2569

**OFFICE FAX:** 423-585-2640

**OFFICE HOURS:** On Office Door

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Dolgen, Corey; Baker, Chris. Social Problems: A Service Learning Approach. Pine Forge Press 2010

ISBN # 978-0-76192947-5

**Course Description:**

This course is a service learning course oriented towards the study of citizenship. The class will concentrate on how citizens actively participate in a democratic society and improve the standing of the community, the process of social change, and the role of social movements/organizations. Through readings and fieldwork (Participant Observation), it explores how individuals can influence their communities, how they function, and should function. Students will complete 30 hours of Service Learning and produce an ethnography group presentation/project. Course will meet on campus and will meet on various days at the site(s) of service (refer to course syllabus for itinerary).

**PREREQUISITES:** SOCI 1020 or Instructor's Approval.

**GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE DESIGNATION:** This course is an approved general education behavioral/social science elective. 3 semester credit hours

**Student Learning Outcomes:** At the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Application of the sociological perspective to experiences in the field. (S-2), (S-3)
2. Describe how social institutions are interrelated and the role of social capital.(S-1), (S-3)
3. Understand the process of social change, social movements, and the role of the citizenry. (S-3)
4. Compare and Contrast the basic theoretical perspectives in Sociology and identify their underlying assumptions (S-1), (S-2), (S-3)
5. Application of qualitative research methods to the field through Participant Observation and Case Studies. (S-4)

## Method of Evaluation

### Application of Sociological Perspective to experiences in the field

- This objective will be measured by free writes, class discussion/debate, completion of service hours, and field journals

### Describe how social institutions are interrelated and the role of social capital

- This objective will be measured by written and/or multiple choice exams, a qualitative research paper/group project, and course discussions.

### Understand the process of social change, social movements, and the role of the citizenry

- This objective will be measured by written and/or multiple choice exams, a qualitative research paper, and course discussions.

### Compare and Contrast the basic theoretical perspectives in Sociology and identify their underlying assumptions

- This objective will be measured by written and/or multiple choice exams, a qualitative research paper, and course discussions.

### Application of qualitative research methods to the field through Participant Observation and Case Studies

- This objective will be measured by qualitative research paper and field journal reflections on qualitative research methods.

## Assignments and Measurements:

Service Learning Hours (30 hrs):	100 points	Grading Scale: Walters State Community College Grading Scale will apply.	
Field Journal:	200 points		
2 Exams:	200 Points		
Qualitative Group Research Paper-		90%-100%	A
Group Presentation:	300 points	80%-89%	B
Attendance/Participation:	100 Points	70%-79%	C
Free Writes:	100 Points	60%-69%	D
Total Points:	1,000 Points	0-59%	F

## Description of Assignments:

Service Learning Hours are measured by the number of hours completed in an organization/institution under contract. All appropriate paperwork and forms must be submitted and are available in the Service Learning Manual for Social Science Students. Students must keep a service log and have proper authorities sign and approve of service. Student who do not complete the required service hours will lose points from this measure.

The Field Journal is a reflective journal in which students are required to keep and maintain for each day of service. Students will be required to write about their experiences and filter their experiences through the sociological theories and perspectives discussed in selected readings. Guidelines for Reflective Journals can be found in the Service Learning Manual for Social Science Students.

Free Writes will be daily reflection that cover selected readings. Free Writes may take the format of quizzes.

2 Exams will cover the basic concepts and theories discussed and relevant to the course.

The Qualitative Group Research Paper will apply qualitative methods (service learning & participant observation, case studies, content analysis) to produce a research paper. The research paper should center on social capital, how volunteering affects democratic social change, and the ultimately the value of service to both society and the individuals. The qualitative research paper will be presented as a group presentation. The Research Paper will be co-authored by all in the group, which encourages working in groups and producing desirable outcomes while working in groups.

**Attendance:** is part of the course grade. Excused absences are to be documented by the proper authorities. (Coach, Teacher, Doctor, Clinic, Court). Unexcused tests constitute a failing grade. Attendance is required and expected. Please review the WSCC required attendance policy on page 42. Students lose 5 points for each unexcused absence.

Regular class attendance is a student's obligation. (See *The Walters State Catalog/ Student Handbook*.) If for some reason a student misses a class, it is his or her responsibility to see the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the semester grade.

### Course Ground Rules

**All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the time and location of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current *Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook* and the current *Walters State Timetable of Classes*. A copy of the Catalog /Handbook and the Timetable of Classes may be obtained from the admissions office on the main campus or at any of our off-campus sites. You may also access the Catalog/Handbook on-line at the following web address: <http://www.ws.edu/catalog>**

**Students should attend the first day of class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class.**

**Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. The minimum penalty for cheating shall be the receiving of a "0" (zero) on the examination or assignment. Academic dishonesty may result in an "F" for the course.**

**Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services (CCEN), Room 262 (phone 423-585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.**

**Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located in the College Center (CCEN), Room 261. The phone number is 423-585-6920.**

**Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.**

**Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Admissions and Records Office will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.**

Cellular phone use during classroom interaction is prohibited. Cellular phones must be turned to the non-audible mode until after class, at which time calls can be received or checked. (See *the Walters State Catalog/Handbook*)

Text messaging in class is prohibited.

