

**Understanding Human Society (SOC 1010-008)**  
**Thursdays 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM**  
**Location: SCI 2025**  
**Fall 2018**

**Instructor:** Allison Jendry James

**Phone:** 313-577-2930 (Sociology main office)

**Email:** [ez3440@wayne.edu](mailto:ez3440@wayne.edu) (best way to reach me)

**Office:** 2264 Faculty/Administration Building (FAB)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM and by appointment

**Required Textbook:**

*You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist* (5<sup>th</sup> edition) by Dalton Conley ISBN: 978-0393614275

**Course Description:** Sociology literally means “the study of the social.” Since almost everything we do, from interacting in a classroom to collectively waging war on each other is social, sociology is more precisely defined as “the systematic and/or scientific study of human social interactions.” This course is designed to introduce you to the language, major theoretical models, methodology and concepts in the discipline of Sociology. Throughout the course, you will be applying the principles of Sociology to the social interactions that are happening all around you. This will enable you to see how your life and the lives of others are greatly influenced by the common social structure and historical period in which we are all living.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Specifically, in this course you will have the opportunity to:

- 1) Develop an understanding of and apply the sociological perspective to the world in which you live.
- 2) Develop an understanding of the basic elements of the scientific process.
- 3) Develop a “theoretical tool bag” that you can draw from to further understand the observations that you make in the social world.
- 4) Learn about yourself by applying course content to your everyday experiences in the social world.
- 5) Cultivate abstract and critical thinking skills.
- 6) Work on your reading, writing, and verbal skills
- 7) Have fun while learning in a judgement free classroom!

**Communication:**

**Email:** You are encouraged to email me at any time with questions, problems, complaints, suggestions or just general conversation. I will respond as soon as possible. Please put your course number in the subject line (i.e. SOC 1010-008) and use correct English & grammar. If you are absent and you wish to let me know, please email. I prefer that questions outside of class be emailed to me. This is the quickest way to reach me. NOTE: I will not answer questions that can be found in your syllabus.

**Telephone:** If I am not available when you call, please feel free to leave me a message. Leave your name, a brief message and a phone number where I can reach you. If you have a question, please ask it so I can have an answer when I return your call. I will not return phone calls that say, "I was absent yesterday, what did we do??" Please check your syllabus or a fellow classmate for that information. Otherwise, I will return your call as soon as possible

**Course Policies:**

**Canvas/Email:** Canvas and your WSU email will be used extensively in this course. **Please check your WSU email every day for important information regarding class.** Canvas will also be used in this course. I will post any handouts on Canvas so that you may have an electronic copy in addition to a hard copy. Exams will be taken on Canvas (see course requirements for more information). **Please let me know ASAP if you need assistance in navigating Canvas.**

**Late Work Policy:** Late work is not accepted unless you have a **VERIFIABLE** excuse (e.g. a note from your physician documenting your illness, including a date of return) and or we work something out prior to your absence.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit may be given sparingly throughout the semester. I will announce extra credit in class. Any handouts that are required for extra credit will only be distributed in class.

**Use of Technology:** **The use of electronics in class is distracting to you, me, and your fellow students, and disrupts the learning process.** Therefore, all phones, pages, and other electronic devices should be turned off or turned to silent (NOTE: Vibrate is not silent) before the class period begins. Students should also refrain from texting, Facebooking, tweeting, reading the latest on BuzzFeed or surfing the web during class time. If you are using a laptop during class time, please use it for note-taking purposes only, and sit in the front row of the classroom. **I reserve the right to lower students' participation/attendance grades if students are online or on their devices during class time.**

**Coming to Class Late/ Leaving Early:** Please have the courtesy to let me know in advance if you must leave class early and sit close to the door so that you may leave with the least disruption to the class as possible. If you leave class without telling me in advance, **I will deduct 1 point** for each occurrence from your final grade.

