
SOC 101: Introduction to General Sociology

Instructor:	Charity Crabtree (cecraab@emory.edu)	Oxford College Pierce 102
Office:	205 Humanities Bldg	T, TH 10:00 - 11:15
Office Hours:	T, TH 11:15 – 1:00 and by appt	SOC_OX 101-10J

Course Overview

Sociology is the scientific study of human behavior. Sociologists attempt to identify general behavior patterns of groups and individuals, and determine the ways that these patterns change according to contextual variation. Symbolic meanings and structural constraints change over time and place and according to different social and cultural conditions, leading to different patterns of behavior.

In this course, we will be learning about some of the major conceptual issues in the discipline of sociology, looking specifically at how we are shaped by and shape the social environment in which we live. We will begin by examining more closely what sociologists mean when they say they study “society” and “social structure,” and how the sociological perspective is unique. The course will provide you with a general understanding of how sociologists choose and then attempt to answer research questions. After learning the “basics,” we will look at the individual in particular social contexts, and then broaden our discussion to the level of groups and organizations. We will learn about institutions such as religion and the family and then examine power and inequality in terms of the economy, education, race and ethnicity, and gender and sexuality. Finally, we will discuss modernity, globalization, and social movements and their relationships with the social world as we know it. By the end of the course you will have a good idea of what kinds of questions drive sociological research and how sociologists attempt to answer them.

Course Requirements

Guidelines:

Readings and Lectures: All of the readings listed on the “Calendar of Readings” are required readings. It is important for you to get through the readings for each section as soon as it is possible. Sections are divided by horizontal lines, and you must read all of the readings NO LATER than the last class period listed in the section. Attendance is required in this course. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain the information you missed. Much of the information you will learn from this course (and on which you will be tested) comes from the lectures and class discussions. If you miss class and do not get the notes, do not expect to be prepared for the exams. I strongly encourage you to develop a working relationship with at least one other student in the class for the purpose of securing notes you may miss.

Late Work: You must talk with me at least 2 days prior to the due date if you feel you will be unable to make the deadline. If you do not talk to me ahead of time, *even if you are absent*, I will take 5 points off for *each 24 hour period that passes after the due date*. In other words: 0 – 24 hours late will be 5 points off, 24 – 48 hours late will be 10 points off, etc.

Participation: I expect all students to be on time, seated and with cell phones and other electronic devices OFF when the class is scheduled to begin. From all of you, I expect thoughtful and respectful (to me and your classmates) preparation for and participation in class. If you feel that you are not able to participate in discussions for some reason, you may complete an additional short

writing assignment that will supplement your participation grade. *You must speak with me before the second assignment is due in order to take advantage of this option.* If you feel there is a legitimate need for you to use a laptop in class, you must speak with me *before the 6th of September.* **Consequences:** For each three unexcused absences, 5 points will be removed from your participation grade. For each time your cell phone rings or I see you texting in class (or the class is otherwise disturbed by your technology), 5 points will be removed from your participation grade. If you do not speak with me before September 6th about using a laptop in class, you will *not* be permitted to do so. In total, participation will count **10% of your final grade.**

Grading:

Exams: There will be 3 in-class exams in this class, one of which will be taken during the final exam period. All exams will be a combination of multiple choice, matching, short answer, and short essay. All exams will focus on material covered since the previous exam, but they will be cumulative, in that you will be expected to remember and use certain key terms and concepts throughout the semester. In my lectures, I will make it clear to you what these key concepts are. **The first two exams are 15%, and the final exam is 20% of your final grade.**

Quizzes: You will have 5 graded, announced quizzes (see Calendar of Readings for dates) that will be worth 20 points each, for a total of 100 possible points. Your percentage of this total quiz grade will count **10% of your final grade.** These quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. If you must miss one of the quizzes, even due to tardiness, you must tell me ahead of time. Otherwise, you will not be able to make up the quiz under any circumstances. If you tell me ahead of time, you will only be able to make up the missed points by completing a short assignment of my choosing *ahead of time.* Please note: If you are sick, it is your responsibility to tell me *before class begins.* I will be checking my email until 9:45, and if you have not informed me by that time, you will not be able to make up the quiz. Quizzes will generally cover material we have talked about in class and readings associated with that topic. They will be in fill-in-the-blank format, with a word bank provided.

Writing Assignments: You will also be required to complete 3 short (2-3 pages) writing assignments. These will be designed to get you to synthesize the information in certain readings and lectures (which I will designate). Each of these assignments will count 10% of your grade, for a total of **30% of your final grade.** Please note that improper citation (see below) will have a negative impact on your grade.

Quizzes	Various Dates	10%
Exam One:	4 Oct (Th)	15%
Exam Two:	6 Nov (Tu)	15%
Exam Three/Final:	17 Dec (M)	20%
	2:00 - 5:00	
Short writing assignments:	11 Sep (Tu)	10%
	18 Oct (Th)	10%
	27 Nov (Tu)	10%
Participation:		10%

Disabilities: Students with any disabilities should contact me immediately so that we may arrange accommodations for you. As long as you are registered with the Office of Disabilities, I will be happy to make arrangements with you in this regard. Please see me if you have any questions about

this process or contact the Oxford College liaison in Academic Services: Seney Hall 103, 770.784.4631, academicservices@learnlink.emory.edu.

