

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SOC 1101
Summer 2023, 3-Week Session 1

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TA/Section Leader: Chance A. Smith, Department of Sociology, cas563@cornell.edu

Duration: Monday to Friday, May 30 – June 16

Asynchronous Lectures: Daily Videos available on Canvas 24 hours before Sections

Synchronous Sections: Daily Canvas Zoom meetings at 20:00 – 21:00 PM (EST)¹

Instructor Office Hour Sign-Up: <https://soc1101su23.youcanbook.me> [Mon to Thurs: 18:50 – 19:50 PM]

TA Office Hour: By Appointment via Email

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a broad introduction to the field of sociology. Course materials are designed to illustrate the distinctive features of the sociological perspective and to start you thinking sociologically about yourself and the broader social world. To think sociologically is to recognize that being embedded in the world constrains behavior, and that individuals are both social actors and social products. To think sociologically is also to recognize that our contemporary world, with its enduring cultural, political, and economic institutions, is as much a social product as we are. We will begin by covering theoretical and methodological foundations of the sociological perspective. We will go on to explore the concept of social stratification and will survey primary axes of social difference. In the second half of the course, we will look more closely at how individuals relate to each other, how social inequality is enacted and reinforced in everyday life, and at the way in which the organization of social life shapes individuals and groups, such as through schooling, families, and social networks.

COURSE READINGS

Reading is central to this course. This is a 3-credit course, which typically requires 9 hours of work per week during a regular semester. In our 3-week summer session, this translates to 9 hours of work per day—or approximately 5 hours of daily self-study time in addition to lectures, sections, and quizzes. While you may find this workload demanding, it is crucial that **you take the assigned readings seriously and expect to allocate at least 1-2 hours per day to complete them.**

All **assigned** readings are **required** and will be available through Canvas. The readings comprise a combination of scholarly articles, book chapters, and journalistic essays. The readings are under **the "Readings" tab of Canvas-Modules.**

There are two **recommended textbooks** for the class. The textbooks are **optional**; however, the lectures and slides draw from them to varying degrees, and you may find them **very helpful** as your additional companion for the course. The textbooks are under **the "Optional Textbooks" tab of Canvas-Modules.**

¹ All times are in Eastern Daylight Time (New York, USA).

- Conley, Dalton. *You may ask yourself: An introduction to thinking like a sociologist* (7th Edition). New York: WW Norton, 2021.
- Chambliss, William J. & Daina S. Eglitis, *Discover Sociology* (4th Edition). SAGE Publications, 2020.

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

You are responsible for all the material covered in lectures, sections, readings, and assignments. **Before each evening's discussion sections, you are expected to have watched the video lectures and completed the assigned readings for that day.** In addition, there are four course requirements specified below. The weight of each component of the assessment will depend on whether you are able to participate in the synchronous sections of the course.

1. Review Quizzes [55%]

- You will take **2 quizzes each week**, or 6 quizzes altogether for the course.
- The quizzes will be administered through Canvas starting at **21:30 PM on Wednesdays and Fridays**. The quiz will be open for 46 hours—i.e., **until 7:30 PM on Fridays and Sundays**.
- Once you begin, you will have 45 minutes to complete 30 standard-type objective questions (e.g., multiple choice, true/false, matching).
- You can use all the course materials I've provided but you cannot work with others or get help from others on quizzes. FYI, students will be randomly assigned different quiz questions and Canvas offers extensive cross-evaluation of assignments across students.
- Late quizzes are generally not allowed. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped for final grading.

2. Reading Posts [15%]

- **By 6 PM each day** before section meetings, you will submit a **reading post to Canvas-Discussion Board** for that day's readings. The posts do not need to be formal or crafted; rather, they are meant to be a platform for you to document and share with the class your takeaways, reactions, questions, and critiques of the readings. The readings could come from Assigned or Optional ones.
- The posts are not judged by their quality, and full credit is given as long as they 1) are about 80~150 words in length and 2) address at least 2 readings from the day.
- You are allowed 2 slip days without penalty. In total, you need to submit 8 posts throughout the course.
- Late posts are accepted with a 10% penalty if they are submitted within 2 hours of the original due time (i.e., right before section meetings). Beyond 2 hours, no credit can be earned.

3. Short Essays [15%]

- You are required to submit **2 short essays** in the duration of the course. The essay prompts will be **posted in Canvas on Wednesdays** of the second and third weeks (June 7th and 14th) and will be due by **10PM the following Mondays (June 12th and 19th)**.
- The memos should be 1.5 to 2 pages double-spaced (11 or 12 font, Times New Roman) and are graded "✓" (good: 100), "✓-" (satisfactory: 80), or "unsatisfactory" (50). You can use any citation format when referring to specific readings as long as you are consistent

with the citation format you choose.

