**Wayne State University**

**Department of Sociology**

**SOC 1010 – Understanding Human Society**

Note: This class was previously offered as SOC 2000. Please make sure that you have not already taken this course under the previous course number. Also, the honors section of this course is a different course with different requirements from the non-honors section. To switch sections, you need to drop the honors section and add the non-honors section.  Students **cannot** change sections after the regular drop/add deadline and will be graded based on the section that they are officially enrolled in.

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Randall Wyatt, Ph.D. Candidate (randall.wyatt@wayne.edu)

Office: 2252 Faculty Administration Building

Classroom: Education Building 0204

Class time: 10:00am – 11:15 pm Mondays and Wednesdays

Office hours: 1:00 pm – 2:45 pm Tuesdays or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the discipline of sociology and an analysis of basic sociological concepts and principles to give the student an understanding of the perspective that sociology brings to the study of human society

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to do the following upon completion of this course:

1. Describe the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality.
2. Describe how sociology differs from and is similar to other social sciences and give examples of these differences.
3. Describe how sociology contributes to a liberal arts understanding of social reality.
4. Apply the sociological imagination, sociological principles, and concepts to your real-world scenarios.
5. Develop an understanding of the basic elements of the scientific process.
6. Develop a “theoretical tool bag” that you can draw from to further understand the observations that you make in the social world.
7. Cultivate abstract and critical thinking skills.
8. Engage in intellectual discussions with your classmates.
9. Work on your reading, writing, and verbal skills.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Ritzer, George and Wendy Wiedenhoft Murphy. 2019. *Introduction to Sociology*, 5th edition. Sage Publications Inc.: Thousand Oaks, CA.

ISBN: 978-1544355184

Various additional readings will be provided via Canvas by the instructor in PDF form.

COURSE FORMAT

The textbook used for this course provides general information on the concepts that will be expounded upon during classroom lectures. Any other articles or readings that I will provide, however, are more specific (tailored to address a topic of interest). Both are meant to generate healthy discussion and serious thinking regarding issues related to the discipline of sociology. It is imperative that students get through their weekly readings and take well crafted, organized notes in order to be successful in this course.

This class embraces a style of participatory pedagogy. This means that the exchange of knowledge is fluid in the classroom and derives from various sources. Moreover, in this format, at times the instructor and students switch places. To provide such a format, we utilize a loose but engaged lecture structure and typically provide a class meeting to discuss the ideas we cover in lecture more in-depth. Mondays will typically be reserved for lecture while Wednesdays are usually reserved for more discussion.

I encourage students to be active participants during class meetings to get the most out of this experience. This means responding to questions proposed by the instructor with well-thought out, not vague yes or no answers, responses and inquiries that add value to the class discussion. Each week’s readings should be read prior to the class period that they are scheduled to be covered. Below are some tips for good note-taking while reading

* Organize notes: This act will keep you from mixing up ideas from the textbook with those of the articles and other books.
* Try to articulate the main point: What is the central idea that the text is attempting to convey?
* Try to draw links between texts: How does this reading relate to previous readings or lecture concepts that we have encountered?
* Keep a dictionary handy while reading: You cannot truly understand a reading if you do not know what all the words mean. This may lead to erroneous interpretations.
* Critically engage the literature: What do you think the author(s) missed in their analyses? Are there alternative perspectives available for engaging this phenomenon and how might the analyses be different if those perspectives were considered?

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Final grades in this course will be determined through assessment of your attendance and in-class participation, 10 online quizzes, and two exams. More detailed information on these assignments follow.

**Attendance and in-class participation:** Attendance and participation will be assessed via in-class assignments and classroom engagement. Classroom engagement means providing thoughtful feedback during class lectures and discussions. Classroom engagement is not simply responding to inquiries during lecture with vague yes or no answers. Attendance and participation will be worth a total of 100 points. You **must** be in class to receive these points.

**Quizzes:** There will be a total of ten short quizzes this semester. Quizzes will cover chapters in the textbook and will consist of multiple choice and true or false questions. It is imperative that you stay caught up on your readings to do well on these assignments. Each quiz is worth 10 points for a total of 100 points.

**Exams:** This semester will feature two exams to measure students’ understanding of basic sociological concepts and perspectives regarding the discipline of sociology. The first will be administered mid-term, while the second will be administered during the final week of the semester. Similar to the quiz assignments, these exams will consist of multiple choice and true or false questions but will also include short answer questions. The breadth of the exams will be much greater than the quizzes. Each exam will be 100 points, for a total of 200 points.

**Grade Chart:**

Assignment/Evaluation Possible Points Your points

Attendance and Participation 100

Quizzes 100

Exam 1 100

Exam 2 100

TOTAL 400

**Grades: A** (93% - 100%) **A-** (90 – 92.9%) **B+** (86 – 89.9%) **B** (83 – 85.9%) **B-** (80 – 82.9%) **C+** (76 – 79.9%) **C** (73 – 75.9%) **C-** (70 – 72.9%) **D+** (66 – 69%) **D** (63 – 65.9%) **D-** (60 – 62.9%) **F** (<60%)

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

**Attendance:** Attendance is required. It will be exceptionally difficult to succeed in this course without attending. Attendance and participation grades will be assessed through in class activities and/or short quizzes administered at random. Students who miss class meetings where in-class assignments are completed **cannot** make-up these assignments. Students who consistently arrive late to class (more than 15 minutes) or are otherwise unengaged will not be eligible for full participation points. The total of 100 points will be divided by the number of class sessions, excluding the first day of class, and exam days. Three or more unexcused absences will automatically result in a drop of one letter grade from your final grade.

**Quality is key.** If you are not already of the persuasion that you would not want to put your name on half-baked & last-minute “efforts,” may you come around soon to that way of thinking. Take pride in your work; do it well enough to claim it as your own.

