Understanding Human Society

SOC 1010 Fall 2018

*You are responsible for the information in this syllabus.*

*Read it carefully & ask questions if necessary.*

**Class Schedule**

Tuesdays and Thursdays

2:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

2025 Science Hall

**Instructor**

Erin Baker, M.A.

[erinbaker@wayne.edu](mailto:erinbaker@wayne.edu) (best way to get ahold of me)

2264Faculty / Administration Building (FAB)

Office hours by appointment

Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and by appointment

**Course Description & Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to introduce you to the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality. Sociology provides a unique way of looking at our world and how and why people experience it differently. The primary goal of this course is to help you develop a sociological perspective, also called the “sociological imagination,” which will help you see the impacts of *social* forces on *individual* lives – including your own. Throughout the semester, we will read about and discuss sociological theory and research methods, culture, socialization, social control, and social inequality. In addition to expanding your knowledge of these important topics, this course also will provide opportunities for you to cultivate reading comprehension skills, critical thinking skills, and verbal communication skills.

At the conclusion of the course, you will be able to:

1. *Describe how sociology differs from and is similar to other social sciences and to give examples of these differences.*
2. *Describe how sociology contributes to a liberal arts understanding of social reality.*
3. *Apply the sociological imagination, sociological principles, and concepts to your own life.*

***Required* Course Materials**

Textbook: You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking like a Sociologist (core 4th or 5th edition), by Dalton Conley. ISBN-13: 978-0393614282 ISBN-10: 039361428X.

Purchase the textbook PRIOR to the start of class. Yes, we will be using it and you will be expected to have read the first chapter before the first day.

Additional readings will be made available on Canvas.

**Course Requirements & Expectations**

Attendance and Participation 15%

Quizzes (8) 20%

Exam I 20%

Exam II 20%

Exam III 25%

Total 100%

*Attendance and Participation - 15%*

This is a discussion-based class, therefore, attendance is mandatory. If you miss class for any reason, you will forfeit participation points for that day. In addition, *you are responsible* for the following: submitting homework assignments on time; obtaining class notes from a classmate; continuing with the reading; and scheduling a meeting with me if you have specific questions about the materials you missed. I will take attendance most days.

Please do not email me asking if you will miss anything important in class, if you are missing class; you can assume that you’re missing something important.

*I also expect you to:*

* Be respectful of class time. Be in your seat and ready to go at 11:30 am. Pack up when I say we are finished for the day*, not before then*.

* Come to class prepared and ready to learn. Complete the assigned readings before class and bring copies of the assigned readings (paper or electronic) with you to class.
* Spend the class period focused on this class only. Ask questions. Raise your hand to participate in class discussions. Engage in civil dialogue with me (the instructor) and your classmates.
* Engage in respectful discussion. In this class, we will be discussing sensitive topics, possibly ones that you’ve never discussed before. Some of these discussions may challenge your beliefs and opinions. It is expected that you will respectfully present your arguments and that you will treat the arguments of your classmates respectfully as well. Disrespectful behavior towards any group or individual will not be tolerated. Any student who does not abide by this policy may be asked to leave class, and further violations will be dealt with in accordance with WSU policies.

*Quizzes – 20%*

You must complete the 8 Chapter Quizzes on Canvas underneath the corresponding chapter module. These assignments are *open book* and *you may take them as many times as you’d like before the due date.* The quizzes are designed to familiarize you with course materials *before* we discuss the materials in class (i.e., the “flipped” classroom). You must complete each Chapter Quiz by 11:00 am on the day it is due.Due dates are in **boldface** type on the course schedule. NOTE that due dates may change if the course schedule is adjusted. ***No late assignments will be accepted*.**  (In fact, the quizzes mysteriously disappear after the deadline. It’s weird.)

Seriously, these are like freebies, make sure you don’t miss them. I will not reopen them after they close, so please don’t ask. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

*Exams I & II – 20% each (40% total)*

Two online exams will be given in this course. Exam I covers Chapters 1, 2, and 3 and is worth 20% of the course grade. Exam II covers Chapters 4, 6, and 7 and is worth 20% of the course grade.

*Exam III – 25%*

The final exam is cumulative (chapters 1 – 9).