- Late essays are accepted without penalty if they are submitted within 24 hours of the original due time. Beyond 24 hours, the maximum grade will be 50.

4. Section Attendance and Participation [15%]

Attendance at and active participation in **synchronous sections** will count for the remaining 15% of your course grade.

Your TA Chance will lead the majority of the sections, whereas I will teach the sections on May 30th, June 8th, and June 16th to get to know and check in with students. As the only synchronous component of this course, section meetings can be vital for your learning experiences and outcomes. Sections provide an interactive learning environment where you discuss, apply and ask questions about lectures, reading material, and assignments. You are allowed **two absences without penalty** to your grade, though I strongly encourage you to attend all section meetings to maximize learning and better prepare for course assignments. Additional absences will only be excused for pressing, non-academic reasons. You are expected to contribute to discussions, participate in any group activities, and complete in-class exercises.

If you cannot attend sections due to scheduling conflicts, sections are recorded for your self-learning. To earn section credits without attending, you should submit a 1-page double-spaced response to the section's discussion questions.

FINAL GRADES WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING DISTRIBUTION

93-100 = A 83-<87 = B 73-<77 = C 63-<67 = D

90-<93 = A- 80-<83 = B- 70-<73 = C- 60-<63 = D-

87-<90 = B+ 77-<80 = C+ 67-<70 = D+ <60 = F

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Class Climate & Sensitive Topics

Sociology covers things relevant to everyday life. Unlike more abstract areas of study, we will all have had experiences with and opinions about at least some of the topics addressed in this course. Some topics will be more sensitive than others and something that seems innocuous to one person may be particularly sensitive for another. It is important that we be respectful of people's experiences and perspectives in any course-related discussions in class. If a particular discussion topic appears sensitive to you, it's fine to inform me or the TA in private (e.g., Zoom chat or email) and leave the class if you need to.

Communication

If you have questions, please follow the following communication protocol to keep communication efficient and effective:

1. First consult the **syllabus** to see if it answers your question.
2. Come to **office hours**. We're happy to answer questions or just talk about the course material and/or sociology more generally.
3. **Email** me and/or the TA with the **subject title "SOC 1101 STUDENT QUESTION"**. We receive numerous emails per day and this standardized subject title will make it easier for us to identify and locate student emails. The TA and I aim to respond to student questions within 24 hours, but please allow for a slower turnaround during the weekends.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity, honesty, and trust are vital to the learning process.

Each student in this course is expected to **abide by the Cornell University Policy on Academic Integrity**, which can be found here:

<https://theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/dean/academic-integrity/code-of-academic-integrity/>.

All work submitted by a student in this course will be the student's own work, and any outside assistance must be acknowledged. Please make sure you understand what plagiarism is:

<https://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/principles.cfm>.

You are allowed to transmit or share lecture or other course materials to others for non-commercial, educational purposes. However, you are prohibited from selling or purchasing any course material—including derivatives such as study notes—through transactions with other students or commercial sites such as Chegg, CourseHero, and Slader. The latter behaviors will violate the Code of Academic Integrity.

The Use of generative AI

You are permitted and welcome to use generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, New Bing, Dall-e, etc.) if doing so facilitates your learning without compromising academic integrity.

For written assignments (e.g., reading posts, short essays), you can ask AI to check your grammar and style, brainstorm ideas, and find information on your topic, etc. However, you cannot ask AI to impersonate you in classroom contexts, such as by using it to write entire sentences, paragraphs, or posts for you. Where you use AI tools, you should disclose in your assignment the use of such technologies. For example, “I used GPT4 to proofread my work.”

AI tools should not be listed as authors or co-authors of your work. You are responsible for the content you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not contain misinformation).

Accommodations

Your access to this course is important to me. I seek to structure the course itself in an accessible way. Many accessibility practices make the course better for everyone, especially as not all those who would benefit from or may need accessibility have official forms on file. Although I seek to build accessibility into the course, it is still a work in progress. I am happy to consider suggestions for ways to build more accessibility into the course.

