

INTRO TO SOCIOLOGY

SOCIO 211D

Spring 2025

Meeting Times: TU 1:05pm – 2:20pm

Location: Calvin 212

Instructor: Dylan Sears

Email: dmsears@ksu.edu

Office: N/A

Office Hours: By Appointment

The difficulty, in sociology, is to manage to think in a completely astonished and disconcerted way about things you thought you had always understood. – Pierre Bourdieu, Language and Symbolic Power

Course Description: A survey of the field of sociology, its theories, and key concepts. In this course, we will explore the sociological perspective and how we can use it to understand the world around us, social inequality, and social processes.

Course Objectives:

- Establish a clear definition of what sociology is.
- Develop an understanding of the background and historical development of sociology.
- Explore the major theoretical approaches of sociology and its central figures.
- Learn the various methods that sociologists use in their research.
- Apply a sociological perspective to the various forms of social inequality we see in American life.

Assignments:

- 2 Exams
- 4 “Applying Sociology” Activities
- 10 Weekly Quizzes
- In-class participation activities
- 4 Book Clubs

Exams: 2 multiple choice/short answer exams will be administered via Canvas, one as a midterm, and the other as a final.

“Applying Sociology” Activities: This semester we will engage in 4 activities in which we attempt to engage sociology in an applied manner by using it to examine a different aspect of our daily lives. These allow us to engage critically with sociological topics and write about our experiences. These are graded via rubric available on the assignment on canvas to streamline the grading process.

Weekly Quizzes: 10 weekly quizzes consisting of 10 questions each will open on canvas the Monday of their given week and will close the following Sunday at 11:59pm. They will cover that week’s lecture material. By and large these quizzes are designed to ensure that students are both *present* in classes and paying attention to lectures.

Participation Activities: In lieu of taking attendance in the traditional sense, instead we will engage in weekly in-class participation activities that involve discussion, analysis, or reflective writing related to the lecture topics or current events (you will need pencils/pens and paper for this).

Book Clubs: This semester we will hold four “book club” meetings (these are clearly noted on the syllabus). In these meetings, students will be grouped up in groups of 4-6 (groups will be determined early in the semester) and we will discuss the sections of the book we have read, based on the syllabus. Discussion questions will be supplied by the instructor and students will fill out worksheets as a group. Completion/attendance of these book clubs is required to receive credit for the book club grade.

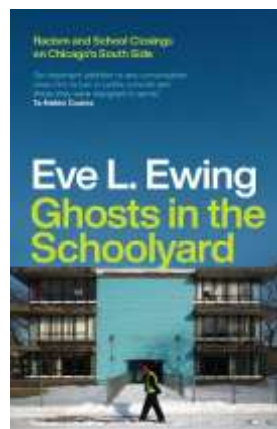
Assessment: This class is graded on a 500-point scale with point totals corresponding to grades below.

Grades: **A:** 500 - 450 **B:** 449 - 400 **C:** 399 - 350 **D:** 349 - 300 **F:** 299 - 0

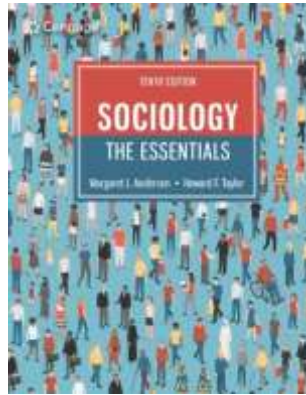
Assignments:	Points:
Participation Activities	50 Points
Exams	200 Points
Weekly Quizzes	100 Points
“Applying Sociology” Activities	100 Points
Book Clubs	50 Points
Total	500 Points

Extra Credit: No extra credit is offered in this course.

Book (REQUIRED): Throughout this semester we will read the book *Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism and School Closings on Chicago’s South Side* by Eve L. Ewing. This book can be found online in various spaces and can be purchased both physically, as an ebook, and is available in audiobook form on Amazon, Spotify and other bookseller/media websites.



Textbook (NOT REQUIRED): *Sociology: The Essentials*, 10th edition, by Margaret L. Andersen and Howard F. Taylor



Class Policies:

Discussion: Engaged discussion is an important part of the college experience, so please come to class prepared to discuss the topic at hand with your peers. Additionally, this is sociology, you may hear things in this class you disagree with, if that is the case, please be respectful of others and engage with the material. Even if you disagree with the material, you should learn it to properly critique it.

