**SOCIOLOGY 2000: UNDERSTANDING HUMAN SOCIETY**

**Fall 2016**

**Thursdays, 10:40am – 1:25pm**

**134 State Hall**

Instructor: Amanda Draft, PhD Candidate

Office: 2256 Faculty/Administration Building (FAB)

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: ay8209@wayne.edu **(best way to contact me)**

Phone: (313) 577-2930

\*\*This is the Sociology main office, not a personal line. You may leave a message for me, but I may not receive it in a timely manner.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*From the Catalog:* 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.

This course is intended to introduce you to the field of sociology. In this class, you will be exposed to the general ideas, concepts, theoretical perspectives, and research methods within the field of sociology. The underlying objective of this course is to help you develop a sociological imagination that will foster an enhanced awareness concerning the effects that social forces have on your lives and the lives of your fellow human beings. Areas of inquiry include social organization and institutional life, processes of socialization, culture, conflict, and social change. This course will stress abstract and critical thinking and to foster such thinking skills the sharing of personal perspectives is encouraged.

*Full Disclosure:* This is an intro-level course. As such, I imagine that one of the following may apply to you: a) you have already made up your minds about majoring/minoring in sociology, b) you are curious about what sociology is and have taken this course to find out, or c) you are taking this course because you need a general education credit. I hope that wherever you find yourself on the continuum, you at least take away something from the course. Ideally, you will all walk away with a developing “sociological imagination,” or a sociological lens from which you view the world.   
A word of caution up front: One of the main purposes of sociology is to “make the familiar strange.” The sociological perspective may introduce a new way of thinking about society that you may not have been exposed to yet. When our comfortable or taken for granted ways of knowing meet other new perspectives, it may be uncomfortable at first. I encourage you to think about why that may be, and to join me on this eye-opening journey of “making the familiar strange” (at the very least, for the duration of the course).

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The American Sociological Association offers these points as learning goals for the sociology student:

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

*In addition to these goals, upon successful completion of this course, you will have the following:*

* A basic understanding of social theorists and methodology
* A basic understanding of sociological concepts, models, and ideas
* The ability to use a sociological perspective to analyze your life and the social world around you
* Improved critical thinking and analytical skills

**REQUIRED READING**

Dalton Conley, *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist,* 4th edition (Full).

You may use an earlier edition if desired.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Assignment breakdown for your grade is as follows:**

Attendance/Participation: 25 points

Reflection Journal: 10 entries x 10 points = 100 total

Application Paper:50 points

Midterm Exam: 100 points

Final Exam: 100 points

TOTAL POINTS: 375 points

*Attendance/Participation:*You may miss up to **three** classes, no questions asked, without affecting your grade. (That means if you are ill, stay home and get well!) Every subsequent absence will result in a slight deduction of your attendance/participation points total. There are NO exceptions to this policy, unless you have a VERIFIABLE emergency and we work something out.

For participation, on certain weeks, there will be in-class or Blackboard-based activities for you to complete. These will either be due by the end of the class (in-class) or by the next class meeting (Blackboard). A good faith effort in completion will result in full points for the exercises.

*Reflection Journal:*

The purpose of the reflection journal is to get you thinking about the course content and to nurture the development of your sociological imagination. When assigned, you will write a **1-2 page reflection essay** based on the readings and class presentations that will be due the following **Sunday before midnight** (see the calendar below for the dates). **Journals must be submitted through Blackboard.** While you will be assigned 11 essays, 10 will count toward your grade – I will not count the first essay toward your grade so you can see how I will grade them. I will accept these late, but there will be a 1 point deduction per day they are late, so it is your best interest to plan accordingly and submit these on time.

*Things to think about for the essays: What did you like? What didn’t you like? Did you read or learn something that particularly struck you? Can you apply a concept or model that you read about or we discussed to your own life? How do you think that your own background affects the way you view the content discussed for the week, and how might this view change if your background was different?*

*Application Paper:*

It is not enough in the course to memorize definitions and facts – to succeed, you will need to demonstrate an ability to think conceptually and apply the concepts learned in the course. The purpose of this paper is to sociologically examine your own life using the tools and concepts provided in the course. **Further details and rubrics will be provided during the semester,** but in general, you will be expected to analyze your social location (in terms of race, gender, class, sexuality, ability, etc.) within the context of a social institution (family, work, politics, education, the state, etc.) and write about how the intersections of your personal identity affect how you navigate these institutions – in sum, analyze how your “personal troubles” may really be a reflection of “public issues.” This will be a short paper, 5 pages **maximum.**

