

# CAS SO 100: Principles in Sociology

## Discussion Sections A7, A8, A9

Fall 2021

**Teaching fellow:** Leping Wang

**Email:** [lw928@bu.edu](mailto:lw928@bu.edu)

**Office hours:** Monday 12:00pm-1:00pm over

[Zoom](#)

**Office:** 100 Cummington Mall, SOC248C

### Section location & timings

**A7:** Fri, 11:15am-12:05pm, STH 113

**A8:** Fri, 12:20pm-1:10pm, STH 113

**A9:** Fri, 1:25pm-2:15pm, STH 113

## 1 Section Description

### 1.1 Section objectives

Discussion sessions are designed as a supplement to the main lectures to help you think through and compile the materials learned during lectures, engage with the readings, and critically reflect on the materials in an interactive learning environment. My goal is to help review key themes and terms from lectures and readings, clarify concepts and questions, and to motivate you to bring in new perspectives to the materials covered in lectures through discussion and conversation. Your goal is to attend the lectures and finish assigned readings to be prepared for discussion, complete assignments on time, and to be engaged in discussion activities. Our ultimate learning outcome is to equip you with a sociological perspective to apply sociological theories and frameworks to practical social issues and societal contexts, through a dynamic, interactive, inspiring learning environment that we cultivate together.

### 1.2 Section requirements and gradings

**The discussion sections are mandatory, and are counted towards the total grade of this course.**

The grade of the discussion sections consists of:

- 1) **Attendance.** We will meet every Friday, and I will be taking attendance each week. You are required to attend **on time** in order to receive full credit. Throughout this semester, you are allowed to miss **a maximum of one discussion section** without excuse. Beyond this, if you have to miss a session, you have to inform me through email **before the start of the session**.
- 2) **In-class participation.** You are expected to come to class well-prepared with familiarity to all the lecture and reading materials to be ready for discussion. Throughout the semester, class discussion may take the form of full-class discussion, small group discussion, or pair-share discussion. You are expected to share your opinions and thoughts, engage in conversations, and ask questions. You are free to disagree or debate, as long as you are respectful of others' opinions. The goal is that each of you will contribute to the learning process and learn from each other.

- 3) **Discussion leader.** Throughout the semester, each of you is required to choose one week to serve as the discussion leader. Depending on the number of students in our class, there might be two or three of you serving as the discussion leaders for the same week. As the discussion leader, you are expected to:
- Bring in social issues or topics from either the news, media, academic articles or other sources (the content should be relevant to the topics addressed in the lectures for the week), and introduce the main idea (Feel free to use slides, and feel free to share the materials to other students before class so that they can give it a read beforehand);
  - Introduce key terms or theories relevant to the lectures;
  - Bring in your own perspective and analysis (Feel free to bring in inter-disciplinary perspectives but please make sure the conversation is essentially sociological);
  - Formulate questions around the materials and facilitate class discussion.
- After today's class, I will send you a Google sheet for you to sign up for the week that you would like to serve as the discussion leader.

### 1.3 Section structure

- 1) Taking attendance
- 2) Discussion leader presentation (introduction of the social issues or topics, analysis relevant to lecture materials, etc.)
- 3) Class discussion based on questions around the shared new materials
- 4) Clarification of key concepts, theories, terms, etc. from lectures; Q&A

### 1.4 Policies

**Email:** Email is the best way to contact me if you want to ask questions, clarify class assignments and requirements, schedule zoom meetings with me if office hours do not fit your time, or keep me posted if you have to be late or miss a class, etc. All emails should have a subject line that starts with "SO 100". I will get back to you within 36 hours, though you can always expect a quicker response from me (weekends or holidays excluded).

**Appointment:** I am happy to discuss questions with you via zoom if the scheduled office hours do not work for you. You can easily set up a 15-min appointment with me on Calendly via: <https://calendly.com/leping-so100-officehours>, and then meet me at the scheduled time via the zoom link sent to you.

**Discussion:** Throughout the semester, we might cover discussion materials that can be sensitive, or some that might contain personal meaning for you or other students. Please always be mindful of this and be respectful towards others' cultures, feelings, and opinions.

**Feedback:** I welcome and encourage you to reach out to me about your thoughts and feelings about how the discussion section is going, and your suggestions about how the class can be improved. I genuinely care about the fact that you would feel inspired, motivated and be happy about the learning experience, and I would hope that we can work together to accomplish this goal.

**Academic misconduct:** All students are expected to follow through the BU Academic Conduct Code from <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code>. Any violation will be subject to disciplinary actions.

## 1.5 Other resources

- BU Educational Resource Center – <http://www.bu.edu/erc/>
- CAS Center for Writing – <http://www.bu.edu/writingprogram/the-writing-center/>
- BU Disability Services – <https://www.bu.edu/disability/>