Honor Code: All students are expected to abide by the principles set forth in the Oxford College Honor Code. All work turned in to me must reflect your own work and your own ideas or *correctly-cited* ideas of others. Please take a moment to review the honor code. If you have specific questions about citing, don't hesitate to ask me. For my class, use parenthetical documentation in the body of the text (Crabtree 2007, p. 3). See below for a citation model.

Honor Code: <http://www.emory.edu/OXFORD/CampusLife/Policies/honor.html>

Plagiarism: <http://www.emory.edu/OXFORD/CampusLife/Policies/plagarism.html>

Texts

Adler, Patricia A. and Peter Adler. 2007. *Sociological Odyssey*, 2nd edition. Belmont, CA: Thomson Higher Education/Wadsworth.

Ruane, Janet M. and Karen A. Cerulo. 2004. *Second Thoughts*, 3rd edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

The texts are available for purchase in the Oxford College bookstore (in the Card Student Center).

Calendar of Readings

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title / Question / Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Special Events</i>
August 30 th (Thu)	<u>Introduction:</u> What is “sociology”?	n/a	n/a
September 4 th (Tu)	<u>Building Blocks:</u> What do sociologists study? How do they talk about those things?	ST: Introductory Essay SO: Essays 2-4	Assignment One (distributed 9/4)
September 6 th (Th)	How is the sociological perspective unique?		
September 11 th (Tu)	<u>Methods:</u> How do sociologists study the things they study?	ST: Essay 1 SO: Essays 5-6	Assignment One (due 9/11)
September 13 th (Thu)	Can we generalize about the things we study?		Quiz One (9/13)
September 18 th (Tu)	<u>Society and Culture:</u> What’s the difference between social structure and culture? Where’s the “I” in culture?	ST: Essays 3, 4 and 7	Film if time permits, <i>Devil’s Playground</i> .
September 20 th (Thu)	What is the difference between culture, subculture, and counterculture?	SO: Essays 9-10	
September 25 th (Tu)	<u>Society and Individuals:</u> Where is the culture in individuals? How can a “self” be “social”?	ST: Essays 8-9 SO: Essay 12	Quiz Two (9/25) Film if time permits, <i>Wild Child</i> .
September 27 th (Thu)	How do we learn social interaction? Why is it important?	SO: Essays 13-14	
October 2 nd (Tu)	Wrap-Up and exam review.	n/a	Bring Questions! Mid-term evaluations (10/4).
October 4 th (Thu)	<u>Exam One</u>		

October 9th (Tu) *Fall Break: No class!*

October 11 th (Thu)	<u>Crime and Deviance:</u> How do we distinguish between normal and deviant?	David Rosenhan, from <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , "On Being Sane in Insane Places."	Go Over Exams. Assignment Two (distributed 10/11)
October 16 th (Tu)	How are crime and deviance "functional"?	Randall Collins, <i>Sociological Insight</i> , Chapter 4.	
October 18 th (Thu)	Why are some forms of deviance criminal and others not?	ST: Essays 14-16 SO: Essay 17	Assignment Two (due 10/18)

October 23 rd (Tu)	<u>Religion & Family:</u> How is religion an "institution"? How can something so personal be sociological?	SO: Essay 33-34	
October 25 th (Thu)			
October 30 th (Tu)	What do American families look like (and not look like)? How is the family institutional and ideological?	ST: Essays 17-18 SO: Essays 30, 32	Quiz Three (10/30)

November 1 st (Thu)	Wrap-Up and exam review.		Bring Questions for exam review!
November 6 th (Tu)	<u>Exam Two</u>		

November 8 th (Thu)	<u>Power & Inequality (Part 1):</u> <i>Stratification</i> : What is social stratification and how does this concept relate to our social world?	ST: Essays 10, 13 SO: Essays 20, 22	Assignment Three (distributed 11/8)
November 13 th (Tu)			
November 15 th (Thu)	<i>Education</i> : What good is it?	ST: Essay 22 SO: Essay 35	Quiz Four (11/15)
November 20 th (Tu)	<i>Race & Ethnicity</i> : What's the difference?	W.E.B. DuBois, from <i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , "Double Consciousness."	Film if time permits, <i>TBA</i> .

November 22 nd (Thu)	<i>Thanksgiving: no class.</i>		
November 27 th (Tu)	<u>Power & Inequality (Part 2):</u> <i>Race & Ethnicity:</i> Can we be colorblind and ethnicity-free?	SO: 23, 26	Brief discussion of assignments.
November 29 th (Thu)	<i>Gender:</i> How are gender differences learned and maintained?	ST: Essay 12 SO: Essays 27, 28	
December 4 th (Tu)	<i>Intersections:</i> Which form of inequality matters the most?	SO: 24, 29	Assignment Three (due 12/4)
December 6 th (Thu)	<u>Conclusions:</u> Is community lost? To what extent can it be replaced?	SO: 44-45	Quiz Five (12/6)
December 11 th (Tu)	Wrap-Up and exam review.	ST: Conclusion	Bring Questions for exam review!
December 17 th (Monday) 2:00 - 5:00	<u>Exam Three</u>		
