

Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology
Spring 2015

Pierce Hall 102
Mondays & Wednesdays 2:30-4:10pm

Instructor: Prof. Alexandra Vinson

Email: alex.vinson@emory.edu

Office hours: Fridays 9am-10am and 12pm-1pm, or by appointment

Office location: Modular Unit 1, Room 4

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is composed of a foundations unit and three substantive units that discuss sociological concepts as they apply to common everyday phenomena: language; schools, prisons and hospitals; and food and water. In this class you will learn how broad social forces shape the life chances of individuals, how individuals participate in their social groups, and how social institutions—like government, school and family—shape how people act. Your performance in the course will be assessed on four written exams and your in-class participation. After you complete this course you will be able to apply sociological perspectives to the issues discussed in this course and to other social issues you encounter in the news and in conversation with family and friends.

COURSE MATERIALS

All assigned readings can be found on the e-Reserves site for this course.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Each absence above two will reduce your total score by one point. In order to do well in Soc 101, you will need to attend every class meeting as very little of the lecture material comes from required texts. Class begins promptly at 2:30pm and arriving more than five minutes late will be counted as an absence.

Academic Integrity

The Oxford College Honor Code and Conduct Code are in full effect for every aspect of Soc 230. Each time you sign your name to any required work, including the attendance sheet, you are pledging yourself to the Honor Code. Signing another student's name on any attendance sheet is a violation of the Honor Code.

Accessibility & Accommodations

Please send me an email or come to my office hours before the Add/Drop/Swap period ends if you need assistance arranging accommodations through the Office of Disability Services or if you would like to discuss accessibility issues as they relate to your performance in this course.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade in this course will be based on your performance on four written exams, in-class assignments, and your in-class participation, which includes attendance, being prepared to participate in discussion and small group work, and giving short presentations as assigned. There may be occasional reading quizzes, so come to class prepared.

Full participation credit (8 points) will be given to students who (1) attend every class session, (2) have done the reading, (3) participate actively in discussion, and (4) make comments that enrich the quality of the discussion.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

	Grading Scale	
Test #1—20 points	A	93-100
Test #2—20 points	A-	90-92
Test #3—20 points	B+	87-89
Test #4—20 points	B	83-86
Assignments—12 points	B-	80-82
Participation—8 points	C+	77-79
TOTAL—100 points	C	73-76
	C-	70-72
	D	60-69
	F	below 60

COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit 1: FOUNDATIONS

Jan 14—Course Introduction
Jan 21—Elements of Social Structure
Jan 26—Social Organization & Deviance
Jan 28—Social Organization & Deviance

Feb 2—Test #1

Unit 2: LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Feb 4—Introduction to Culture
Feb 9—Language & Culture
Feb 11—Cultural Membership
Feb 16—Sociological perspectives on race, class, gender, age, sexuality
Feb 18—Discrimination, Prejudice & Stratification
Feb 23—Language attitudes

Feb 25—Test #2

HOMEWORK & READINGS

“The Outside Game” by Adam Gopnik

TEST #1

Becker
Kiesling
Bucholtz
Lareau

TEST #2

Unit 3: SCHOOLS, PRISONS & HOSPITALS

Mar 2—Foundations of Social Institutions

Mar 4—Schools

[SPRING BREAK]

Mar 16—Prisons

Mar 18—Prisons

Mar 23—Hospitals

Mar 25—Other Social Institutions

Mar 30—Other Social Institutions

Apr 1—Test #3

Gowan, Introduction

Armstrong & Hamilton

Gowan, Conclusion

Lara-Millan

TEST #3

Unit 4: FOOD & WATER

Apr 6—Thinking About Food and Water

Apr 8—The Business of Food and Water

Apr 13—Food Production

Apr 15—Tour of Oxford's Farm

Apr 20—Food Cultures, Diet & Identity

Apr 22—Review Day

Apr 27—Test #4

Polanyi, pgs TBA

TEST #4