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather, please check the college's Web site at [www.ws.edu](http://www.ws.edu) or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; InfoConnect, (423) 581-1233, option 1045; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; or the Greeneville/Greene County Center for Higher Education, (423) 798-7940, option 4. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for weather-related announcements. For additional information on this policy see the college catalog.

In the event of a pandemic or other college declared critical event that impacts the college's ability to proceed with academic course activities as planned, the college reserves the right to alter this course plan. In the event of a pandemic or other event, please refer to the college's home web page, [www.ws.edu](http://www.ws.edu) or call InfoConnect, (423) 581-1233 for further information.

Regular class attendance is a student's obligation. (See *the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook*) If for some reason a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to see the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the semester grade. The college requires the instructor to keep accurate records and to report when students are not attending class.

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM CLASS IS March 25, 2011 .

## Qualitative Research Paper/Group Presentation/Project

### Outline:

1. Thesis Statement
  - a. What is the topic of your paper/presentation and what will you do?
2. Methodological Approach and Data Collection
  - a. Discussion of Qualitative research methods used
    - i. Participant Observation
    - ii. Ethnographic Fieldwork
    - iii. How was data collected and organized?
    - iv. What are strengths and weaknesses to this methodological approach?
3. The Organization/Institution of service
  - a. What is the historical/social setting from which the organization arose?
  - b. Organizational Goal and Outcomes
    - i. What are the social goals this organization is working to achieve?
    - ii. What mechanisms are used to achieve the socio/political/economic goals?
  - c. Organization Management
    - i. Structure of the Organization
      1. Grassroots
      2. Bureaucratic
4. The Role of the Volunteer, Citizenry in Democratic Social Change, and Non Government Organizations (NGO's).
  - a. What is the role of the volunteer and the citizenry in creating social change in a democratic society?
  - b. Does active participation foster a sense of inclusion or exclusion?
  - c. How do NGO's affect and maintain democratic traditions?
5. The Value of Social Capital in the Operation and Execution of Organization/Institutional Goal
  - a. What is Social Capital?
    - i. Bonding
    - ii. Bridging
  - b. How is social capital useful?
6. Conclusions & Reflections

Course Itinerary  
\*May Change at Instructor's Discretion

1-17-11 Martin Luther King Day

**Orientation, Foundations of the Sociological Approach and Site Visit to Head Start**

1-24-11 Class Orientation, Service Learning Paper Work, Overview of Service Learning & Qualitative Research Methods: Field Research, Ethnographic Fieldwork, Participant Observation, and Ethical Concerns.

Sociological Theories

Read: **(1) Being Volunteered? The Impact of Social Participation and Pro-Social Attitudes on Volunteering & (2) Producing and Consuming Trust**

1-31-11 Site Visit: Class will meet at Head Start located in Morristown.

**Democratic Foundations, Philosophies, Social Capital, & Liberty and Justice for ALL**

2-7-11 ...and liberty and justice for all...

... Analysis on the theories of justice, social justice, & Liberty...

**Read Hyperlinks on Democracy, Libertarianism, Communitarianism**

2-14-11 Johnson's "War on Poverty" & The Origins of Head Start  
Participatory Democracy and the Role of the Volunteer Citizen  
What is Citizenship?  
The Role of NGO's  
Progressivism vs. Conservatism: Is Constitution & Bill of Rights Static? Or Dynamic?

***Guest Speaker: Mr. Darrel McGhee, Associate Professor of History at Walters State Community College***

***Topic of Presentation: Johnson's War on Poverty***

2-21-11 All capital is social...

Capital, Human Capital, Physical Capital, & Social Capital  
Forms and types of Capital

**Read handouts on Social Capital: (1) Social Capital and Democracy: An Interdependent Relationship & (2) Trusting and Joining? An Empirical Test of the Reciprocal Nature of Social Capital**

2-28-11 Exam 1

**Application of Social Capital, Service Learning, and Citizenship to Select Social Issues (Social Problems: A Service Learning Approach)**

- 3-7-11 Spring Break, No Class
- 3-14-11 Educational Goals, Educational Issues, and Solutions to Education...
- Read Chapter 7: Why Can't Johnny Read: Education in Crisis**
- 3-21-11 Poverty & Economic Structure, Its effect, & Solutions to Poverty
- Read Chapter 2: Who Has, Who Doesn't? Looking for Answers to Poverty, Inequality, and Homelessness**
- 3-28-11 Employment and the Economic reality
- Read Chapter 3: On the Job: Work, Workers, and the Changing Nature of Labor**
- 4-4-11 Crime, Doing Time, & the Reduction of Crime/ Deviance and Diversity
- Read Chapter 8: What Price Justice? Deviance, Crime, and Building Community**
- 4-11-11 Exam 2
- 4-18-11 Review of rough draft group presentations/Reflection Journals Due/Service Hours Log Due/All other important forms due
- 4-25-11 Research Paper/Group Presentation/Discussion of Conclusion and Qualitative results and thoughts.