

**Understanding Human Society**

SOC 1010 - 003

Fall 2018

**Instructor**: Abberley Sorg **Class Location**: Old Main #1107

**Email**: abberley.sorg@wayne.edu **Class Day/Time**: MW 2:30 - 3:45pm

**Office Hours:** Thursdays, 2:30 - 4:00pm, or by appointment, in FAB 2262.

**Course Overview**

This course is designed to introduce you to the discipline of Sociology, the study of human society and social behavior. Sociology provides us with a unique means of understanding the ways in which human society is structured and how different individuals and groups experience the world. The primary goal of this course is to help you to develop a “sociological imagination,” or an ability to see the impact of social forces on groups and individuals through the lens of sociological theory and methodology. Over the course of the semester, we will learn about and discuss how sociology approaches issues like socialization, social inequality, race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, the structure of the family, and globalization.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

By the conclusion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of society and our roles within it.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how sociology differs from and is similar to other social sciences.
3. Describe how sociology contributes to a liberal arts understanding of social reality.
4. Understand major sociological perspectives and analyze social interactions, structures and inequalities by applying these perspectives to “the real world.”
5. Apply your own sociological imagination to understanding our society and your role within it.
6. Cultivate abstract and critical thinking skills.
7. Engage in intellectual discussions with your classmates.

**Course Materials**

Textbook: *Introduction to Sociology 2e.*

This course utilizes an open source textbook, published by OpenStax, which is available to students at no cost. OpenStax, a non-profit organization owned and managed by educators, develops peer-reviewed textbooks and other educational materials. This textbook is the collaborative work of numerous sociology professors, editors, and reviewers, who believe accurate, up-to-date and engaging textbooks should be accessible to all students.

*The book is available at the following link:* [*www.openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-2e*](http://www.openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-2e) *.*

Additional course materials will be available on canvas.

**Quizzes and Exams**

Over the course of the semester, there will be five multiple choice quizzes, which will be administered before class on the days on which they are scheduled (see Course Calendar below). Each quiz is worth 5% of your total grade.

There will be three multiple choice exams over the course of the semester. The first exam will cover chapters 1 - 5 and 7, while Exam #2, will cover chapters 9 - 12 and 14 - 16. The final exam is cumulative, meaning that it will cover chapters 17 - 21 as well as the material covered in Exam #1 and Exam #2. The final exam is worth 25% of your total grade.

**Assignments and Exams**

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| --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Percentage of Total Grade** |
| Exam #1 | 25% |
| Exam #2 | 25% |
| Exam #3 | 25% |
| Quizzes (5 total) | 25% (5% each) |
| Total | 100% |

**Attendance and Missed Work**

While there is no formal attendance policy in this class, regular attendance is expected. You are expected to attend class regularly, to arrive to class on time with the assigned readings completed, and to stay until the session is completed. Your failure to do so may result in you missing critical information for the quizzes and exams, which will have a negative impact on your grade.

That said, lease do not come to class if you are contagious. *You* might consider yourself capable of toughing it out with a fever of 102 degrees, but bear in mind that some of the other students or their loved ones may have health problems that make coming into contact with your germs a major risk.

If you cannot avoid missing class on a quiz or exam, it is your responsibility to get into contact with me via *before* class begins so we schedule a time for you to make up the work.

**Course Expectations**

In addition to academic tasks, you are expected to conduct yourself respectfully and responsibly while you are in this class. This means showing others the same respect that you would wish to receive if you were in their shoes. Show other students the consideration of listening while they speak, and do not interrupt or seek to speak over them. We will be discussing difficult topics in this class, and you are entitled to your own opinions on these issues but not to your own facts; the point of these discussions is to explore social issues from sociological point of view. The use of insults, demeaning language or slurs will *not* be tolerated.

You should check the gradebook on canvas frequently to assure that your grades have been posted accurately. Additionally, check your email before class to find if the university has been closed due to weather or other emergencies. I reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus; if I do so, you will be informed of these changes in class or via an email.   
 If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the course, please feel free to communicate them to me in person or via email. I will always seek to reply to your emails within 48 hours; if you don’t hear back from me by then, assume the email server ate your message and please send it again.

**Grade Scale**

Your final grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

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| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percentage** |
| A | 93 - 100 |
| A- | 90 - 92 |
| B+ | 87 - 89 |
| B | 83 - 86 |
| B- | 80 - 82 |
| C+ | 77 - 79 |
| C | 73 - 76 |
| C- | 70 - 72 |
| D+ | 67 - 69 |
| D | 63 - 66 |
| D- | 60 - 62 |
| F | 59 or lower |

**Disability Accommodations**

Wayne State University is working to build a community that is inclusive and welcoming to all people, including those with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TDD 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. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from me without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Student Disability Services’ 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. Please refer to the SDS website for further information about students with disabilities and the services we provide for faculty and students: <http://studentdisability.wayne.edu/> . Once you have documentation from SDS, contact me during office hours or via email and to put your accommodations into place.