Communication: Please contact me via your **K-State email address** to ensure that I receive your messages. Additionally, allow 48 hours for reply, if I have not replied by then, do not hesitate to follow up. Finally, I only respond to emails from 9 to 5 on weekdays and rarely check my email on the weekends, so try to contact me with those constraints in mind.

Office Hours: Office hours are available by appointment via zoom or in-person, please email me or talk to me in class to schedule an office hours meeting.

Electronics Policy: Laptop use is permitted in the classroom, but please be courteous to the rest of the class. Cell phone use is *not* permitted within the classroom, if you need to respond to a message/call, please step into the hallway to do so.

Attendance: There are no points tied to attendance directly, but attendance is expected and to succeed in this class you must do your best to come to class on time and on the days we meet.

Schedule (Tentative):

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT/READING
Week 1 – Introductions		
1/21	Syllabus Day	Syllabus, available on Canvas – week 1 module
1/23	A Brief Primer on Sociology	Quiz 1 “Syllabus Quiz” due Sunday 1/26 at Midnight
Week 2 – What is Sociology?		
1/28	Sociology: Influences and Origins	Read: C. Wright Mills, “The Sociological Imagination” via Canvas
1/30	The Sociological Perspective	Applying Sociology Activity 1 due Sunday 2/2 at Midnight

		Quiz 2: “The Sociological Imagination” due via Canvas Sunday 2/2 at Midnight
Week 3 – Foundational Sociological Theory		
2/4	Social Theory: Consensus	
2/6	Social Theory: Conflict	Quiz 3 “Sociological Theories” due Sunday 2/9 at Midnight
Week 4 – The Intersections of Inequality		
2/11	Class, Race, Gender	
2/13	Book Club 1: “Why are we reading <i>Ghosts in the Schoolyard</i> ?”	READ <i>Ghosts in the Schoolyard</i> Chapter 1 “What a School Means” (pp. 15-53) Quiz 4 “Sociological Approaches to Inequality” due Sunday 2/16 at Midnight
Week 5 – Social Structure, Institutions, and Organization		
2/18	What do we mean by Social Structure?	
2/20	Institutions, Organization, and Structure	Quiz 5 “The Structure of Society” due Sunday 2/23 at Midnight
Week 6 – Socialization and the Life Course		
2/25	The socialization process	
2/27	Socialization and the Life Course	Quiz 6 “Socialization and the Life Course” due Sunday 3/2 at Midnight
Week 7 – Sociological Methods		
3/4	Social Research Methods	
3/6	Book Club 2: “Institution and Community”	READ <i>Ghosts in the Schoolyard</i> Chapter 1: “City of Losses” (pp. 53-94) Applying Sociology Activity 2 “The Structure of Daily Life” Due Sunday 3/9 at Midnight
Week 8 – Midterms		
3/11	Midterm Review Session	Study Guide Posted on Canvas
3/13	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam due via Canvas by midnight 3/16
Week 9 – SPRING BREAK (3/16-3/23)		
Week 10 – Culture		
3/25	Culture and Sociology	
3/27	Book Club 3: “Race and the City”	READ <i>Ghosts in the Schoolyard</i> Chapter 2 “Dueling Realities” (pp. 94-125) Quiz 7 “Culture and Sociology” due Sunday 3/30 at Midnight
Week 11 – Religion, Community, Politics		
4/1	Religion and the Social World	
4/3	Politics and the Social World	Quiz 8 “Social Conflict and Social Change” due via Canvas by Midnight 4/6
Week 12 – Crime & Deviance in American Society		
4/8	A Sociological Perspective on Crime and Deviance	

4/10	The Panopticon of Late Modernity	Applying Sociology Activity 3 “Sit Back and Observe” due via Canvas Sunday 4/13 at Midnight Quiz 9 “Crime and Deviance” due via Canvas Sunday 4/13 at Midnight
Week 13 – Education		
4/15	The US Education System	
4/17	Book Club 4: “The Impact of School Closures”	READ <i>Ghosts in the Schoolyard</i> Chapter 4 “Mourning” (pp. 125-157)
Week 14 – Crime, Education, Stratification		
4/22	The School-to-Prison Pipeline	
4/24	Education and Stratification	Quiz 10 “Education and Stratification” due Sunday 4/27 at Midnight
Week 15 – Special Topics in Culture/Deviance		
4/29	Special Topics	
5/1	Special Topics	Applying Sociology Activity 4 “Symbol Scavenger Hunt” due via Canvas Sunday 5/3 at Midnight
Week 16 – Dead Week		
5/6	Final Exam Review Session/Recap/Catchup	Study Guide posted via canvas and covered in-class
5/8	Final Exam Review Session/Recap/Catchup	
Finals Week		
5/12-5/16	Final Exam	Submit Final Exam by 5/16 at 11:59pm via Canvas

