



SYLLABUS: RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500

INTRODUCTION TO RURAL SOCIOLOGY

SPRING 2017

Course overview

Instructor

Instructor: Joseph F. Donnermeyer, Professor Emeritus

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Course description

This is a completely on-line course that will be delivered using Carmen, The Ohio State University's learning management system. Course content, including lecture presentations and videos, will be delivered using Carmen (<https://carmen.osu.edu/>). Carmen will also be used to complete quizzes, exams, and discussions. Other resources, such as the University Libraries, may also be used. This course is self-paced yet all course requirements must be completed during the semester of offering. All discussions, quizzes, and exams must be completed by the due date shown on the syllabus.

General Education (GE) Fulfillments

This course fulfills GE requirements for the following:

Social Science – Organizations and Politics

Goals: Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.

3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

Diversity – Social Diversity

Goals: Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students describe and evaluate the roles of such categories as race, gender and sexuality, disability, class, ethnicity, and religion in the pluralistic institutions and cultures of the United States.
2. Students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.

Course learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of concepts and content areas in the discipline of Sociology
2. Apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning themselves and their relationships within various human groups anywhere in the world
3. Apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning rural and urban places in American society, and other societies around the world, including the application of sociological principles to agriculture, food, and environmental issues
4. Think critically about issues and topics affecting U.S. society, and other societies around the world by understanding the strengths and weaknesses of different and/or opposing points of view

Course materials

RURLSOC 1500, Joseph Donnermeyer, The Ohio State University

The course textbook, RURLSOC 1500, can be purchased through [The Ohio State University Bookstore](#) or through the book's publisher, [McGraw-Hill](#).

ISBN-13: 978-1-308-96894-0

ISBN-10: 1-308-96894-9

Course technology

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours>, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>
- **Phone:** 614-688-HELP (4357)
- **Email:** 8help@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Baseline technical skills necessary for online courses

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen (<https://carmen.osu.edu>)

Necessary equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Speakers or head phones for listening to lecture material

Necessary software

- [Firefox web browser](#) (the best browser for Carmen)
- [Microsoft Office](#), or a free alternative such as [LibreOffice](#)
- [Adobe Reader](#), or an alternative PDF reader

Grading and faculty response

Grades

Assignment or category	Points
Discussions (3)	12
Quizzes (14)	28
Midterm 1	18
Midterm 2	18
Final Exam	24
Total	100

See course schedule, below, for due dates

Discussions

You will complete a total of **twelve (12) discussions** throughout the semester, one each week except on weeks in which there is a Midterm Exam. *Discussions will be submitted online using Carmen Discussions. Each discussion will be open on Carmen for 1 week and you must submit your response by 11:59pm on the Friday of this week.* Discussion prompts are designed to enhance your understanding of key concepts by having you reflect on and connect sociological theory and methods in the rural context. Each discussion submission should be written in your own words and be between 250-500 words in length. You will not be able to view your classmates' responses until you submit your own response. In order to receive full credit for a class discussion, you must submit your discussion prompt by the deadline. If the discussion closes before you complete it you will earn a grade of 0%. Each discussion is worth 1% of your final grade.

Quizzes

You will take a total of **fourteen (14) quizzes** throughout the semester. The quiz questions will be based on assigned readings and videos. *Quizzes will be taken online using Carmen. They will be open on Carmen for 1 week and you can take the quiz any time during this week. You will be given 2-3 minutes per question to complete the quiz on Carmen.* If the quiz closes before you complete it you will earn a grade of 0%. Each quiz is worth 2% of your final grade.

Exams

All exams will be taken online using Carmen. Exams will be open on Carmen for approximately 24 hours and you can take the exam anytime during these 24 hours. You will be given 30-50 minutes to complete the exam. If you fail to complete the exam on Carmen before it closes you will earn a grade of 0%. You will NOT come to a classroom to take the exam. Rather, you take the exam from a location of your choosing that has Internet connection (e.g., dorm room, library). Each student must complete the exam on her or his own. You are NOT permitted to receive assistance from anyone else during the exam. You are NOT permitted to take the exams as part of a group.

Make-up exams will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, and only for an excused absence (i.e., documented, on official letterhead, and judged by me to be legitimate). The make-up exam will be in essay format.

Mid-term Exams (2)

You will take two (2) mid-term exams. The first mid-term includes everything covered during the first 5 weeks of class, and administered online on **Friday, February 10**. The second mid-term includes only content covered between Weeks 6-10 and will also be taken online on **Friday, March 10**. **Each mid-term is 18% of the final grade, for a total of 36%.** Each will consist of 18-

20 questions. Questions types may include but are not limited to multiple-choice, True/False, Fill-In-The-Blank, and/or Ordering. A significant number of exam questions will come from material presented in lecture videos. Additional material will be drawn from the assigned readings and videos.

Final Exam

The final exam is multiple-choice in format and will be given during the scheduled exam period designated for this class during finals week. **The final exam represents 24% of the final grade. It will consist of 24-30 questions.** Questions types may include but are not limited to multiple-choice, True/False, Fill-In-The-Blank, and/or Ordering. *It is comprehensive, covering materials from Week 1 to Week 14.* Questions will be equally distributed (almost), with about 1/3rd of the questions representing material up to the first midterm, about 1/3rd from material covered between the 1st and 2nd midterms, and about 1/3rd since the second midterm. A significant number of exam questions will come from material presented in lecture videos. Additional material will be drawn from the assigned readings and videos.