All of the course exams are in multiple-choice format. *Make-up exams will be given only when there are compelling circumstances.* Such circumstances must be discussed and elaborated upon *as soon as they arise.*

Please note that a lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part. Sometimes technology fails. Wayne State University has an amazing tech support department that is waiting to help you. They close at 8:00 p.m. Please begin your exam well before the time it is due to allow for technical difficulties and time to speak with tech support. ***Unless you have a support ticket that shows that you contacted support in enough time to complete the exam, extensions will not be given.*** Tech support can be reached here - https://tech.wayne.edu/helpdesk

**Grades**

You will be graded according to the following scale:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 and below |

Final grades are FINAL. No points will be added to any student’s grade at the end of the semester. Do not ask me to make an exception on your behalf.

**Student Responsibilities**

* Treat all members of the class and the broader community with *respect***.** Listen attentively when others are speaking and use *inclusive language*when it is your turn to speak. We will discuss sensitive topics in this course. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these discussions, but personal opinions must be presented in a way that does not marginalize any person or group.
* I (the instructor) reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus. As such, you (the student) are responsible for keeping up with any changes that are announced in class, on Canvas, or in email communications. Not attending class, not checking Canvas, and/or not checking your WSU email account are not legitimate excuses for missing assignments and other information relevant to this course.
* It is YOUR responsibility to check Canvas regularly to ensure that grades are posted accurately (including attendance/participation and quiz grades).
* Check Canvas when class is canceled due to weather, power outage, etc.
* You are *strongly encouraged* to communicate with me in person or by email if you have any comments, questions, or concerns about the course. Please *schedule an appointment* when you wish to meet with me during office hours or at another designated time.
* *Emails* must have a clear and informative subject line that includes your full name and the name of the coursein which you are enrolled. Also, please understand that I do not sit at my computer awaiting your emails. Allow for some response time, I will get back to you as soon as I am able. If you’ve read this far, please send an image of a unicorn to my email.
* *Academic dishonesty*: “Academic misconduct is any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or undermine the education process. Examples of academic misconduct include:
  + Plagiarism: To take and use another's words or ideas as your own without appropriate referencing or citation.
  + Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use or intentionally providing unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise. This includes copying from another student's test paper, allowing another student to copy from your test, using unauthorized material during an exam and submitting a term paper for a current class that has been submitted in a past class without appropriate permission.
  + Fabrication: Intentional or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation, such as knowingly attributing citations to the wrong source or listing a fake reference in the paper or bibliography.
  + Other: Selling, buying or stealing all or part of a test or term paper, unauthorized use of resources, enlisting in the assistance of a substitute when taking exams, destroying another's work, threatening or exploiting students or instructors, or any other violation of course rules as contained in the course syllabus or other written information. Such activity may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from Wayne State University. https://doso.wayne.edu/conduct/academic-misconduct”

***My policy on academic dishonesty:***Suspected academic dishonesty will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Students suspected of academic dishonesty may receive a score of 0 on the assignment or a score of 0 in the course, depending on the magnitude of the offense. Moreover, *I am obligated to report all instances of suspected academic dishonesty to university administrators.*

