

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Taking Quizzes

The Reason

One of the largest struggles instructors face is figuring out how to get students in their classes to complete the reading prior to the day for which it is assigned. This quiz-taking process is intended to provide one mechanism through which you will be motivated to keep up with the reading in this course. If you do, not only will the course be more satisfying from my point of view but I also wouldn't be surprised to find that the class, as a whole, will have higher grades at the end of the semester – basically because more people will be prepared for each quiz and fewer will find themselves “cramming” for the exams.

As noted in the syllabus, one part of your grade (approximately 15%) will be based on the results of 8 unannounced quizzes. The process of taking these quizzes will be a bit different than what is normally done. I describe the process below.

The Process

Quizzes will occur at the beginning or end of a class period. They will consist of 3-5 open-ended questions that will be put on an overhead. You will need to answer the questions on one of your own sheets of paper.

Once you have finished writing your answer, please turn your paper over and remain seated without talking to others.

When nearly all individuals have completed the quiz, you will be asked to join with your designated “group” (determined during the first week of classes). You will have about 1 minute to discuss the answers to the quiz and make whatever additions, corrections, or deletions you wish to your own answers.

At the end of this “sharing of information,” one member of your group will be randomly selected to submit his or her paper.

This person's paper will determine the quiz grade for the entire group. If you are unprepared for the quiz, it is highly unlikely that you will be able to fill in the answers during the 1 minute of group time. Thus, if you are the one who is chosen to turn in your quiz, your lack of preparation will affect not only your grade but also the grades of your group's members. I encourage you to be prepared by doing the reading assigned for that day.

Missing Members

To not adversely affect your group, you must contact me in advance of any class period that you will be absent. If you are sick, be sure to email (rericks@uakron.edu) or call my office prior to 9:30am (330-972-5157). If you have a legitimate medical problem or emergency, we'll find a time for you to make up the quiz. Otherwise, you'll receive a 0 for that quiz.

If the randomly chosen member of your group is missing another member will be chosen. However, the missing person's score will be included in the group's average. If that score is a 0 (due to not having contacted me in advance or having a legitimate excuse) then that is what will be figured in to your total.

One “Substitution”

Each group will be allowed one “substitution” of quiz papers. That is, if the randomly chosen person thinks they have done really poorly then your group can decide to substitute another person's quiz for that of the selected student – you can choose whose quiz gets turned in. You can only do this one time during the semester so make your decision carefully.

Problems

If you are having difficulties with any member of your group (e.g., they are often absent on quiz days, are consistently unprepared and are thus are not helpful in group discussions, etc.), try to see what **you and your group** might do to help them out. If your efforts don't seem to work, be sure to let me know and I will see what I might do to help.