*Exams:*

There will be a midterm and a final exam. Both of these exams will be on Blackboard. **Once an exam is posted, you will have 24 hours to complete it.** The midterm exam will cover the material presented up to the exam. The final exam will be **comprehensive**, but will have a greater emphasis on material presented in the latter half of the semester. Both exams will have **multiple-choice and short-answer items.** I will provide you with a study guide before each exam. I **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you complete the study guide before you take the exam, as exam questions may come straight from the study guide.

**GRADES**

Grades are earned, not given. I will attempt to return feedback on assignments in a timely manner (if it will take longer than anticipated, I will inform you—remember that I am also a student, like you!). Incompletes will only be given in the cases of medical or other VERIFIABLE emergencies. If students are not doing well in this course, they have the responsibility of formally withdrawing from this course. Please note that the withdrawal system at Wayne State is student-initiated, in that students who desire to withdraw from the course do so themselves via Pipeline. When students withdraw, they may receive a “withdraw passing” (WP), “withdraw failing” (WF), or “withdraw not enough information” (WN) on their transcript, depending on how much of the course is completed. According to the university’s grading policies, students who do not formally withdraw from the course but stop attending class and do not complete scheduled assignments will receive a failing grade (F) in the course. *Before withdrawing from the course, you should talk to the instructor about why you are withdrawing.*

If you have any concerns about the course (grade-related or otherwise), you should speak to me immediately and directly about your concerns. However, class time will NOT be used to discuss your course concerns. The concerns you have about the course should be discussed PRIVATELY with the instructor, as they are *your* concerns and not your classmates’.

**Final grades will be determined by the following scale:**

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D Below 60% = F

**COURSE POLICIES/EXPECTATIONS**

*Assignment Submission Format.* Make sure that your name, the course name, an assignment description/title (“latest study paper”), and due date are on the first page. Use ASA citation style when directed. For more specific instructions on how to cite sources using ASA style, please see the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at this link: **https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/1**

*Extra Credit.* There may be extra credit opportunities offered throughout the semester at my discretion. These will always be announced through Blackboard.

*Late Assignments.* Late assignments will receive a 1 point deduction for each day they are late.

*In Case of Emergency…* If an emergency or otherwise significant life event arises that prevents you from regularly attending class or submitting assignments, **please do not wait until the last minute to inform me.** The sooner I know about your circumstances, the better the opportunity I will have to work with you and your needs. If you wait until the end of the semester to come to me, I will be less sympathetic. If you stop coming to class and turning in assignments with no communication, I will have no idea what is happening in your life and I will assume you are dropping the course.

*Communication* *and Etiquette.* **I use Blackboard for all course information (assignment revisions, class cancellations, updates, extra credit opportunities, etc.).** Please make sure that you check these sources on a regular basis.I will communicate with you primarily through your Wayne email. If you decide to use a different email account, you need to ensure that your WSU email is forwarded to the alternative account, or otherwise ensure that my emails are forwarded. Please indicate your name in the email and the course in the subject line (“SOC 2000…”) so I know who is sending the email and for which course. **Do not email as if you are sending a text message.** I will attempt to answer emails within 48 hours of receipt.

*Changes to the Syllabus.* Information in this syllabus is always subject to change. Please pay attention to course announcements each week so that you are informed of any changes. Please also make sure that you have access to your WSU email account so that you will receive emails that I may send via the course’s Blackboard site.

*Classroom Ground Rules.*

* All rules of courtesy and respect are in effect during class time. Please respect your fellow students and your instructor by coming to class on time, staying until class is over, being patient and courteous while others are talking, etc. Treat others as you yourself would like to be treated. All electronic devices should be turned off (or turned to a silent ringer option) before class begins. Students should also refrain from texting, Facebooking, tweeting, or surfing the web during class time. If you are using a laptop during class, please use it for note-taking purposes only. Please respect your classmates who are trying to learn course material. *I reserve the right to lower students’ participation grade if students are online or on their devices during class time.*
* Part of the course is based in class or small group discussion. As sociology is always culturally relevant, we may talk about current hot topics and/or controversial issues as they are related to sociology. Progression in science requires healthy, constructive debate. That said, class discussions should be respectful (i.e. no trolling).
* Students are responsible for all material covered and announcements made during class. Therefore, if students must be absent at some point during the course, it is their responsibility to find a classmate who is willing to share their notes with them.
* Class time is valuable! If you have a question regarding course policies or assignments, check the syllabus first, then Blackboard—most of the time, the information should be in one of those places. If you have questions about grades or have in-depth questions regarding course material, please see me during office hours.

