

**SOC 2000: Understanding Human Society**  
**Wayne State University**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Spring 2015**

Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:30AM - 1:20PM (131 State Hall)  
Course Instructor: L. M. Anabel Stoeckle  
Phone: (313) 577-2930 (Front office)  
E-Mail: et4198@wayne.edu  
Office: #2262 Faculty/Administration Building (FAB)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00a.m. - Noon and by appointment

### Course Catalogue Description

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.

### Required Texts/Material

Dalton Conley: *You May Ask Yourself. An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*; ISBN: 978-0-393-93773-2  
\* Both the fourth or third edition can be used for class.

### Learning Outcomes

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.

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

- 1) Develop an understanding of and apply the sociological perspective towards understanding 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) Engage in intellectual discussions with your classmates.
- 7) Work on your reading, writing, and verbal skills.

### Changes to the syllabus

I reserve the right to make adjustments to this syllabus throughout the semester. Please pay close attention to all announcements in class and on blackboard.

## Communication

The best way to get in touch with me is via email.

**Email etiquette:** Students must use their Wayne State University email. I will not respond to any other emails from other accounts (i.e., gmail or yahoo). Emails should follow a professional format, including using punctuation, full sentences, correct spelling and grammar, and capital letters at the beginning of sentences or proper nouns. **Do not email me as if you were sending a text message.** Students must indicate their name and what course they are enrolled in so that I know who is sending the email. I will not engage in discussions of substance via email, particularly if there is a question regarding grades and class issues. It is too easy for emails to be taken out of context and the “tone” and the meaning received may not be what the sender has intended. Students must come to my office during office hours, or schedule an appointment to see me for all grade issues.

**Blackboard:** 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. If you have not familiarized yourself with Blackboard yet, please do so immediately, since you will have to take the quizzes on Blackboard. All course information is managed through Blackboard, including course announcements and other postings. Assignments and the course syllabus are also posted on Blackboard. Not checking Blackboard or not getting your email is no excuse for missing assignments or other information relevant to this course. It is the student’s responsibility to inquire about announcements made in class as well as the subject material if you are absent from class. See: <http://computing.wayne.edu/blackboard/>

I will not, under any circumstances, communicate grade information via email or over the phone. Check Blackboard regularly, since your score of every assignment will be posted there.

## Course Policies

### Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend lecture: **preparation for class and attendance is directly correlated with success.** Therefore, you are expected to participate in class and keep up with the assigned readings. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes and learn the content of the class, by reading the texts and asking your classmates for notes. I will not give out lecture and discussion section notes. Attendance is part of class participation – you cannot participate if you are not there.

### 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.

### Laptops, Cell Phones, etc.

Please feel free to use your laptop to take notes and otherwise organize course material; however, if I notice you chatting on facebook, watching youtube videos, etc., you must discontinue your use of the computer for the rest of the semester. Technological devices can function as a huge distraction in the classroom. If you have a cell phone, smart or otherwise, keep it in your pocket and on silent (vibrate is not silent).

### Drops/Withdraws

If you wish to drop this class, you must do so by June 14<sup>th</sup>. After this point, you will be issued a withdrawal grade (WP, WF, or WN). If you fail to withdraw by June 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 channels; <http://www.cfpc.wayne.edu/files/FinalGradeAppeal.pdf>

## Course Organization and Requirements

### In-Class Group Work

We will regularly do in-class group work. Working together helps to solidify concepts discussed in the textbook and in class.

### Syllabus Quiz (5 points)

There will be a quiz about the syllabus available on Blackboard. It is due May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

### Writing Exercises (50 points)

There will be 10 short writing exercises in class, each is worth a maximum of 5 points. Normal class attendance and participation should give you all 50 points.

### In Class Presentation (35 points)

Each student will individually meet with me, discuss their presentation, and present a sociological topic in class. I will provide detailed information in class about student presentations.

### Midterm (50 points)

The midterm will cover material from class, discussions, and readings that we will have covered so far. The midterm will be made available on Blackboard on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> after class at 2p.m. and will be due Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6p.m. Make sure that you have a working internet connection before you take the midterm. You will have 60 minutes to complete the midterm in one sitting.

### Reflection Papers (75 points)

There will be three 3-5 page reflection papers, each paper will be worth 25 points. Detailed instructions for each paper will be provided in class.

### Final Exam (85 points)

The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> in class.

**Exams may only be made up in a case of an extreme emergency.** If you missed any of the exams 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.

## Grading Key

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

GRADING RUBRIC: Your grade is based on a total of **300** points.

### Extra Credit

I will not give extra credit assignments and I do not negotiate grades. Focus your time and energy on the learning opportunities that I have provided you with, instead of hoping to do additional work toward the end of the course. If you follow the course plan, you will not need extra credit opportunities. Students earn grades; they are not given or are they negotiated.

## 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](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/>
- 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/>

## Order of Readings

- Chapter 1: The Sociological Imagination: An Introduction
- Chapter 4: Socialization and the Construction of Reality
- Chapter 3: Culture and Media
- Chapter 5: Groups and Networks
- Chapter 6: Social Control and Deviance
- Chapter 15: Authority and the State
- Chapter 2: Methods
- Chapter 7: Stratification
- Chapter 10: Poverty
- Chapter 8: Gender
- Chapter 9: Race
- Chapter 11: Health and Society
- Chapter 18: Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change
- Chapter 13: Education
- Chapter 12: Family
- Chapter 14: Capitalism and the Economy
- Chapter 17: Science, the Environment, and Society

Semester Schedule (Tentative)

Week	Date	Exam Schedule	Notes
<b>1</b>	May 11 First day of class	Introduction to Sociology Syllabus-Quiz [bb] DUE May 13, 9a.m.	
	May 13		Last day to drop with 100% tuition cancellation: Sunday, May 17
<b>2</b>	May 18		Classes dropped will not appear on your academic record: May 18 – May 24*
	May 20	Reflection Paper #1 due in class	
<b>3</b>	May 25	<b>Holiday – University closed</b>	Memorial Day
	May 27		
	<b>May 29 (Friday)</b>	Class	Day scheduled as a Monday
<b>4</b>	June 01	<b>Regular Class Meeting Midterm [bb]</b>	The midterm will be made available at 2p.m. and is due the following day, June 2 <sup>nd</sup> , at 6p.m.
	June 03		
<b>5</b>	June 08	Reflection Paper #2 due in class	
	June 10		Last day to withdraw: Sunday, June 14**
<b>6</b>	June 15	Reflection Paper #3 due in class	
	June 17		
<b>7</b>	June 22		
	June 24 Last day of class		Wrap-up material Review/Semester Evaluation
<b>8</b>	June 29	Final Exam [in class]	

\* You are contractually liable for tuition of dropped classes during this period.

\*\* Instructor approval required to withdraw from classes. Select “Withdraw from a class” on the pipeline/academia student menu \*\*\*SMART check\*\*\* is required (May 25 - June 14).

Have a great semester and work hard!