**Sociology**

 Syllabus

Mr. Derek Howard

Derek.Howard@raypec.org

(816) 892-1550 ext. 2179

Room 306 NHS

**Course Description**

Sociology is the study of human cultures and societies and the groups found within. This class is a very basic introduction to the study of sociology. The class places a heavy emphasis on viewing sub groups in society from a variety of perspectives, equality & human rights, preparing for social change (college, work force, marriage, etc.), community involvement, social problems, aging, and social movements throughout history.

**Unit Preview**

Unit 1 – Introduction to Sociology

 Chapter 1- Introduction, Chapter 2- Culture, Chapter 3- Social Structure, Chapter 4 Conformity & Adaptation, Group Research Project (conducting Behavioral Research)

 Unit 2 – The Individual & Society

 Chapter 5- Socialization, Chapter 6- Adolescence, Chapter 7- Adulthood, Chapter 11- Ageism, Chapter 16- Population Growth (Article Review Assignment)

 Unit 3 – Social Inequality

 Chapter 9- Social Stratification, Chapter 10- Race & Ethnicity, Chapter 11- Gender, Chapter 11 Health Care, (Book Review Assignment)

Unit 4 – Social Institutions

 Chapter 12- Family, Chapter 13- Economy & Politics, Chapter 14- Education, Chapter 14- Religion (Group Project - Social Problems)

**Course Goals & Essential Skills**

* Students will be able to distinguish between “common sense misconceptions” and data driven research when making generalizations about social sub groups.
* Students will be able to identify social problems, design viable solutions, and apply one small scale solution to a social problem.
* Students will be able to conduct behavioral research using the scientific method and identify inefficiencies in their research.
* Students will explore the structure of and identify qualities and weaknesses of the following institutions: Health Care, Education, Environmental Conservation, and Human/Civil Rights.
* Students will be able to apply concepts and ideas in sociology to real life circumstances.

**Course Assignments**

* Notebook – will be kept by students throughout the semester. Notebooks will contain bell-work, lecture notes, and in-class assignments. Notebooks will serve as an aid for completing take home tests and studying for the final exam. Bring this notebook to class daily. (2 notebook checks will account for about 10% of the semester grade)
* Tests – there will be 3 tests. If possible, tests will be typed essays. Tests will be take-home and students **must** submit a copy to turnitin.com in addition to providing Mr. Howard with a typed paper copy. (3 tests account for about 40% of semester grade)
* Article Reviews – will be assigned during the first and second grading period. Students will select & read an article related to sociology and make a short presentation to the class or type a 2 page reflection in accordance with the scoring guide. (1 article review accounts for about 10% of semester grade)
* Diversity Project-will be assigned at the beginning of the class, and will be due at the completion of the semester. Students will volunteer their time at a impoverished center, an ethnic center, or an alternative religious center (from their current philosophy) and will view the gathering/activity. Students will then summarize what they saw and give reflections on their experience. (This project will account for about 10% of the semester grade)
* A Group Project – will be assigned for the final grading period. Students will work with one or two partners to identify a social concern, collect research data, plan and complete a community service project, and present their project to the class. (This project will account for about 10% of the semester grade.)
* The Semester Final Exam – will be a comprehensive assessment. (The final accounts for 10% of semester grade)

**Academic Procedures**

* Materials – Students are responsible for coming to class prepared with their textbook, class folder, paper, writing utensil, and any assignments due that period. Students will not be given passes to retrieve assignments or materials.
* Absent work – The teacher maintains an absent binder for makeup work/missed class information. It is the absent student’s responsibility to check the absent book and complete assignments.It is the student’s responsibility to arrange with Mr. Howard an alternative due date if additional time is needed to complete assignments, otherwise the posted due date will stand for all students (absent or not). Arrangements must be made prior to the due date in question.
* Late work – Students typically receive at least one week to complete out-of-class assignments and are responsible for budgeting their time to complete work by the due date. Any late work will need to be turned in prior to the test. Students will not be accepted after the testing date. Take-home tests will be accepted late for one week. After that time tests will not be accepted for grading.
* Resubmission of work - Students may resubmit (for full credit) the article review or book review providing the paper was turned in on-time and the paper shows a satisfactory effort to follow the scoring guide. Resubmissions are due 1 week after grading.
* **Please see RPHS updated late work policy for a more thorough description of procedures.**

**Guidelines for Success**

This course in not difficult, but much of the content is abstract and significant. Portions of the work must be completed at home and some students will struggle with budgeting their time. Because of this, it is critical that all students do the following to be successful:

* Take notes over lectures and discussions
* Keep an accurate, complete, and up-to-date notebook
* Start early on assignments and plan ahead for the due date
* Turn in tests, reviews, and notebook checks on time, every time
* Contribute to class/group discussions and participate in class activities
* Plan to fully complete every assignment as it is a professional goal of this teacher to retrieve 100% of the assigned work.
* Have a positive attitude even if you don’t want to
* Do not make excuses for your actions, words, or thoughts. Take responsibility for them.

**Classroom Rules / School Policies**

1. RPHS rules it will be enforced. This includes rules on: electronic devices & cell phones, tardies, ID badges, and dress code.
2. Take responsibility for yourself and your actions.
3. Treat classmates, teachers, staff, and your school with respect. This includes respecting others; desire to learn, opinions, space, and property.
4. Students are not permitted to sleep or put their heads down. Students are expected to be engaged during the entire class.

**Daily Procedures**

* Food & Drink **–** Are allowed in this class unless these items disrupt learning or students leave messes behind.
* Passes **–** Use the restroom and deal with other issues during passing periods. Don’t ask for passes.
* Conclusion of Class **–** Take responsibility for cleaning up any messaround your desk and return desks to their original space.Students are not to put materials away at the end of class unless instructed to do so. Students will not line up at the door. Mr. Howard holds class from bell to bell.

*I have read and understand this syllabus. I will place this syllabus in my folder as page one for future reference.*

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*“A well educated adult is rarely found in our nation’s prisons”*

*Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development*