**Understanding Human Society**

**SOC 1010:006 CRN #27348 & 27482**

Winter 2019



**Instructor:** Kearabetswe “KB” Mokoene

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 12 – 2 pm, or by appointment

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*You are responsible for the information in this syllabus. Read it carefully & ask questions if necessary.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Course*** | ***Days*** | ***Time*** | ***Location*** |
| 1010 | M, W  | 2:30 am – 3:45 pm | 0100 Shapero Hall (prev. Nat Sci) |

**Course Description & Learning Outcomes**

Welcome!

This course will introduce you to a broad range of topics in the field of sociology.The primary goal of the course is to help you develop a sociological perspective, also called the “sociological imagination,” which will help you see the impacts of *social* forces on *individual* lives – including your own. Throughout the semester, we will read about and discuss sociological theory and research methods, culture, socialization, social control, and social inequalities. In addition to expanding your knowledge of these important topics, this course also will provide opportunities for you to cultivate reading comprehension skills, critical thinking skills, and verbal communication skills.

At the conclusion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the discipline of sociology and its relationship to other disciplines.
2. Describe the scientific process and explain the importance of rigorous empirical research.
3. Think abstractly and critically about social “realities.”
4. Communicate sociological ideas.
5. Apply the sociological imagination and sociological concepts to your own life and the world around you.

**Required Course Materials**

Textbook: *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking like a Sociologist (core fifth edition),* by Dalton Conley. ISBN-13: 978-0393614282.

***YES, the course textbook is REQUIRED.***  Additional course readings will be available on *Canvas*.

Please note that REEF polling (the mobile application) will not be allowed.

**Course Requirements & Expectations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SOC 1010:006****ASSIGNMENT** | % |
| Attendance & Participation | 10 |
| Chapter Quizzes (8)  | 20 |
| Exam I |  20 |
|  Exam II |  25 |
| Final Exam | 25 |
| **TOTAL** | **100** |

**Attendance & Participation: 10% (5%)**

During the course of every class expect an **Attendance Register or Roll Call** **to be taken**. I therefore encourage you to attend every class session that will be on the academic and class calendar, unless communicated otherwise. Attending class provides you with the opportunity to **participate actively in class** (which is expected as it is part of the learning process), at the same time it provides *me* with information I can use to gauge your understanding of course materials.

*Good news: you get only* ***two (2) days off*** *that won’t affect your participation grade. Use them wisely, especially that its winter, reserve them for ‘flu days’.*

*Ps: you don’t have to tell me when you take your off days (2 days), I will pick it up from attendance register.*

*I also expect you to:*

* Be respectful of class time. Be in your seat and ready to go at 3:45 pm. Pack up when I say we are finished for the day *but not before then*.

* Come to class prepared and ready to learn. Complete the assigned readings before class and bring copies of the assigned readings (paper or electronic) with you to class.
* Spend the class period focused on this class only. Take notes by hand with a pen or pencil. (It is empirically proven to be better than typing notes.) Ask questions. Raise your hand to participate in class discussions. Engage in civil dialogue with me (the instructor) and your classmates.



And *please,* FOR THE LOVE OF KNOWLEDGE, save the texting/tweeting/snapchatting and other social media for *after* class.

**Chapter Quizzes: 20%**

You must complete EIGHT Chapter Quizzes on Canvas. They are located in the corresponding chapter modules (e.g., Ch. 1 Quiz is in the Ch. 1 module). These assignments are *open book* and *open notes.* The quizzes are designed to familiarize you with course materials before we discuss the materials in class (i.e., the “flipped” classroom). You must complete each Chapter Quiz, comprised of 20 multiple choice questions, by 11:00 am on the day it is due.Due dates are highlighted, in **boldface** type, and indicated with a tilde (~) on the course schedule. NOTE that due dates may change if the course schedule is adjusted. ***No late assignments will be accepted*, *NO EXCEPTIONS*.**  (In fact, the quizzes mysteriously disappear after the deadline. It’s weird.)

**Exams: 70%**

Three *online* exams will be given in this course. Exams I and II focus on the specific chapters covered immediately prior to the exam. Exam I covers Chapters 1, 2, and 3 and is worth 20% of the course grade. Exam II covers Chapters 4, 6, and 7 and is worth 25% of the course grade. The Final Exam, also worth 25% of the course grade, is *cumulative*, meaning that it covers Chapters 8, 9, and 10 *in addition to* all of the previous chapters. All exams are in multiple choice format.