**Attendance:** Regular class attendance is expected. Excessive absences will inevitably be reflected in your final course grade. **If there is a problem with getting to class on time or having to leave early, please see me as soon as possible.** You are all adults and are capable of making the decision to attend class. In cases where you are unable to attend class you are responsible for obtaining missed information from a classmate. I will not provide students with my lecture notes nor will I reiterate lectures for individual students. **In the case of an emergency, where excessive absences result, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can work with you.**

**Judgement Free Classroom:** Due to the nature of the topic of this course, some points discussed in class may be controversial, uncomfortable or lead to heated debates. Learning something new isn't always comfortable and often our personal judgments cloud our ability to learn to the fullest. Please try to keep those judgments outside of the 'classroom' and focus on gaining new knowledge while in class or reading the assigned texts. **If you have strong feelings about anything brought up in class by either your fellow classmates or me, please feel free to make an appointment to come speak with me. I am more than willing to listen to your concerns.**

### **Course Requirements:**

**Exams:** There will be two exams in this course. One of the exams will be a midterm and the other will be a final exam. The midterm will be worth 100 points and the final will be worth 108 points. Exams are to be completed online through Canvas and will be timed. You will have 2 and a half hours to complete the exam. You may take the exam on any day during the week the exam is assigned. **Exams will be open from 12 am on Thursday until 11:59pm on Sunday evening.** There will be multiple choice questions in addition to 2 short essay questions. **A study guide will be posted two weeks before each exam.** More details about each exam will be given when we get closer to each exam date.

**Quizzes:** There will be weekly quizzes under each week's lesson on Canvas. The purpose of these quizzes is to help you in solidifying your understanding of the material from each week. You can find the weekly quizzes in a separate folder within each lesson. Quizzes will be based on information from the textbook as well as any assigned supplementary reading. You will have unlimited attempts to take each quiz. The latest attempt that you submit will be graded. **Quizzes will be available on Monday of each week at 12 AM (Midnight) and will be open until Sunday of each week until 11:59pm.** See the course schedule for specific due dates for each quiz. **Quizzes are worth 10 points each for a total of 100 points (10 quizzes for the semester).**

**SYLLABUS QUIZ:** There will be one quiz during the first week of class over the syllabus. It is important for you to know the details of what is expected of you in this course. **Just like the other quizzes, this quiz will be open during the first week of class starting on Thursday, August 30 at 12 am and will close at 11:59pm on Monday, September 3. This quiz will be worth 20 points and you will have unlimited attempts to take it.**

**Discussion Board:** Each student in the class will respond to the discussion questions during your assigned week. The class is divided into 3 groups based on last name (see below). **I expect you to answer all discussion questions with around 250 words. You are also required to reply to at least two others each week. Each discussion board will be worth 20 points for a total of 80 points (4 different weeks, see schedule for your specific weeks) over the course of the semester. Discussion board replies are due by Sunday evenings at 11:59 pm.** More information about replying to discussion board posts can be found on Canvas under the “Course Information” module on the left side of the screen. Below is the breakdown for groups...

Group 1 (last names A-H)

Group 2 (last names I-P)

Group 3 (last names (Q-Z)

**Participation:** 50 points of your course grade will be from your attendance in the class and participation. **Excessive absences (more than 2) will result in not only you falling behind but a poor participation grade. I will deduct 2 points for every class period that you miss beyond 2 absences.** The classroom is a learning environment that we should all feel comfortable in. **Please let me know if there is anything that would be helpful in making the classroom environment more comfortable for you to engage in class discussion.** I expect that everyone will come to class regularly and engage in the process of learning through discussion and paying attention in class (I can tell when you are writing letters to that special someone instead of paying attention). **You cannot earn participation points if you are not in class.**

**A Few Tidbits of Important Information:** I will try my best to make sure that ALL assignments that are turned in are graded within one week of submission of the assignment. **Providing timely feedback is important for your learning process and understanding of the course material.** Of course, if something drastic happens and I am not able to provide feedback within one week, I will let you know so that you are not left wondering. **All assignments will be turned in on Canvas.** If you experience any technical issues with Canvas, please let me know so that I can get the issue resolved as soon as possible. You can also contact the I.T. department here at WSU if you need technical assistance **ASAP.** On a last note, **please do not hesitate to contact me in some way (email, phone, in person) if you are having any difficulties with the course or if there is something in your life that is affecting your ability to perform well in class. I am here to help you in your learning process and I am more than happy to speak with you at any time.**

