



Student Success Office

Tips for Success

Reference Guide for

Success in SOC 200

Advice for SOC 200 from professor Hoosier

- **Syllabus**

It is important to read the syllabus carefully as this does contain the rules of the class and is your guide to class. Always ask questions if you have them.

- **Time**

It is important to dedicate a certain amount of time to the class each week. Plan ahead and say you are going to spend one to two hours on the class on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Block off your week so that you can have this time built in.

- **Complete all work**

The number one reason that students do not do well in my class is that they do not complete all assignments. Most students do fine in the class if they complete all needed work. You need to pay attention to deadlines and seek help from the professor if you need it.

- **Reading**

Break readings down into chunks. Spend time on the chapter readings and read three to four pages, take a break, and write down the main ideas of those pages. Then start again. This works really well for the article readings for the class. While reading try to relate how the reading connects to lecture (ideas, concepts, theories, etc.).

- **Notes**

My exams come from the notes given during lectures (which are supported by the readings). You must take notes during class or listen to the online lectures. Then you need to do something with the notes. Just looking over them is not enough. Make flashcards, make a Quizlet, draw a picture about the notes, teach your mother the content, it is important that you do something active with the notes.

- **Study Groups**

Past students have really benefited from study groups. I am happy to help organize these if students want to form them.

- **Do Not Procrastinate**

Past students have told me that waiting to start the final paper (in which they have many weeks to complete) was a problem for them. I always tell students to start early and seek my help when needed. Waiting till the last minute to do the paper can be a problem in this class.

- **Communication**

It is important that you stay in contact with me throughout the semester. If you need help with the class or need to talk about an extension, you need to reach out to me so that I can help you. I can't help it if I don't know you are struggling. I am here to help!

Seeking Help

- Please come to me early and often if you need help. I love working with students and am here to help you. Please come by office hours, send me an email, or drop by Zoom hours so I know that you need help.
- Use the PVCC resources including the Writing Center and Academic Tutoring (information is on the syllabus). There are so many resources here to help you including things like mental health and food insecurity. Please reach out if you are struggling in any way.
- Believing in yourself. This material is new to you, and I do not expect you to be an expert. I do expect that you will work hard, come to class, and complete the needed work. I am here to help you learn the material and know you can be successful in my class.

From Dr. Samuel Richardson

1. Do the weekly reading(s) before watching the lectures
2. Watch the lectures all the way through and take notes
 1. Post any questions to the online forum for that week
3. Fully participate in the online discussions
4. Completely follow the instructions for all assignments, papers, and tests
5. Schedule time to meet with me virtually or in person if you have any questions – or even if you don't just so I can get to know you.