\*Please note that a lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part. Sometimes technology fails. Wayne State University has a fabulous tech support department that is waiting to help you. They close at 8:00 pm. Please begin your exam well before the time it is due to allow for technical difficulties and time to speak with tech support. Unless you have a support ticket that shows that you contacted support in enough time to complete the exam, extensions will not be given. Tech support can be reached at <https://tech.wayne.edu/helpdesk>.

*Make-up exams will be given only when there are compelling circumstances.* Such circumstances must be discussed and elaborated upon *as soon as they arise.* Failure to schedule a make-up exam prior to exam day will result in a 10% deduction from your exam score.All make-up exams must be scheduled within one week of the exam date.

**Grades**

You will be graded according to the following scale:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grade | Percentage |
| A | 93 – 100 |
| A- | 90 – 92 |
| B+ | 87 – 89 |
| B | 83 – 86 |
| B- | 80 – 82 |
| C+ | 77 – 79 |
| C | 73 – 76 |
| C- | 70 – 72 |
| D+ | 67 – 69 |
| D | 63 – 66 |
| D- | 60 – 62  |
| F | 59 and below |

*Final grades are FINAL!*

No points will be added to *any* student’s grade, including yours, at the end of the semester. Please do *not* ask me to give you a higher grade than you earned because you are on academic probation or need it to maintain a scholarship or have any other special circumstance. I do not give grades; rather, you earn the grade you receive.

**Additional Student & Instructor Responsibilities**

**Student responsibilities:**

* Treat all members of the class and the broader community with *respect***.** Listen attentively when others are speaking and use *inclusive language*when it is your turn to speak. We will discuss sensitive topics in this course. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these discussions, but personal opinions must be presented in a way that does not marginalize any person or group.
* I (the instructor) reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus. As such, you (the student) are responsible for keeping up with any changes that are announced in class, on Canvas, or in email communications. Not attending class, not checking Canvas, and/or not checking your WSU email account are not legitimate excuses for missing assignments and other information relevant to this course.
* **It is YOUR responsibility to check Canvas regularly to ensure that grades are posted accurately.**  It is very important that you regularly check your ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION and CHAPTER QUIZ grades. The end of the semester is too late to fix any technical mistakes or glitches. *Please do not ask me to do so; the answer is “no.”*
* Refer to Canvas for instructions when class is canceled due to weather, power outage, etc.
* You are *strongly encouraged* to **communicate with me** in person or by email if you have any comments, questions, or concerns about the course. Please *schedule an appointment* when you wish to meet with me during office hours or at another designated time. \**A kind tip*: If you are having trouble in this course, please arrange to meet sooner rather than later. Sooner: there is still a chance to improve the situation. Later: there is a greater likelihood that you will be stuck with a lower grade than you wanted.
* *Emails* must have a clear and informative subject line that includes your full name and the name of the course(SOC 1010) in which you are enrolled. Emails without this information in the subject line will be promptly returned to sender. I also ask that you send emails that are appropriate for the university setting, meaning that they should have a salutation and should be written in complete sentences with real words – i.e., “you” instead of “u.”
* *Religious holidays:* “It is University policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students with classes or examinations that conflict with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that mutually agreeable alternatives may be worked out.”
* *Accommodative services:* “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 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 for videophone use. Once you have met with your disability specialist, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your accommodations. Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.” You can learn more about the disability office at [www.studentdisability.wayne.edu](http://www.studentdisability.wayne.edu/).
* *Academic dishonesty*, which includes cheating, plagiarism, and any other form of unethical academic behavior, *will not be tolerated*. Cheating and plagiarism are forms of academic theft that destroy the integrity of academic communities. It is expected that all students enrolled in this class support the letter and the spirit of the Student Code of Conduct. It is your responsibility to review the Code of Conduct, which is available for download at the Dean of Students Office website: <http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct-services.html>. Ignorance is not a viable defense against allegations of student conduct violations.

***My policy on academic dishonesty:***Suspected academic dishonesty will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Students suspected of academic dishonesty may receive a score of 0 on the assignment or a score of 0 in the course, depending on the magnitude of the offense. Moreover, *I am obligated to report all instances of suspected academic dishonesty to university administrators.*

***Instructor* responsibilities:**

* I will come to class prepared to discuss the materials and to facilitate the educational process.
* I will be available to answer questions you have about course materials during class times, office hours, or independently scheduled meetings. If you send an email and do not receive a response within 48 hours, you should assume that your email was not received and resend it.
* I will explain class assignments and outline my expectations for graded work.
* I will grade your work consistently, fairly, and in a timely fashion.
* I will treat all students with respect.
* I will acknowledge and correct my mistakes.