**Overview of Point Distribution:**

Exams (1 midterm @ 100 points and 1 final @ 108 points)	= 208 points
Weekly Quizzes (10 @ 10 points each)	= 100 points
Discussion Board (4 @ 20 points each)	= 80 points
Participation	= 50 points
Syllabus Quiz (1 @ 20 Points)	= 20 points
Total = 458 points	

**Grading Scale:**

100% - 90% =A	72% - 70% =C
89% - 86%= A-	69% - 66% =C-
85% - 83% =B+	65% - 63%= D+
82% - 80%= B	62% - 60% =D
79% - 76% =B-	59% - 51% =D-
75% - 73%= C+	

\*\* Note: anything below this threshold will receive a failure for the course. Final grades are determined by adding up your total points and dividing by the total number of points possible.

**Plagiarism:**

Assignments that have been copied from another student or another source will not be scored. All papers will be run through the SafeAssign plagiarism system which detects attempts at copying text. “Academic misbehavior means any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.” (WSU Dean of Students Office Statement, 2014). The following website gives the university’s full policy on academic integrity: <http://doso.wayne.edu/academic-integrity.html> I understand there are many gray areas when it comes to plagiarism. Don’t hesitate to contact me or stop by during office hours if you have questions or need guidance.

**Drop/Withdrawal:**

If you wish to drop this class, you must do so by November 13. After this point, you will be issued a withdrawal grade (WP, WF, or WN). If you fail to withdraw by November 13, and stop attending class, you will receive an “F”. If you wish to challenge your final grade, you must do

so through the proper university procedure;  
<http://www.cfpc.wayne.edu/files/FinalGradeAppeal.pdf>

### **Religious Observances:**

It is Wayne State's policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of students, faculty and staff. Students with exams or classes that conflict with their religious observances should notify me well in advance (at least 2 weeks), so we can work out a mutually agreeable alternative.

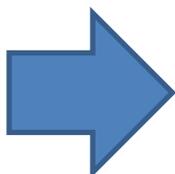
### **Students with Disabilities**

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 5155 Gullen Mall in the Undergraduate Library. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851. 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;  
<http://studentdisability.wayne.edu/>

### **Student Support Services:**

- Academic Success Center; <http://success.wayne.edu/>
- Academic Advisor for Sociology; Stacie Moser, #2245 FAB, (313) 577-2355  
[Stacie.moser@wayne.edu](mailto:Stacie.moser@wayne.edu)
- Wayne State Writing Center, located in the UGL, #2310;  
<http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing>
- Counseling and Psychological Services, located in the Student Center Building, #552;  
<http://caps.wayne.edu>

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### Course Timeline

**\*\* Please note, this schedule is subject to change in accordance to university closures or other unforeseeable events.**

**\*\* Assignments/readings that are listed for a specific day (i.e.- reading chapter 1 for September 4) should be completed before the class period where the assignment/ reading is listed. For example, we will be discussing chapter 1 on September 4 so chapter 1 needs to be read in preparation for that class period on September 4.**

**\*\*Please note, this is a hybrid class and thus we will meet on Tuesday of each week (unless otherwise specified in the syllabus). The hybrid component of this course will be on Canvas.**

Date	Topic(s) for Class	Assignment
Thursday, August 30: Week 1	Getting to know class set-up, instructor, and classmates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read syllabus</li> <li>• Take Syllabus Quiz by <b>11:59pm on Monday, Sept. 3</b></li> <li>• Familiarize self with class set-up on Canvas</li> </ul>
Tuesday, Sept. 4 Week 2	Chapter 1, Introduction to Sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 1</li> <li>• Take chapter 1 quiz by <b>Sunday, September 9 at 11:59pm</b></li> </ul>
Tuesday, Sept. 11 Week 3	Chapter 3, Culture and Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 3</li> <li>• Take chapter 3 quiz by <b>11:59 pm on Sunday, Sept. 16</b></li> <li>• <b>If you are in group 1 (last names A-H) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Sept. 16.</b></li> </ul>
Tuesday, Sept.18 Week 4	Chapter 4, Socialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 4</li> <li>• Take chapter 4 quiz by <b>11:59 pm on Sunday, Sept 23</b></li> <li>• <b>If you are in group 2 (last names I-P) for discussion</b></li> </ul>

