

**Hagerstown Community College**  
**OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS DOCUMENT**

**COURSE:** SOC 104

Sociology of Science and Technology

3 Credits

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Daniel Madron, Daniel Ryan, Alicia Myers

**SEMESTER/YEAR:** Fall/Spring 2015-16

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course applies the sociological perspective to the historical and potential future advancements in science and technology. The course content and exercises focus upon the social practices, norms, and values that reflect and shape American and international convictions about science and technology. The course examines areas of science and technology and explores social groups, social structures, processes and practices, as well as the cultural roles science and technology workers fulfill as they exist today and what is likely to change in the future. Course readings and a major research paper are required.

**TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS:**

Course materials will be available for download on Moodle.

**Total Hours of Coursework:**

To earn one academic credit at HCC, students are required to complete a minimum of 37.5 clock hours (45 fifty-minute “academic” hours) of coursework per semester. Those hours of coursework may be completed through a combination of hours within the classroom and hours outside the classroom. Certain courses may require more than the 37.5 minimum hours of coursework per credit.

For most classes, students should expect to do at least 2 hours of coursework outside of class for each hour of in-class coursework.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Understand and explain how scientific knowledge is produced in society, the societal consequences of scientific and technological change/advancements, and the theoretical and historical components of science as a societal institution.
2. Develop and apply analytical skills, sociological theories, and methodological/empirical-based evidence in the creation of a course project/paper that reflects the emerging impact and importance of various STEM fields and related occupations.
3. Engage and develop research projects using experiential learning, peer-reviewed journals, and theoretical and historical materials.

## **ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES:**

### **Research Paper:**

**Bibliography: 5 points**

**Annotated Bibliography: 10 points**

**First Draft: 15 points**

**Final Paper/Presentation: 25 points**

**Experiential Learning Journal: 5 points**

**Research Competency Assessments: 5 points each**

**Reading Comprehension and Reflection Quizzes: 5 points each**

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **Moodle/Email**

A Moodle website has been created to accompany this course. The course syllabus, assigned articles, PowerPoint slides, discussion boards, and general announcements will be posted on the website. Due to PowerPoint slides being modified to reference recent events, slides may not be posted until after they have been presented. Students will also be responsible for activating a HCC email account. Questions regarding a student's grade must be sent from the student's HCC email account.

### **Email Etiquette**

If you are emailing me, be sure to address me, tell me who you are and what section you are in, and the purpose of your email. Check the syllabus or moodle before emailing me.

### **Syllabus**

This syllabus will serve as a guideline for you to follow the course topics/readings, assignments and exam schedule. The instructor reserves the right to change any part the syllabus due to class pace, unexpected class cancellations, and other factors.

### **Classroom Behavior**

Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate in any discussions or activities relevant to the course topic for the day. Sleeping during class, wearing head phones, cell phone use, being tardy, talking out-of-turn, use of chewing tobacco and any general disruptive behavior will not be permitted. Violation of these rules will be directed toward the student's grade. If they become a serious problem, the student will be referred to administration for more severe discipline.

As sociologists, we abide by the principles that the American Sociological Association has set forth. While there are many, one of the most important that will be followed by all students and instructors is the following principle:

**“Sociologists respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all people. They strive to eliminate bias in their professional activities, and they do not tolerate any forms of discrimination based on age; gender; race; ethnicity; national origin; religion; sexual orientation; disability; health conditions; or marital, domestic, or parental status. They are sensitive to cultural, individual, and role differences in serving, teaching, and studying groups of people with distinctive characteristics. In all of their work-related activities, sociologists acknowledge the rights of others to hold values, attitudes, and opinions that differ from their own” (ASA 2013).**

### **Academic Dishonesty**

You are expected to adhere to HCC’s Academic Integrity Policy. This may be found in the College Guide. Plagiarism (claiming someone else’s work, writing or ideas as one’s own or not using proper citation) will not be tolerated and will result in serious penalties.

**Services for Students with Special Needs:** Students who have special needs are encouraged to identify themselves to the Coordinator of Disability Services as early as possible. Reasonable accommodations based on current documentation are provided to qualified students.