**Reading.** Students are required to read all course materials by the time class begins and notify the instructor if they have difficulty completing required reading. Please ask questions if you are confused by the course text.

**Office Hours.** Office hours are designed for me to answer specific questions or assist with specific aspects of an assignment. Please come to office hours with questions ready. If you think you will need more that 20 minutes of time, please schedule an appointment. Remember that office hours are purely for support or assistance with grasping concepts for which the student is having difficulty. They are meant to supplement classrooms lectures, not to replace or restate entire lectures.

**Final Grades.** Final grades submitted by the instructor are **final.** If you believe that there has been a clerical error or other mistake you may inquire for an accounting of your grade. However, grades are based solely on your scores on course assignments and **will not be arbitrarily adjusted** at the end of the term. Students who aspire for a specific grade should ask me early in the semester about whether they are on track and work proactively to achieve their desired goals.

**Academic Honesty.** Students are expected to display academic integrity in all of their work for this course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. Any student suspected of dishonesty in their work will receive a zero for the assignment in question and referred to the department chair for further disciplinary action. If you have any questions about academic honesty, please contact me.

**Honor Code:** Students are bound by the Wayne State University honor code that states: “Students should exemplify honesty, honor and a respect for the truth in all of their activities. Students should build and enhance their communities. Students should show positive regard for others, for property and for the community. Students should be given and accept a high level of responsibility to self, to others and to the community.”

**Registration:** Students may drop this class through January 17, 2020.  Classes that are dropped do not appear on the transcript and students receive 100 percent tuition reimbursement. Beginning the fifth week of class students are no longer allowed to drop but may withdraw from classes. It is the student’s responsibility to request the withdrawal through the registrar’s office. Failure to do so will result in a grade of F. Students must be passing at the time of the request to get a ‘WP.’ After March 22nd, you cannot withdraw from the course and you will receive a letter grade. Incomplete ‘I’ grades are given in very limited circumstances to students who are passing the course and cannot complete final assignments due to **extraordinary** circumstances.

**Disability:** If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. SDS’s office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department, room 103A. Their telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TTY only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. SDS’s mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

**Technology:** You can use a laptop but please be professional and aware of whether you are distracting anyone around you (or across from you!). You will be asked to leave if you are surfing the web, sending email, watching Netflix, etc. It should go without saying that you are not allowed to use your cell-phone while class is in session and will be asked to leave class for the rest of the night if you do. Besides, a break from your phone is healthy!

**Class Recordings:** Students need prior written permission from the instructor before recording any portion of this class. If permission is granted, the audio and/or video recording is to be used only for the student’s personal instructional use. Such recordings are not intended for a wider public audience, such as postings to the Internet or sharing with others. Students registered with SDS who wish to record class materials must present their specific accommodation to the instructor, who will subsequently comply with the request unless there is some specific reason why s/he cannot, such as discussion of confidential or protected information.

**Final note:** As a final aside, this course will cover sensitive material that may be unsettling to some. This material may pertain to race, class, gender, sexuality, religion, and a multitude of other topics that may make individuals uncomfortable. That said, there are bound to be disagreements. Some contentions that you have long held may be challenged. Disagreements do not have to equate to disrespect. I ask that everyone respect the opinions and perspectives of each other and the instructor. Refrain from relying on personal anecdotes during class discussions and try to **stay wedded to the text**. These acts may help to prevent sensitive discussions from becoming personal and emotional. We all must check our privilege at the door!

**COURSE SCHEDULE- subject to change**

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**Week 1**

Monday 01/06: Classroom greetings

Wednesday 01/08: Chapter 1

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**Week 2**

Monday 01/13: Chapter 2; Cooley “Looking Glass Self”

Wednesday 01/15: Discussion

Quiz 1 due by Friday



**Week 3**

Monday 01/20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day; No class

Wednesday 01/22: Chapter 4

**Week 4**

Monday 01/27: Chapter 5; Andersen “Decent and Street Families”

Wednesday 01/29: Discussion

Quiz 2 due by Friday

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**Week 5**

Monday 02/03: Chapter 6

Wednesday 02/05: Discussion

**Week 6**

Monday 02/10: Chapter 7; Beck “Outsiders”

Wednesday 02/12: Discussion

Quiz 3 due by Friday

**Week 7**

Monday 02/17: Chapter 8

Wednesday 02/19: Discussion and Classroom Assignment

Quiz 4 due by Friday

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**Week 8**

Monday 02/24: Discussion of sociological concepts for midterm preparation

Wednesday 02/26: Midterm

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**Week 9**

Monday 03/02: Chapter 9

Wednesday 03/04: Discussion and classroom assignment

Quiz 5 due by Friday

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**Week 10**

Spring Break 03/09 – 03/14

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**Week 11**

Monday 03/16: Chapter 10; Dubios “Of Our Spiritual Strivings”

Wednesday 03/18: Discussion and classroom assignment

Quiz 6 due by Friday

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**Week 12**

Monday 03/23: Chapter 11; “Pathologizing Homosexuality”

Wednesday 03/25: Discussion and classroom assignment

Quiz 7 due by Friday

**Week 13**

Monday 03/30: Chapter 12

Wednesday 04/01: Student discussion of family dynamics

Quiz 8 due by Friday

**Week 14**

Monday 04/06: Chapter 13

Wednesday 04/08: Discussion and classroom discussion

Quiz 9 due by Friday

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**Week 15**

Monday 04/13: Chapter 18

Thursday 04/15: Discussion of the use of sociology to combat the world’s issues

Quiz 10 due by Friday

**Week 16**

Monday 04/20: Study day (no class)

Wednesday 04/22: Final Exam