

## SOC 2000 Section 006 Understanding Human Society

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M/W 930a-1220p  
Classroom: 0315 State Hall

Instructor: Jenny Lendrum  
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Office: #2262 Faculty Administration Building (FAB)  
Office Hours: By appt.

### Course Description

This course is intended to introduce you to the field of sociology and ‘the sociological imagination’ and help you apply that perspective to your everyday lives and communicate those insights to others. 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—just to name a few. This course will stress abstract and critical thinking and will encourage the sharing of personal perspectives. This course emphasizes active learning and knowledge application. To meet these goals, you will identify and analyze examples of the concepts and perspectives we are learning about, and collaborate in robust class discussions.

### Required Text

Conley, Dalton (2015) *You May Ask Yourself*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. \*

\* Any edition between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4th can be used for class. In an effort to save costs, please consider renting or buying used or electronic copies of the text.

### Learning Outcomes

The discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality, such that the student will be able to: (a) describe how sociology differs from and is similar to other social sciences and to give examples of these differences; (b) describe how sociology contributes to a liberal arts understanding of social reality; and (c) apply the sociological imagination, sociological principles, and concepts to her/his own life.

Additionally:

- To have a basic understanding of the foundational theorists and their theories.
- To have a brief overview of some contemporary sociological theories and theorists that explains human behavior.
- To be able to look at social phenomenon and apply multiple theories to explain what is happening.
- To reflect on how our personal lives have been shaped by social forces and institutions.
- To open your mind and see society in a different way.

## Course Policies

### Respect

This course will cover, on occasion, clashing viewpoints on sensitive topics. An attitude of mutual respect is crucial. Also, members of the class may occasionally share personal information in the course of class discussion. Unless told otherwise, you should treat these revelations as confidential. Our classroom will be a safe that is safe, respectful, and intellectually stimulating.

### Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend class and lectures. You do not need permission if you cannot or choose not to attend class at any time. However, 20% of the total grade is in-class discussion & group-work. Therefore, you should expect to participate in class and keep up with the assigned readings and current events. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes and understand the content of the missed class.

### Communication

Email is strongly encouraged. Please include the course number (SOC 2000) in the subject line of the e-mail. I encourage the use of office hours to discuss course concepts, to answer questions or discuss concerns.

Additionally, keep in mind Blackboard is an instrumental part of this course and as such, you are expected to login to Blackboard on a regular basis to gain access to additional course materials, check email, and review announcements. Blackboard will be the main means of communication for this course.

### Academic Dishonesty and Class Conduct

You are required to adhere to university codes of conduct and guidelines throughout this course. In particular, you must be aware of what constitutes plagiarism and cheating. For more details on university guidelines and policies, please check the Student Code of Conduct posted on Blackboard. Specifically, please note the following:

Plagiarism: To take and use another's words or ideas as one's own. Examples include: (a) failure to use appropriate referencing when using the words or ideas of other persons; (b) altering the language, paraphrasing, omitting, rearranging, or forming new combinations of words in an attempt to make the thoughts of another appear as your own.

### 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.

Grading Key

Grading Scale

93-100% A	87-89.9% B+	77-79.9% C+	67-69.9% D+
90-92.9% A-	83-86.9% B	73-76.9% C	63-66.9% D
	80-82.9% B-	70-72.9% C-	60-62.9% D-
			Below 60% F

Course Organization and Requirements

In-Class Discussion & Group Work (20%)

We will regularly have in-class discussions & group work. Working together helps to solidify concepts discussed in the text and in class. Full, thoughtful participation is expected.

Reflection Papers (30%)

There will be three 3-5 page reflection papers. Details/rubric regarding the papers will follow.

Discussion memos (20%)

Discussion memos will be written, when applicable, using the sociological imagination. Details regarding topics and requirements to follow.

Midterm Exam (15%)

The midterm exam will cover material from the readings, lectures and group work/discussions that will have been covered up to the mid-term exam.

Final Exam (15%)

The final exam will cover material from the readings, lectures and group work/discussions that will have been covered from the mid-term through the end of the semester.

**\*\* Exams may only be made up in a case of an extreme emergency.** If you miss an exam for that reason, you may take a make-up exam only with valid official documentation to excuse your absence. You must e-mail me explaining the situation no later than 24hrs after the missed exam. If, prior to the exam, you know you will miss an exam (medical or work related), email me prior to the exam.

## Course Information

### 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](tel: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/>

### Support Services

- Academic Success Center; <http://success.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/>

### Technology

**Devices are disallowed during class time.** Phones are to be kept off the desks and laps and out of sight. Technological devices can function as a distraction in the classroom, not only to you but to your classmates. Be mindful of imposing such unwelcome distractions on others. However, it is recommended to bring your device to class as we will often utilize the internet and smart phones/tablets/laptops.

### Late Policy

Make every attempt to arrive to class on time. If, however, you are held up, running late, or otherwise a non-morning person, be mindful of your entrance into the classroom as it can be distracting to your classmates.

### Text Readings \*

- Chapter 1: The Sociological Imagination
- Chapter 4: Socialization
- Chapter 3: Culture
- Chapter 5: Groups & Networks
- Chapter 6: Social Control & Deviance
- Chapter 7: Stratification
- Chapter 2: Methods
- Chapter 8: Gender
- Chapter 9: Race
- Chapter 10: Family

\* May be supplemented with additional lecture notes, readings, and videos as posted on Blackboard.

## Semester Schedule

Week	Date	Schedule	Notes
1	June 29		1st day of class
2	July 4	NO CLASS	Holiday observance
	July 6	Reflection Paper #1	Due in class
3	July 11		
	July 13	Reflection Paper #2	Due in class
4	July 18		
	July 20	Mid-term	In class
5	July 25	NO CLASS	
	July 27	NO CLASS	
6	Aug 1		
	Aug 3		Last day to withdraw – Aug 3rd
7	Aug 8		
	Aug 10	Reflection Paper #3	Due in class
8	Aug 15	Review	Overview/Class discussion
	Aug 17	NO CLASS	Self-study day
	Aug 19	NO CLASS: Final-exam	Blackboard/On-line

*PLEASE NOTE: The syllabus is tentative and may be subject to changes.*