

**Understanding Human Society (SOC 2000-004)**  
**Thursdays 11:30AM -2:00PM**  
**Location: Old Main 1111**  
**Winter 2017**

**Instructor:** Allison Jendry  
**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:** Mondays 3-4pm and by appointment

**Required Textbook:**

*You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist* (3rd or 4th Edition can be used) by Dalton Conley ISBN: 978-0393937732

**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 (DUH!)
- 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 2000-004) 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:**

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

**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. Each exam will be worth a total of 100 points. Exams are to be completed online through blackboard and will be timed. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam on the day that it is posted and it will be available from midnight to 11:59PM. There will be multiple choice questions in addition to 2 short essay questions. There also will be an exam review in class **one week before** the exam. **A study guide will be posted two weeks before each exam.** The review session and study guide are to aid in solidifying your understanding of the material and give you an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. More details about each exam will be given when we get closer to each exam date.

**Application Papers:** There will be 10 short writing assignments in this course. Each paper will be worth 20 points for a total of 200 points collectively. For a majority of the weeks you will **write a 1-2 page paper and turn it in via blackboard by midnight on Thursday, as indicated in the course schedule.** The purpose of these papers is to get you writing and thinking about the text and the discussions that we have in class. In other words, you will reflect on the assigned course text each week and the discussion from class and write a 1-2 page paper. You can specifically write about the course reading for that week or you can reflect on a personal experience or even write about any thoughts about the week's topic as a whole (what surprised you, what didn't surprise you, has anything we've talked about or read changed your perspective on a certain topic, are there any ideas that you are struggling with, etc.). More information about the application papers is posted on blackboard.

**Group Presentation:** There will be one group presentation required in this course (I can already see eyes rolling!). The presentation will be worth 100 points and each member of your group will be evaluated on a few factors (preparedness, quality of work, distributing work evenly, answering questions from classmates, being knowledgeable about your topic, etc.). On the first day of class, a sign-up sheet will be passed around so that you may sign up to present on a topic that you enjoy, are interested in, or want to learn more about. I will then make sure that everyone is assigned a group. If you do not sign up for a topic, I will assign you to a topic. After groups are figured out, I will let everyone know what group that they are in. The list of groups will be on blackboard. You should try to work on the presentation periodically throughout the semester so that you don't have to cram to finish it at the last minute. This will allow you time to practice and "tweak" your lesson as needed. **It is your responsibility to know who is in your group and distribute responsibilities evenly. Failing to be prepared will result in a 0 grade for the presentation.** The purpose of the presentation is to help you solidify what you are learning in preparation for the final exam (teaching someone else what you've learned is a good way to solidify what you know). Together as a group, you will prepare a 10-15 minute lesson for the class about the topic area your group is assigned to (see the sign-up sheet), incorporating course concepts and some interactive element for the class. If you feel more comfortable with PowerPoint, then use PowerPoint. If you are feeling creative, feel free to organize your presentation in a more creative way. **Please check in with me about your presentation idea by the mid-term exam** (I want everyone to feel CONFIDENT in their presentation and their topic☺). You can send me an email of your ideas or make an appointment and talk with me about it during office hours. More information about the presentation assignment is posted on blackboard.

**Participation:** 80 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.** 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, except the class presentation, will be turned in on blackboard.** If you experience any technical issues with blackboard, 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 and 1 final @ 100 points each)	= 200 points
Writing Assignments (10 @ 20 points each)	= 200 points
Group Presentation (1 @ 100 Points)	= 100 points
Participation (80 points)	= 80 points
Total =580 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 March 26. After this point, you will be issued a withdrawal grade (WP, WF, or WN). If you fail to withdraw by March 26, 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.

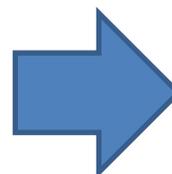
**Students with Disabilities**

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>

**TURN THE PAGE**



### 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 January 12) should be completed before the class period where the assignment/ reading is listed. For example, we will be discussing chapter 1 on January 12 so chapter 1 needs to be read in preparation for that class period on January 12.**

Date	Topic(s) for Class	Assignment
January 12, 2017	Introductions, syllabus, sign-up for group presentation topics, Introduction to Sociology	Chapter 1
January 19, 2017	Culture and Media	Chapter 3; Application Paper
January 26, 2017	Socialization	Chapter 4; Application Paper
February 2, 2017	Groups and Networks	Chapter 5; Application Paper
February 9, 2017	Social Control and Deviance	Chapter 6; Application Paper
February 16, 2017	Mid-term exam review	Study/prepare for exam next week
February 23, 2017	<b>NO CLASS- Take mid-term on BB (open midnight to 11:59PM)</b>	<b>Mid-term Exam, Check-in with me about presentation idea by today!</b>
March 2, 2017	Stratification	Chapter 7; Application Paper
March 9, 2017	Gender	Chapter 8; Application Paper
March 16, 2017	<b>NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK ☺</b>	
March 23, 2017	Race	Chapter 9; Application Paper
March 30, 2017	Health	Chapter 11; Application Paper
April 6, 2017	Family	Chapter 12; Application Paper
April 13, 2017	Religion	Chapter 16; Application Paper
April 20, 2017	Presentations, Wrap-up, Final exam review	Finish presentation; study/prepare for final exam next week
April 27, 2017	<b>NO CLASS-Take final on BB (open midnight to 11:59PM)</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>