

SOC 200 Understanding Human Society (Course Ref #: 31330; Section: 003)
Summer 2015

Instructor: Dennis Savard

Class Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 a.m.-1:20 p.m.

Classroom: Old Main, 1171

Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the discipline and development of sociology. This course will cover the basic sociological theories, paradigms, and methods of social research. Some of the topics include culture, socialization, society, groups, inequalities, global society, deviance, social class, stratification, institutions, social change, and demography. Sociology is the scientific study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. In this course we will learn how sociology uses tools and methods of science to understand how humans behave the way they do when they interact together in groups. Though social groups, or societies, are made up of individual people, sociology is the study of the group rather than the individual.

Learning Outcomes

1. To have an understanding of what sociology is
2. To have a basic understanding of the major sociological theories
3. To have an understanding of how sociologists study the social world
4. To have an understanding of basic sociological concepts
5. To have an understanding of the basic topics studied by sociologists

Required Textbook

Henslin, J.M. (2014). Mastering Sociology. New York: Pearson.

Worthwhile Reads

Randall Collins: Sociological Insight

William F. Whyte: Street Corner Society

Erving Goffman: The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life

Elijah Anderson: Streetwise

Arlie Hochschild: The Second Shift

Requirements and Grading

Students are expected to:

1. Contribute regularly to class discussions
2. Submit five reading summaries
3. Take a final exam

Participation

This class requires every student to thoroughly prepare for every class meeting, and make contributions during class discussion. At a minimum, you will have to read and understand the assigned chapter so you can explain the main theme of the chapter and discuss actively during class.

During class discussion, you are welcome to share your personal or vicarious experience and views. The most meaningful contributions thus require you to carefully read and reflect on the reading and question whether the arguments, evidences, and interpretations presented therein are logically and empirically valid.

It is important to understand that some issues covered in the reading or discussed in class are inevitably controversial. The reading was chosen to stimulate critical thinking. The authors' views do not necessarily reflect my views or yours. But that is OK. We often do not suppose there is one and only one, or in some instances, any "correct" answer for a question. We welcome different opinions!

Reading Summaries

You are required to complete five reading summaries throughout the semester. Each summary should be based on that week's reading. Each summary should be 1 page long, Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced. Please include your name, date and year, chapter number and title, class number and title, and instructor's name. I will **NOT** accept summaries that are handwritten. You can select any nine chapters to complete the summaries as long as they are between the weeks of July 2 and July 30. *All five chapter summaries will be due in class on August 4 (see schedule below). You **CANNOT** write more than one summary for the same chapter. For example, because we will be spending a whole class period talking about one particular chapter, you cannot write more than one summary for chapter 1. You can turn in a summary on the days we will be meeting. In the summary, you must describe (1) the main topic(s) of the chapter; (2) assertions of the chapter, including at a minimum 5 definitions of key concepts; and (3) any empirical evidence the chapter may have presented that relates to the main themes of the chapter. Summaries are due in class.

Weekly summaries 40 points

Take home exam 60 points

Total 100 points

Final letter grades will be based on the following ranges:

100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	0-59	F
94-99	A	84-86	B	74-76	C	64-66	D		
90-93	A-	80-83	B-	70-73	C-	60-63	D-		

Expectations and Course Policies

1. Deadlines are firm.
2. During class, you must turn off or silent all cell phones. No texting is permitted. Laptops are permitted for the purpose of note taking. Please do not use laptops and other electronic communication devices for social networking (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) during class lectures and discussions.
3. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All forms of cheating are unacceptable. Plagiarism, in particular, is considered a very serious offense. The term plagiarism means to take and use another's words or ideas as one's own. You must acknowledge another's words or ideas by (1) putting quotation marks around verbatim phrasing and revealing the source in a citation and (2) revealing the source in a citation for paraphrased statements. The penalty for dishonesty is a failing grade in this class and mandatory reporting to the community college authority.

Problems with Writing?

If students have concerns about their writing abilities, they should visit Wayne State University's Writing Center in the Undergraduate Library: <http://clas.wayne.edu/writing/>. I am also available to provide some guidance.

Plagiarism

All university rules about plagiarism and cheating are in effect during this course. I expect students to abide by the academic honor code. Any quoted material must be placed in quotation marks with proper references to the author. You may use statistical data or paraphrase other

published works in the text, but ONLY if you provide the complete citation (author's last name and year). This means, even if you use your own words, but the ideas are from something you read you must give credit to that author. If you think you might be plagiarizing, then you probably ARE! Copying entire paragraphs from sources is not appropriate even if citations are provided. Evidence of cheating or plagiarizing result in automatic failure of the test/assignment and possibly the course. Please see the student code of conduct for more information on WSU's policies regarding academic integrity: <http://doso.wayne.edu/assets/codeofconduct.pdf> and http://doso.wayne.edu/assets/scoc_section_10.1_a-b.pdf.

Student Disability Services

If you have a documented disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Student Disability Services (SDS), located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department; telephone is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TTY phone is for hearing impaired students only).

WSU Registration/Withdrawal Policies

The last day to drop the course and have tuition cancellation is **July 8**. The course does not appear on the academic record if you drop the course by this date. If dropped between **July 9 and July 15**, the course does not appear on the academic record, but students are liable for tuition. Students can drop the course between **July 16 and August 5**, but this requires professor approval and "Smart Check" (WP or WF will appear on the academic record). ALL registration and withdrawals are initiated by students through pipeline. After **August 5** students cannot withdrawal from the course and will receive a grade. See for policies:
<http://wayne.edu/students/calendar>

Schedule of Topics and Readings

I reserve the right to alter topics, readings, and dates on this outline. You will be notified of any changes.

07-02-2015 The Sociological Perspective

Introduction to the course and read chapter 1

07-07-2015 Research and Theory in Sociology

Read chapter 2

07-09-2015 **Culture**

Read chapter 3

07-14-2015 **Socialization**

Read chapter 4

07-16-2015 **Social Structure and Social Interaction**

Read chapter 5

07-21-2015 **Deviance and Social Control**

Read chapter 6

07-23-2015 **Social Stratification**

Read chapter 7

07-28-2015 **Race and Ethnicity**

Read chapter 8

07-30-2015 **Sex and Gender**

Read chapter 9

08-04-2015 **Politics and the Economy**

Read chapter 10

***Chapter summaries are due in class**

08-06-2015 **Marriage and Family**

Read chapter 11

08-11-2015 **Education and Religion**

Read chapter 12

08-13-2015 **Population and Urbanization**

Read chapter 13

08-18-2015 Review for final take home exam.

Take home exams will be passed
out in class. You must be present in class to
receive a take home exam.

08-20-2015 Take home exams are due in class by 1:20 p.m.