**Religious Holidays**

“It is University policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students with classes or examinations that conflict with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that mutually agreeable alternatives may be worked out.” If this is a concern for you, please get into contact with me and we will set up an alternate date for you to complete your assignment.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Please review the student Code of Conduct, which is can be found here: <http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct-services.html> . You are expected to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct. Cheating or other forms of unethical academic behavior will have an extremely negative impact on your final grade, as it will result in a zero on the assignment in question; a second violation will earn you an F in the course. Furthermore, I am required to report all instances of suspected academic dishonesty to university administrators, and repeated incidents of academic dishonesty may result in your expulsion from Wayne State University.   
  
**Course Schedule**

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings (due on day noted)** |
| **08/29** | First day of class.  Syllabus and Introductions | N/A |
| **09/03** | No class - Labor Day | N/A |
| **09/05** | *The History of Sociology and Theoretical Perspectives* | Chapter One, pages 1 - 29.  Excerpt from *The Sociological Imagination*,  By C. Wright Mills (“The Promise”) |
| **09/10** | *Sociological Research* | Chapter Two, pages 30 - 50.  “‘You’ve Got Bad Blood’: The Horror of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment,” by DeNeen L. Brown. |
| **09/12** | **Quiz #1**  *Culture* | Chapter Three, pages 51 - 74.  “As American as Apple Pie?” by Lourdes Fritts |
| **09/17** | *Society and Social Interactions* | Chapter Four, pages 75 - 92.  "Anybody’s Son Will Do,” by Gwynne Dyer. |
| **09/19** | *Socialization* | Chapter Five, pages 93 - 114.  "Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation," by Kingsley David. |
| **09/24** | *Deviance, Crime and Social Control* | Chapter Seven, pages 135 - 154.  Excerpt from “The New Jim Crow,” by Michelle Alexander. |
| **09/26** | Review for Exam #1 | N/A |
| **10/01** | **Exam #1** | N/A |
| **10/03** | *Social Stratification in the United States* | Chapter Nine, pages 183 - 204.  Fischer, Claude S., et al. "Inequality by Design," by Claude Fischer. |
| **10/08** | *Global Inequality* | Chapter Ten, pages 205 - 224.  Excerpt from “The Shock Doctrine,” by Naomi Klein. |
| **10/10** | **Quiz #2**  *Race and Ethnicity* | Chapter Eleven, pages 225 - 250. |
| **10/15** | *Race and Ethnicity (continued)* | “The Racial Wealth Gap: How African-Americans have been shortchanged out of the materials to build wealth,” by Janelle Jones.  "Do Race and Ethnicity Matter Among Friends?" by Grace Kao and Kara Joyner. |
| **10/17** | *Gender and Sexuality* | Chapter Twelve, pages 251 - 272.  Excerpt from “The Invention of Heterosexuality,” by Jonathan Ned Katz.  “Teaching Transgender,” by Tre Wentling et al |
| **10/22** | *Marriage and Family* | Chapter Fourteen, pages 302 - 332.  “There Is No Longer Any Such Thing as a Typical Family” by Belinda Luscombe. |
| **10/24** | **Quiz #3**  *Religion* | Chapter Fifteen, pages 333 - 352.  “When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?” from the Pew Research Center |
| **10/29** | *Education* | Chapter Sixteen, pages 353 - 375.  Excerpt from “Savage Inequalities,”  by Jonathan Kozol |
| **10/31** | Review for Exam #2 | N/A |
| **11/05** | **Exam #2** | N/A |
| **11/07** | *Government and Politics* | Chapter Seventeen, pages 376 - 394.  Additional reading to be announced. |
| **11/12** | *Work and the Economy* | Chapter Eighteen, pages 395 - 422.  "The Glass Escalator,” by Christine Williams.  “Families Facing Untenable Choices," by Lisa Dodson and Wendy Luttrell |
| **11/14** | **Quiz #4**  *Health and Medicine* | Chapter Nineteen, pages 423 - 448. |
| **11/19** | *Health and Medicine (continued)* | “Laziness Does Not Exist,” by E. Price  "Today I Had an Eye Appointment, and I'm Still Blind": Crip Humor, Storytelling, and Narrative Positioning of the Disabled Self,” by Teresa Milbrodt. |
| **11/21** | No Class | N/A |
| **11/26** | *Population, Urbanization, and the Environment* | Chapter Twenty, pages 449 - 474.  “Lead-Laced Water In Flint: A Step-By-Step Look At The Makings Of A Crisis,” by Merit Kennedy. |
| **11/28** | **Quiz #5**  *Social Movements and Social Change* | Chapter Twenty-One, pages 475 - 497. |
| **12/03** | *Social Movements and Social Change (continued)* | “Why are Unions in the U.S. so Weak?” by Robert Gebelhoff  “A Year Inside the Black Lives Matter Movement.”  “History of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Social Movements” by  Bonnie J. Morris |
| **12/05** | Make-up Day/Wiggle Room | TBA |
| **12/10** | Exam #3 Review | N/A |
| **12/12** | **FINAL EXAM DAY**  **Exam #3 2:45 - 4:45** | N/A - Have a great winter break! |