Although I seek to structure accessibility into the course, it can be difficult to meet all needs via course structure or anticipate all possible needs. Please request your accommodation letter from Student Disability Services (SDS) early in the semester, or as soon as you become registered with SDS, so that we have adequate time to arrange your approved academic accommodations. Once SDS approves your accommodation letter, it will be emailed to both you and me. For more information, refer to: <http://sds.cornell.edu/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I: THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE		
Tues 5/30	Lecture Videos	Lecture 1: Introduction & Course Overview <i>Assigned readings:</i> please closely read the class syllabus and the “Guides to Reading Social Science”
	Section Meeting	
Wed 5/31	Lecture Videos	Lecture 2: What do Sociologists do? What is Sociological Thinking? <i>Assigned readings:</i> Berger 1963 Ch 1; Mills 1959 Ch 1 Lecture 3: Discipline Origins: The Five Guys and Beyond <i>Optional readings:</i> Conley (textbook) 2021 Ch 1 excerpt
	Section Meeting, Reading Post 1, & Quiz 1	
Thurs 6/1	Lecture Videos	Lecture 4: Social Facts and The Sociological Question Lecture 5: Research Methods <i>Assigned readings:</i> Conley (textbook) 2021 Ch 2
	Section Meeting & Reading Post 2	
II: SOCIAL DIFFERENCE – CLASS, RACE & GENDER		
Fri 6/2	Lecture Videos	Lecture 6: Social Stratification and Inequality <i>Assigned readings:</i> Lemert 2013 [Marx & Engels 1848]; Davis & Moore 1945; Tumin 1953 Lecture 7: Social Class and Mobility <i>Assigned readings:</i> Lareau 2002; Chetty et al 2016
	Section Meeting, Reading Post 3, & Quiz 2	
Mon 6/5	Lecture Videos	Lecture 8: Race and Ethnicity <i>Assigned readings:</i> McMillan Cottom 2019; Kanazawa and Funk 2001 <i>Optional readings:</i> Foy and Roy 2020 [March Madness and college basketball’s racial bias problem (brookings.edu)] Lecture 9: Colonialism and Global Racism <i>Assigned readings:</i> Fanon [1952] 2008; Dixon & Telles 2016
	Section Meeting & Reading Post 4	

Tue 6/6	Lecture Videos	Lecture 10: Gender Assigned readings: England 2010; Martin 1991 Lecture 11: Sex and Sexuality Assigned readings: Pascoe 2005
	Section Meeting & Reading Post 5	
Wed 6/7	NO CLASS. Watch <i>Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death</i> under Canvas-Library Reserve. Short Essay 1 Assigned & Quiz 3	
III: CULTURE, SOCIALIZATION & DEVIANCE		
Thurs 6/8	Lecture Videos	Lecture 12: Culture Assigned readings: Swidler 1986; Tavory & Swidler 2009 Lecture 13: Socialization Assigned readings: Horwitz et al. 2022; Eccles 2014
	Section Meeting & Reading Post 6	
Fri 6/9	Lecture Videos	Lecture 14: Interaction and the Self Assigned readings: Cooley 1905, Goffman 1959 Lecture 15: Deviance & Stigma Assigned readings: Becker 1963
	Section Meeting, Reading Post 7, & Quiz 4	
IV: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS & SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS		
Mon 6/12	Lecture Videos	Lecture 16: Marriage and Family Assigned readings: Cherlin 2004; Raymo et al. 2015 Lecture 17: Schooling Assigned readings: Davies & Guppy 2014
	Section Meeting, Short Essay 1 Due & Reading Post 8	
Tues 6/13	Lecture Videos	Lecture 18: Neighborhood Assigned readings: Chetty et al. 2014 Lecture 19: Crime and Punishment Assigned readings: Wakefield & Uggen 2010
	Section Meeting & Reading Post 9	
Wed 6/14	NO CLASS. Watch <i>Just Mercy</i> (Online streaming using this link https://new.olevod.com/player/vod/1/15586/1?duration=0&play=true). Short Essay 2 Assigned & Quiz 5	

V: NETWORKS, GLOBALIZATION, HEALTH, & TECHNOLOGY		
Thurs 6/15	Lecture Videos	<p>Lecture 20: Social Networks Assigned readings: Christakis and Fowler 2009</p> <p>Lecture 21: Globalization Assigned readings: Hochschild 2014</p>
	Section Meeting & Reading Post 10	
Fri 6/16	Lecture Videos	<p>Lecture 22: Health and Social Context Assigned readings: Braveman et al. 2010; York Cornwell & Currit 2016</p> <p>Lecture 23: AI, Genetics and Reflexivity Assigned readings: Michael et al. 2010; Harari 2019 excerpt Online version of Michael et al. reading: *Beyond Mendel's Ghost (sagepub.com)</p>
	Section Meeting & Quiz 6. NO READING POST!	
Mon 6/19	Short Essay 2 Due	