1. Statement Regarding [Academic Honesty](#)

Kansas State University has an Honor and Integrity System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance that, in academic matters, one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor and Integrity System. The policies and procedures of the [Honor and Integrity System](#) apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. A component vital to the Honor and Integrity System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

2. Statement Regarding [Students with Disabilities](#)

At K-State it is important that every student has access to course content and the means to demonstrate course mastery. Students with disabilities may benefit from services including accommodations provided by the Student Access Center. Disabilities can include physical, learning, executive functions, and mental health. You may register at the Student Access Center (k-state.edu/accesscenter) or to learn more contact:

Manhattan/Olathe/Global Campus – Student Access Center
accesscenter@k-state.edu
785-532-6441

K-State Salina Campus – Julie Rowe; Student Success Coordinator
jarowe@k-state.edu
785-820-7908

Students already registered with the Student Access Center please request your Letters of Accommodation early in the semester to provide adequate time to arrange your approved academic accommodations. Once SAC approves your Letter of Accommodation it will be e-mailed to you, and your instructor(s) for this course. Please follow up with your instructor to discuss how best to implement the approved accommodations.

3. Statement Defining Expectations for Classroom Conduct

All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the [Student Judicial Conduct Code](#) as outlined in the Student Governing Association [By Laws](#), Article V, Section 3, number 2. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class.

4. Statement on Mutual Respect and Inclusion in K-State Teaching and Learning Spaces

At K-State, faculty and staff are committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive and supportive learning environment for students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. K-State courses, labs, and other virtual and physical learning spaces promote equitable opportunity to learn, participate, contribute, and succeed, regardless of age, race, color, ethnicity, nationality, genetic information, ancestry, disability, socioeconomic status, military or veteran status, immigration status, Indigenous identity, gender identity, gender expression, sexuality, religion, culture, as well as other social identities.

Faculty and staff are committed to promoting equity and believe the success of an inclusive learning environment relies on the participation, support, and understanding of all students. Students are encouraged to

share their views and lived experiences as they relate to the course or their course experience, while recognizing they are doing so in a learning environment in which all are expected to engage with respect to honor the rights, safety, and dignity of others in keeping with the K-State Principles of Community <https://www.k-state.edu/about/values/community/>.

If you feel uncomfortable because of comments or behavior encountered in this class, you may bring it to the attention of your instructor, advisors, and/or mentors. If you have questions about how to proceed with a confidential process to resolve concerns, please contact the Student Ombudsperson Office. Violations of the [student code of conduct](https://www.k-state.edu/sga/judicial/student-code-of-conduct.html) can be reported here <https://www.k-state.edu/sga/judicial/student-code-of-conduct.html>. If you experience bias or discrimination, it can be reported here <https://www.k-state.edu/report/discrimination/>.

5. Statement Regarding Wearing of Face Masks

Kansas State University strongly encourages, but does not require, that everyone wear masks while indoors on university property, including while attending in-person classes. For additional information and the latest on K-State's face covering policy, see <https://www.k-state.edu/covid-19/guidance/health/face-covering.html>.

6. Statement Regarding Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Harassment

Kansas State University is committed to maintaining academic, housing, and work environments that are free of discrimination, harassment, and sexual harassment. Instructors support the University's commitment by creating a safe learning environment during this course, free of conduct that would interfere with your academic opportunities. Instructors also have a [duty to report](#) any behavior they become aware of that potentially violates the University's policy prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and sexual harassment ([PPM 3010](#)).

If a student is subjected to discrimination, harassment, or sexual harassment, they are encouraged to make a non-confidential report to the University's [Office for Institutional Equity \(OIE\)](#) using the [online reporting form](#). Incident disclosure is not required to receive resources at K-State. Reports that include domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, should be considered for reporting by the complainant to the [Kansas State University Police Department](#) or the [Riley County Police Department](#). Reports made to law enforcement are separate from reports made to OIE. A complainant can choose to report to one or both entities. Confidential support and advocacy can be found with the [K-State Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education \(CARE\)](#). Confidential mental health services can be found with Lafene Counseling and Psychological Services ([CAPS](#)). Academic support can be found with the [Office of Student Life \(OSL\)](#). OSL is a non-confidential resource. A comprehensive list of resources is available [here](#). If you have questions about non-confidential and confidential resources, please contact OIE at equity@ksu.edu or (785) 532-6220.