**Important Dates**

Mon, January 7: Classes begin

Fri, January 17: Last day to add a course or drop a course with full tuition reimbursement

Mon, January 20: *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day* (university closed)

Fri, February 7: Degree applications due

Mon, February 24: Early assessment period ends

Mon, March 09-Sat, March 14: *Spring Break* (no classes)

Sun, March 22: Last day to withdraw from a class *with instructor permission*

Mon, April 20: Classes end

Tues, April 21: Study day

Tues, April 30: Final exam, 10:15 am-12:15 pm

**Course Schedule**

The course schedule is *tentative* and inevitably will be adjusted throughout the semester. The asterisk (\*) denotes assigned reading materials that are not in the textbook; rather, they are PDFs or web links available on Canvas.

***Date Course topic Assigned materials DUE on day noted***

01/06 Welcome! Introductions Syllabus

01/08 Sociological Imagination Ch 1, pp. 3-39 (Conley)

**01/13 ~ Sociological Theory Ch 1 QUIZ**

01/15 Sociological Theory \*Should We Generalize about People?

 \*Three Sociological Perspectives

**01/22 ~ Research Methods** Ch 2, pp. 43-71 (Conley**); Ch 2 QUIZ**

01/22 Research Methods \*The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment

**01/27 ~ Culture & Media** Ch 3, pp. 75-113 (Conley); **Ch 3 QUIZ**

01/29 Culture & Media *… continued*

02/03 Culture & Media \*Lovely Hula Hands

02/05 wiggle room | Exam I Review

02/10 **Exam I**

02/12 Discussion: Exam I, Assessment & Reflection Begin reading Ch 4 (Socialization)

**02/17 ~ Socialization & the Construction of Reality** Ch 4, pp.117-149 (Conley); **Ch 4 QUIZ**

02/19 Socialization & the Construction of Reality \*The Egg and the Sperm

**02/24 ~ Social Control & Deviance**  Ch 6, pp.187-233 (Conley); **Ch 6 QUIZ**

02/26 Social Control & Deviance \*New Jim Crow

 \*The Mark of a Criminal Record

**03/02 ~ Stratification** Ch 7, pp.237-273 (Conley); **Ch 7 QUIZ**

03/04 Stratification \*Savage Inequalities

 \*Families Facing Untenable Choices

03/09&11 ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ SPRING BREAK **☼**

03/16 wiggle room | Exam II Review

03/18 **Exam II**

 *\*Sunday, March 22nd is the last day to withdraw from class with instructor permission.*

03/23 **~ Sex, Gender, & Sexuality** Ch 8, pp.277-319 (Conley); **Ch 8 QUIZ**

03/25 Sex, Gender, & Sexuality \*How boys teach each other to be boys

 \*The Case for Raising Feminist Boys

**03/30 ~ Race & Ethnicity** Ch 9, pp.323-369 (Conley); **Ch 9 QUIZ**

04/01 Race & Ethnicity \*Defining Racism: Can We Talk?

 \*The Average Black Family & Wealth

04/06 Social Change | Resisting Oppression \*Visions of a Better Future

04/08 Social Change | Resisting Oppression

04/13 wiggle room | Final Exam Review

04/27 **FINAL EXAM (DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED)**

***Reading tips***

Engaged reading is *active* reading. You should take notes as you read and reread an author’s work, paying careful attention to the author’s arguments. Doing so will help you judge the strength of the author’s claims.

Think about the following questions as you read:

* What is the author’s primary focus &/or primary research question?
* What key terms contribute to your understanding of this work? How are these terms defined by the author?
* What are the author’s key claims &/or findings?
* What evidence is used to support the author’s claims/findings?
* Which theory/theories does the author use?
* Are data used to support the author’s claims?
* If so, what are the data and how are they analyzed?
* Does the author acknowledge arguments that contradict her claims? What are they?
* What are the strengths of this piece?
* What are the weaknesses of this piece?
* What is the most interesting part of the author’s work?
* What assumptions / life experiences do you bring to this process that lead to your unique interpretations?

Tips for highlighting and annotating during the active reading process:

* A pencil works as well as a pen or marker; try both and see which you like best.
* Underline each claim an author makes.
* Circle or box definitions or essential terms.
* Use arrows or lines to show connections.
* Use vertical lines in the margins to mark entire passages.
* Star the most important items.
* Use question marks for confusing places.
* Use the margins to:
* Summarize key terms, sections, or ideas in your own words.
* Articulate disagreements with the author’s arguments.