*Problems with Writing?* Grades for written assignments depend partially on students’ ability to write a coherent, well-organized, and grammatically sound product. If students have concerns about their writing abilities, they should visit Wayne State University’s Writing Center in the Undergraduate Library: <http://clas.wayne.edu/writing/> (you can schedule an appointment at the Writing Center on line as well). There is a page of writing resources posted on the sociology department’s website that might help you: <http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/Sociology/WritingResources>. If you have difficulty with written assignments, you should make the effort to access these resources and talk to the instructors of all of your courses that involve writing.

*Plagiarism:* All university rules about plagiarism and cheating are in effect during this course. I expect students to abide by the academic honor code. Any quoted material must be placed in quotation marks with proper references to the author. You may use statistical data or paraphrase other published works in the text, but ONLY if you provide the complete citation (author’s last name and year). This means, even if you use your own words, but the ideas are from something you read you must give credit to that author. If you think you might be plagiarizing, then you probably ARE! Copying entire paragraphs from sources is not appropriate even if citations are provided. Evidence of cheating or plagiarizing result in automatic failure of the test/assignment and possibly the course. Please see the student code of conduct for more information on WSU’s policies regarding academic integrity: <http://doso.wayne.edu/assets/codeofconduct.pdf> and <http://doso.wayne.edu/assets/scoc_section_10.1_a-b.pdf>.

*Student Disability Services:* If you have a documented disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Student Disability Services (SDS), located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department; telephone is [313-577-1851](callto:+1313-577-1851) or [313-577-3365](callto:+1313-577-3365) (TTY phone is for hearing impaired students only). Once accommodations are in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during 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 WSU.

*University statement on 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.

*Important University Dates*

* Last day to drop with tuition cancellation: September 14
* Last day to withdraw: November 13
* No classes for holiday break: November 23-26
* Study day: December 13
* Final exams: December 14-20

**COURSE SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)**

Here is the TENTATIVE schedule of readings and assignments. It may change due to cancellations, class interest, etc. I reserve the right to make changes to this schedule throughout the semester. I will announce any changes via email/Blackboard.

\*\*Additional Blackboard readings may be added. These will be posted to Blackboard in a timely fashion.\*\*

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| **CLASS DATE** | **TOPIC** | **READINGS** | **ASSIGNMENT DUE** |
| September 1 | Syllabus + Sociological Imagination | Conley, Ch 1 |  |
| September 8 | Methods | Conley, Ch 2 | Journal #1 due Sun Sep 11 |
| September 15 | Construction of Reality | Conley, Ch 4 | Journal #2 due Sun Sep 18 |
| September 22 | Social Control and Deviance | Conley, Ch 6 | Journal #3 due Sun Sep 25 |
| September 29 | Stratification | Conley, Ch 7 | Journal #4 due Sun Oct 2 |
| October 6 | Culture and Media | Conley, Ch 3 | Journal #5 due Sun Oct 9 |
| October 13 | Health and Society | Conley, Ch 11 | Journal #6 due Sun Oct 16 |
| October 20 | **Midterm exam on Blackboard** |  |  |
| October 27 | Race | Conley, Ch 9 | Journal #7 due Sun Oct 30 |
| November 3 | Gender | Conley, Ch 8 | Journal #8 due Sun Nov 6 |
| November 10 | Sex + Sexuality | Conley, Ch 8 | Journal #9 due Sun Nov 13 |
| November 17 | Family | Conley, Ch 12 | Journal #10 due Sun Nov 20 |
| November 24 | **NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING** |  |  |
| December 1 | Education | Conley, Ch 13 | Journal #11 due Sun Dec 4 |
| December 8 | Social Change \*\*Last class meeting\*\* | Conley, Ch 18 | **Application Paper**  **Due Sun Dec 11** |
| December 15 | **Final exam on Blackboard** |  |  |