		<p><b>board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Sept. 23.</b></p>
<p>Tuesday, Sept. 25 Week 5</p>	<p>Chapter 5, Groups and Networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 5</li> <li>• Take chapter 5 quiz by <b>11:59 pm on Sunday, Sept. 30.</b></li> <li>• <b>If you are in group 3 (last names Q-Z) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Sept. 30.</b></li> </ul>
<p>Tuesday, Oct. 2 Week 6</p>	<p>Chapter 6, Social Control and Deviance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 6</li> <li>• Take chapter 6 quiz by <b>11:59 pm on Sunday, Oct 7.</b></li> <li>• <b>If you are in group 1 (last names A-H) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Oct 7.</b></li> </ul>
<p>Tuesday, Oct 9 Week 7</p>	<p>Chapter 8, Gender</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 8</li> <li>• Take chapter 8 quiz by <b>11:59 pm on Sunday, Oct. 14.</b></li> <li>• <b>If you are in group 2 (last names I-P) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by</b></li> </ul>

		<b>11:59 pm on Sunday, Oct 14.</b>
Tuesday, Oct. 16 Week 8	Review day (Oct 16) for mid-term exam (covers chapters 1,3,4,5, and 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Come to class on Oct 16 with questions about the material</li> <li>• <b>Take mid-term exam anytime between 12 am on Thursday, Oct. 18 and 11:59pm on Sunday, Oct. 21</b></li> </ul>
Tuesday, Oct.23 Week 9	Chapter 7, Stratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 7</li> <li>• Take chapter 7 quiz by <b>11:59 pm on Sunday, Oct. 28</b></li> <li>• <b>If you are in group 3 (last names Q-Z) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Oct. 28</b></li> </ul>
Tuesday, Oct. 30 Week 10	Stratification (Saving Capitalism Documentary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If you are in group 1 (last names A-H) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Nov. 4</b></li> </ul>
Tuesday, Nov. 6 Week 11	Chapter 9, Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 9</li> <li>• Take chapter 9 quiz by <b>11:59 pm on Sunday, Nov. 11</b></li> <li>• <b>If you are in group 2 (last names I-P) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by</b></li> </ul>

		<b>11:59 pm on Sunday, Nov. 11</b>
Tuesday, Nov.13 Week 12	Race (13 <sup>th</sup> Documentary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If you are in group 3 (last names Q-Z) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Nov. 18</b></li> </ul>
Tuesday, Nov.20 Week 13	Chapter 12, Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 12</li> <li>• Take chapter 12 quiz by <b>11:59pm on Sunday, Nov. 25</b></li> <li>• <b>If you are in group 1 (last names A-H) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Nov. 25</b></li> <li>• <b>If you are in group 2 (last names I-P) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Nov. 25</b></li> <li>• Enjoy your thanksgiving holiday!!</li> </ul>
Tuesday, Nov. 27 Week 14	Chapter 16, Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 16</li> <li>• Take chapter 16 quiz by <b>11:59pm on Sunday, Dec. 2</b></li> <li>• <b>If you are in group 3 (last names Q-Z) for discussion board, respond to the question posted PLUS reply to two others by</b></li> </ul>

		<b>11:59 pm on Sunday, Dec. 2</b>
Tuesday, Dec.4 Week 15	Review for final exam, last class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review study guide (posted on Canvas before December 4 class)</li> </ul>
Tuesday, Dec. 11 Week 16	NO CLASS-Take final exam on blackboard (covers chapters 7, 8, 9, 12, and 16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Take final exam anytime between 12 am on Thursday, Dec. 13 and 11:59pm on Sunday, Dec. 16.</b></li> </ul>