Late assignments

If you miss the due date FOR ANY REASON you earn 0%. Do NOT wait until the last hour to complete exams and assignments. Technical glitches such as a bad Internet connection, bad Internet browser, a computer that “crashes”, a battery that runs out of power, etc. are NOT acceptable excuses for missing a deadline and you will earn a grade of 0%. Generally speaking, if you miss a deadline FOR ANY REASON then you will earn a grade of 0%. If you miss a deadline for medical or other reasons outside of your control, which must be documented, contact Dr. Donnermeyer by email (donnermeyer.1@osu.edu).

Grading scale

93–100: A	77–79.9: C+	
90–92.9: A-	73–76.9: C	
87–89.9: B+	70 –72.9: C-	Below 60: E
83–86.9: B	67 –69.9: D+	
80–82.9: B-	60 –66.9: D	

Faculty feedback and response time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

Grading and feedback

For large weekly assignments, you can generally expect feedback within **7 days**.

E-mail

I will reply to e-mails within **24 hours on weekdays**.

Discussion board

I will check and reply to messages in the discussion boards every **24 hours on weekdays**.

Attendance, participation, and discussions

Student participation requirements

Because this is a distance-education course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

- **Logging in: AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK**
Be sure you are logging in to the course in Carmen each week, including weeks with holidays or weeks with minimal online course activity. (During most weeks you will probably log in many times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*. It is our recommendation that you spend at least 12-15 hours on this class per week.
- **Contacting Dr. Donnermeyer: OPTIONAL**
Periodic announcements will be posted on Carmen under News. If you have questions or concerns about the course or course material, please email me at donnermeyer.1@osu.edu. If you would prefer to speak face-to-face, please contact me via email to set up an appointment. In person meetings will be held on The Ohio State University campus or alternatively by phone. If you are required to discuss an assignment with me, please contact me at the beginning of the week.

Discussion and communication guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Informality (including an occasional emoticon) is fine for non-academic topics. Please remember that all writing is meant to be read by someone else, or you at a later time. Bad, sloppy writing is a sign of disrespect to the instructor and to fellow students.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always

come across well online. Disagreeing with someone by making negative, insulting comments is not using your sociological imagination.

- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. (For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.)
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.

Other course policies

Policies for this online course

- **Quizzes and exams:** You must complete the midterm and final exams yourself, without any external help or communication.
- **Written assignments:** Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow **APA** style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in--but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.
- **Reusing past work:** In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.
- **Falsifying research or results:** All research you will conduct in this course is intended to be a learning experience; you should never feel tempted to make your results or your library research look more successful than it was.
- **Collaboration and informal peer-review:** The course includes many opportunities for formal collaboration with your classmates. While study groups and peer-review of major written projects is encouraged, remember that comparing answers on a quiz or assignment is not permitted. If you're unsure about a particular situation, please feel free just to ask ahead of time.

Ohio State's academic integrity policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages ([COAM Home](#))
- *Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity* ([Ten Suggestions](#))
- *Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity* (www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm)

Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

Requesting accommodations

If you would like to request academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, contact your instructor privately as soon as possible to discuss your specific needs. Discussions are confidential.

In addition to contacting the instructor, please contact the Student Life Disability Services at [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307) or ods@osu.edu to register for services and/or to coordinate any accommodations you might need in your courses at The Ohio State University.

Go to <http://ods.osu.edu> for more information.

Accessibility of course technology

This online course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.

- [Carmen \(Canvas\) accessibility](#)
- Streaming audio and video
- Synchronous course tools

Statement on Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu

Course schedule (tentative)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings	Assignments (Due Friday)	Directions
The Fundamentals				
1	January 9-13	Introduction to Rural Sociology	Discussion - Introducing Ourselves Quiz – Intro to Rural Sociology	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
2	January 16-20	The Sociological Imagination and Social Change	Discussion – Re-Introduce Yourself In the Hourglass Quiz – The Sociological Imagination and Social Change	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
3	January 23-27	Sociological Theory and Sociological Research	Discussion – Week 3 Reflection Quiz – Sociological Theory and Research	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
4	Jan 30-Feb 3	Culture and Society	Discussion – Week 4 Reflection Quiz – Culture and Society	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
5	February 6-10	Social and Cultural Diversity in America	Quiz – Social and Cultural Diversity in America	Carmen Quizzes
5	Feb 10	Midterm One – Covers Weeks 1-5		Carmen Quizzes
Social Institutions				
6	February 13-17	Socialization and The Family	Discussion – Week 6 Reflection Quiz - Socialization and The Family	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
7	February 20-24	Inequality and Social Class	Discussion – Week 7 Reflection Quiz - Inequality and Social Class	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes

8	Feb 27- Mar 3	Inequality and Poverty	Discussion – Week 8 Reflection Quiz - Inequality and Poverty	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
9	March 6-10	Religion	Quiz – Religion	Carmen Quizzes
9	Mar 10	Midterm Two – Covers Weeks 6-9		Carmen Quizzes
March 13-17, Spring Break				
Rural Change				
10	March 20-24	The Amish Subculture	Discussion – What Holds the Amish Subculture Together? Quiz - The Amish Subculture	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
11	March 27-31	Social Movements and Social Change	Discussion – Week 11 Reflection Quiz – Social Movements and Social Change	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
12	April 3-7	The Sociology and Food and Agriculture	Discussion – Week 12 Reflection Quiz – The Sociology of Food and Agriculture	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
13	April 10-14	Crime and Society	Discussion – Week 13 Reflection Quiz - Crime and Society	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
14	April 17-21	Crime with a Rural Emphasis	Discussion – Week 14 Reflection Quiz - Crime with a Rural Emphasis	Carmen Discussion Carmen Quizzes
TBA, (April 26 – May 2)		Accumulative Final Exam (Covers Weeks 1-14)		Carmen Quizzes