

SOC 2000 Section 002 Understanding Human Society

M/W 8am-925am
Classroom: 0206 State Hall

Instructor: Jenny Lendrum
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Office: #2262 Faculty Administration Building (FAB)
Office Hours: Wednesdays 930am-1030am and by appointment

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 complete quizzes, 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*. 4th ed. *

* Any edition between 2nd & 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, 25% of the total grade is in-class group-work. Therefore, you should expect 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 do not give out lecture and discussion section notes.

Communication

The best way to get in touch with me is via email. Please include the course number (SOC 2000) in the subject line of the e-mail. You are responsible for contacting the instructor in adequate advance to permit time for the completion of time-sensitive tasks, such as assigned readings and assessments. I encourage you to use 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 Group Work (25%)

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

Reflection Papers (30%)

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

Midterm Exam (15%)

The midterm exam will cover material from the readings, lectures and group work/discussions that we will have covered up to the mid-term exam. Details/rubric regarding the papers will follow.

Final Exam (15%)

The final exam will cover material from the readings, lectures and group work/discussions that we will have 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.

Current Events/Theory Paper (15% points)

A 5-7 page current events paper applying a theoretical framework. The topic must be approved via email no later than October 5th. Approval must be requested in writing (email only). A paper without an approval will automatically receive a 10% deduction. The paper will be due October 28 in class – hard-copy only. Late papers will automatically receive a 10% deduction. Paper will not be accepted after October 30th. Details/rubric regarding the paper will follow.

Extra Credit (10 pts.)

Volunteer with Sociology Cares-Focus Hope

November 21, 2015 | 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m.

Focus Hope

1200-B Oakmand Blvd.

Detroit, MI 48202

Registration: <http://events.wayne.edu/2015/11/21/volunteer-with-sociology-cares-focus-hope-59376/>.

* Register early as the event will likely reach capacity early.

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

Feel free to utilize your laptop to take notes and otherwise organize course material; however, if you engage in non-class related activities you will be asked to discontinue your use of the computer for the rest of the semester. 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.

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.

** Syllabus**

The syllabus is tentative and may be subject to instructor changes.

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

* Will be supplemented with additional readings, posted on Blackboard

Semester Schedule (*Schedule is tentative and subject to change*)

Week	Date	Schedule	Notes
1	September 2 1st day of class	Welcome!	
2	September 7 September 9	NO CLASS Guest lecturer	Labor Day
3	September 14 September 16		
4	September 21 September 23	Reflection Paper #1 - <i>discussion</i>	
5	September 28 September 30	Reflection Paper #1	Paper due in class today
6	October 5 October 7	NO CLASS	Current Events/Theory paper <u>approval</u> due by today Oct 5th
7	October 12 October 14		
8	October 19 October 21	MIDTERM [in class]	
9	October 26 October 28		Current Events/Theory <u>paper</u> due today Oct 28th
10	November 2 November 4	Reflection Paper #2 – <i>discussion</i>	
11	November 9 November 11	Reflection Paper #2	Paper due in class today
12	November 16 November 18	Reflection Paper #3 – <i>discussion</i>	
13	November 23 November 25	Reflection Paper #3 NO CLASS	Paper due in class today No classes held Nov 25-27
14	November 30 December 2		
15	December 7 December 9	Review	In-Class
16	December 14 December 16	NO CLASS FINAL EXAM [in class]	Self-Study 8:00am-10:30am