

Syllabus/Soc2020/Fall 2016



Understanding Human Society

L. M. Anabel Stoeckle

Course Catalogue Description

Consideration of major contemporary social problems which reveal structural strains, value conflicts, deviations and changes in society. Analysis of socio-cultural factors creating problems and of possible solutions.

SOC 2020

- * Instructor:
Anabel Stoeckle
- * Wednesday
10:40am—1:25pm
- * 2009 Science Hall
- * E-mail:
et4198@wayne.edu
- * Office: #2262 FAB
Faculty Administration
Building
- * Office hours:
by appointment

Learning Outcomes

To understand the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality, such that you 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.

This semester you will be introduced to basic concepts in sociology and their fundamental theoretical interrelations, so you will be able to define, give examples, and demonstrate the relevance of culture; social change; socialization; stratification; social structure; institutions; and differentiations by race/ethnicity, gender, age, and class.

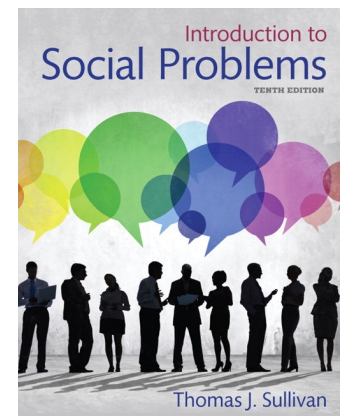
You will be able to see how culture and social structure operate to:

- (a) show how institutions interlink in their effects on each other and on individuals;
- (b) demonstrate how social change factors such as population or urbanization affect social structures and individuals;
- (c) demonstrate how culture and social structure vary across time and place and the effect is of such variations; and
- (d) identify examples of specific policy implications using reasoning about social-structural effects.

Finally, you will be able to describe: (a) the significance of variations by race, class, gender, and age; and (b) will know how to appropriately generalize or resist generalizations across groups.

Inside this syllabus:

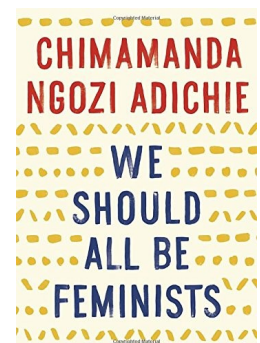
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Required Texts

Thomas J. Sullivan:
Introduction to Social Problems;
ISBN-13: 978-0205896462

Both the 9th or 10th edition can be used for class.



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie:
We Should All Be Feminists

Course Policies

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.

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.

There are a total of 14 class meetings for this course. You may miss one (1) class during the semester, no questions asked. After this absence, every subsequent absence will affect the final course grade. **There are NO exceptions to this policy**, unless you have a VERIFIABLE emergency and we work something out prior to your absence.

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.

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). 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.

Course Policies cont.

General Course Expectations

- * Attend all class meetings and actively participate in class.
- * Be responsible for what you have missed should you be absent from class.
- * Read and complete all required assignments prior to coming to class.
- * Ask questions right away if you do not understand an assignment!
- * Get additional help from the Undergraduate Library Writing Center if necessary.
- * Respect everyone in the classroom. This includes, but is not limited to, respectful means of communication, not disrupting class by using phones or other technology in ways that is not related to class, and quiet consumption of food & beverages.

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/>

Support Services

- * Academic Success Center; <http://success.wayne.edu/>
- * Academic Advisor for Sociology
Stacie Moser, #2245 FAB
(313) 577-2355
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/>

Drops/Withdraws

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 13th, 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

Your grade for the semester will come from in-class group work & homework, reflection papers (3), a midterm exam, and a final exam.

- * Participation/Attendance: 20%
- * 3 Reflection Papers: 30% total
- * Midterm Exam: 20%
- * Final Exam: 30%

In-Class Group Work & Homework (20%)

We will regularly do in-class group work. Working together helps to solidify concepts discussed in the text-book and in class. There will also be short homework assignments. Normal class attendance, handing in homework and participation should give you all 20 points.

Reflection Papers (30%)

There will be three 3-5 page reflection papers, each paper will be worth 10 points. Detailed instructions for each paper will be provided in class.

Midterm (20 %)

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 Friday June 3rd and will be due Sunday, June 6th. 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.

Final Exam (30%)

The date of the final exam: TBD.

Make-up Exams

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

Grading Scale

93-100% A	87-89% B+	77-79% C+	67-69% D+
90-92% A-	83-86% B	73-76% C	63-66% D
	80-82% B-	70-72% C-	60-62% D-
			Below 60% F

GRADING RUBRIC: Your grade is based on a total of **100** 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.

Semester Schedule (tentative)

Week	Date	Schedule	Notes
1	Aug 31	First day of class	Get your textbook!
2	Sep 07		
3	Sep 14		Last day to drop with tuition cancellation: Wednesday, Sep 14
4	Sep 21	Reflection Paper #1 due	
5	Sep 28		Classes dropped will not appear on your academic record: Sep 15 – Sep 28*
6	Oct 05	Reflection Paper #2 due	
7	Oct 12		
8	Oct 19	Midterm Due: June 6th (Sun)	
9	Oct 26		
10	Nov 02		
11	Nov 09	Reflection Paper #3 due	
12	Nov 16		
13	Nov 23	Holiday	NO CLASS
14	Nov 30		
15	Dec 07	Last day of class	Wrap-up material Exam review
16		Final Exam –TBD	

Order of Readings

- * Chapter 1:
Approaches to the Study of Social Problems
- * Chapter 2:
Concentration of Power and Political Institutions
- * Chapter 6: Poverty
- * Chapter 7:
Race and Ethnic Relations
- * Eduardo Bonilla-Silva:
Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States
- * Chapter 8:
Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Social Inequality
- * Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie:
We Should All Be Feminists
- * Chapter 10:
Crime and Delinquency
- * Chapter 11:
Alcohol and Other Drugs
- * Chapter 12:
Prostitution, Pornography, and the Sex Trade
- * Chapter 3:
Family-Related Problems
- * Chapter 4:
Health and Illness
- * Chapter 5:
Education, Science, & Technology
- * Chapter 13:
Population Growth & Urbanization
- * Chapter 14:
Environmental Problems
- * Chapter 9:
Age and Social Inequality
- * Chapter 15:
Violence, War, and Terrorism

*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 (Sep 29 - Nov 13)

Notes

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.