* *Religious holidays:* “Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations of the University student body and staff, the Academic Calendar makes no provisions for religious holidays. However, 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.
* *Accommodative services:* "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. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 for videophone use. 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. 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. You can learn more about the disability office at www.studentdisability.wayne.edu To register with Student Disability Services, complete the online registration form at: <https://wayne-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/>”
* *Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):* “It is quite common for college students to experience mental health challenges, such as stress, anxiety and depression, that interfere with academic performance and negatively impact daily life. Help is available for any currently enrolled WSU student who is struggling with a mental health difficulty, at WSU Counseling and Psychological Services (caps.wayne.edu; 313 577-3398). Other options, for students and nonstudents, include the Counseling and Testing Center, and the Counseling Psychology Training Clinic, in the WSU College of Education (coe.wayne.edu/tbf/counseling/center-index.php). Services at all three clinics are free and confidential. Remember that getting help, before stress reaches a crisis point, is a smart and courageous thing to do – for yourself, and for those you care about. Also, know that the WSU Police Department (313 577-2222) has personnel trained to respond sensitively to mental health emergencies at all hours.”
* *Course Drops and Withdrawals*: “In the first two weeks of the (full) term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. After the end of the second week there is no tuition or fee cancellation. Students who wish to withdraw from the class can initiate a withdrawal request on Academica. You will receive a transcript notation of WP (passing), WF (failing), or WN (no graded work) at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the tenth week. Students enrolled in the 10th week and beyond will receive a grade. Because withdrawing from courses may have negative academic and financial consequences, students considering course withdrawal should make sure they fully understand all the consequences before taking this step. More information on this can be found at: <https://reg.wayne.edu/students/information#dropping>”
* Student Services:
  + The Academic Success Center (1600 Undergraduate Library) assists students with content in select courses and in strengthening study skills. Visit www.success.wayne.edu for schedules and information on study skills workshops, tutoring and supplemental instruction (primarily in 1000 and 2000 level courses).
  + The Writing Research and Technology Zone is located on the 2nd floor of the Undergraduate Library and provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge. Visit http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing to obtain information on tutors, appointments, and the type of help they can provide.
  + Library research assistance: Working on a research assignment, paper or project? Trying to figure out how to collect, organize and cite your sources? Wayne State librarians provide on campus or online personalized help. Contact them at: <https://library.wayne.edu/forms/consultation_request.php>
* 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 Student Disabilities Services (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.”

**Instructor Responsibilities**

* I will come to class prepared to discuss the materials and to facilitate the educational process.
* I will be available to answer questions you have about course materials during class times, office hours, or independently scheduled meetings. *If you send an email and do not receive a response within 48 hours, you should assume that your email was not received and resend it.*
* I will explain class assignments and outline my expectations for graded work.
* I will grade your work consistently, fairly, and in a timely fashion.
* I will treat all students with respect.
* I will acknowledge and correct my mistakes.

**Course Schedule**

Date Topic DUE on day noted

08/30 Welcome! Introductions Read the syllabus

**09/04 ~ Sociological Imagination**  Ch 1, pp. 3-39 (Conley); **Ch 1 QUIZ**

\*Should We Generalize about People?

09/06 Sociological Theory \*Three Sociological Perspectives

**09/11 ~Research Methods** Ch 2, pp. 43-71 (Conley**); Ch 2 QUIZ**

09/13 Research Methods \*The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment

**09/18 ~Culture & Media** Ch 3, pp. 75-113 (Conley); **Ch 3 QUIZ**

09/20 Culture & Media \*Lovely Hula Hands

9/25 Culture & Media *… continued*

9/27 wiggle room | Exam I Review

10/02 **Exam I –** *no class*

10/4 Discussion: Exam I, Assessment & Reflection

**10/9 ~Socialization** Ch 4, pp.117-149 (Conley); **Ch 4 QUIZ** \*The Egg and the Sperm

**10/11 ~Social Control & Deviance**  Ch 6, pp.187-233 (Conley); **Ch 6 QUIZ**

10/16 Social Control & Deviance \*New Jim Crow

\*The Mark of a Criminal Record

**10/18 ~Stratification** Ch 7, pp.237-273 (Conley); **Ch 7 QUIZ**

\*Savage Inequalities

\*Families Facing Untenable Choices

10/22 Stratification & Poverty Ch 10, pp. 371-403 (Conley)

\*One Family’s Story

10/25 wiggle room | Exam II Review

10/29 **Exam II** *– no class*

**11/1 -** Discussion: Exam II, Assessment & Reflection

11/6 – No class (election day)

11/8 **~ Sex, Gender, & Sexuality** Ch 8, pp.277-319 (Conley); **Ch 8 QUIZ**

11/13 Sex, Gender, & Sexuality \*R. Kelly’s Transchild

\*How Boys Teach Each Other …

\*The Case for Raising Feminist Boys

**11/15 ~Race & Ethnicity** Ch 9, pp.323-369 (Conley); **Ch 9 QUIZ**

11/20 Race & Ethnicity \*Defining Racism: Can We Talk?

\*The Average Black Family & Wealth

11/22 No class (holiday)

11/27 Race …continued

11/29 Social Change | Resisting Oppression \*Visions of a Better Future: Creating a

More Just World

12/4 wiggle room | Final Exam Review

12/6 No class

12/12 scheduled **FINAL EXAM** (Wednesday) - no class