



"I love our lunches out here, but I always get the feeling that we're being watched."

### **Introduction to Sociology**

Professor: Dr. Deric Shannon

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Office hours: M/W/F 10:45am-12:30pm, 2:00pm-3:30pm; or by appointment

### **Course Overview:**

The purpose of this course is to give students a critical introduction to the discipline of sociology. Sociology is the study of human social activity, from groups to the individual and the many overlaps where they meet. We will pay particular attention to theories of society, different types of social inequality, our dominant institutions, and how humans collectively produce meaning. Students should expect to take nothing for granted in this course as we go on a mental journey together, studying humanity and its impact on groupings within it and our surrounding environment.

### **Books:**

Glasberg, Davita Silfen and Kenneth J. Neubeck. *Sociology: Diversity, Conflict, and Change*. McGraw-Hill.

### **Guidelines:**

1. We will be discussing sensitive topics this semester and critiquing institutions and ways of life that all of us are very familiar with and some of us have a vested interest in. Please be sensitive to differences of opinion.

2. Along with number 1, remember that you can have any opinion you want on these subjects and should never hesitate to express it. This is regardless of what you think my own positions are and those of your classmates. Open dialogue is an important feature of any democracy, and we will have open dialogue in my classroom.
3. That said, there is no reason to state things in an offensive way. Be respectful.
4. Our class schedule is **SUBJECT TO CONSTANT CHANGE**. It is of the utmost importance that you come to class. If you often skip classes, this one is not for you. (Note also the attendance policy).
5. We may watch films in this class with disturbing content and images. Feel free to leave anytime if you must.
6. Try to have a good time and think critically.

**Honor Code:**

All aspects of the course are governed by the Oxford College Honor Code as is articulated on the relevant pages of the Oxford College Catalog.

**Attendance Policy:**

Everyone can miss class three times throughout the semester. Students will be penalized by 2 percentage points toward their grade for every missed class after that.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. Students who need documentation or other disability-related services are advised to visit the Student Health/Counseling Center: <http://oxford.emory.edu/academics/catalog/educational-resources/disability-services/>.

**Grades:**

Grades for this course will be based on participation, five reflection papers, four quizzes, and five reflection papers:

Participation: 15%

4 quizzes: 10% a piece

5 reflection papers: 5% a piece

Final paper: 20%

**Participation:**

Students will be graded on participation based on attendance and meaningful contributions to class discussions.

**Four Quizzes**

We will complete four in-class quizzes to test students on basic concepts and analytic skills in sociology. These quizzes will be **closed** book and will range from multiple choice questions to short answers.

**Five Reflection Papers:**

Students are required to hand in a two-page reflection paper five times throughout the course. These papers can be in any format and cover any topic, provided they are related to the course. Prompts will be given to provide guidance for at least two of the papers. No, you may not email them to me.

**Final Paper:**

Final papers will be 6-8 pages long. They should demonstrate critical thought about what the student has learned in class. These papers can take any format the student likes (e.g. analysis, research, opinion, etc.) and be centered on anything related to the class and should include at least four reliable sources. Note the library day for students to learn about using the library for research and what constitutes “reliable” sources. No, you may not email them to me.

**Schedule:**

Week 1 – Aug 28/30: Introductions and course construction

Week 2 – Sept 4/6: Chapter 1—What is sociology?/The sociological imagination/Theories of Society

Week 3 – Sept. 9/11/13: Chapter 1 continued...

Week 4 – Sept. 16/18/20: Chapter 2—Research and method/How do sociologists study society?

Week 5 – Sept. 23/25/27: Chapter 3—Macro social structures

Week 6 – Sept. 30/Oct. 2/4: Chapter 4—Micro and midlevel social structures, **Quiz 1 on Oct. 4**

Week 7 – Oct. 7/9/11: Chapter 5—Culture

Week 8 – Oct. 16/18: Chapter 6—Socialization

Week 9 – Oct. 21/23/25: Chapter 7—Systems of inequality, **Quiz 2 on Oct. 25**

Week 10 – Oct. 28/30/Nov. 1: Chapter 9—Deviance, crime, and social control

Week 11 – Nov. 4—MEET WITH SARAH BANKSTON (Room 230 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, just to the right at the top of the stairs)/Nov. 6/8: Chapter 10—Social change and social movements

Week 12 – Nov. 11/13/15: Chapter 11—The state and capital, **Quiz 3 on Nov. 15**

Week 13 – Nov. 18/20/22: Chapter 12—Work and production

Week 14 – Nov. 25: Chapter 13—Education

Week 15 – Dec. 2/4/6: Chapter 16—Religion

Week 16 – Dec. 9: Research papers due, **Quiz 4**