

SOC 1120-01: Introduction to Sociology -
Diversity & Health

Christopher Prener, Ph.D.

2019-08-30

Preface and Warning

This is the hardcopy version of the **Fall 2019** syllabus.

This **.pdf** version of the course syllabus is automatically created as part of the document generation process. It is meant for students who wish to keep a hardcopy of the course policies and planned course schedule. **Since it is automatically created, it is not optimized for easy use** - readers may notice formatting inconsistencies and stray characters that are a result of the markdown to L^AT_EX conversion process. The web version (located at <https://slu-soc1120.github.io/syllabus-alt/>) is meant to be the version of the syllabus used for everyday reference during the semester. As such, this **.pdf** version will not be updated as the semester progresses should any changes to the course schedule be necessary.

Basics

Course Meetings

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30am to 10:45am

Where: 240 Cook Hall

Course Website

<https://slu-soc1120.github.io>

Course Materials

<https://classroom.google.com> (you will need an invitation from Chris)

Chris's Information

Office: 1918 Morrissey Hall

Email: chris.prenner@slu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11am-noon

Hard-copy Syllabus

If you would like to keep a record of the syllabus, there is a **.pdf** download button () in the top toolbar. This document will contain a “snapshot” of the course policies and planned schedule as of the beginning of the semester but will not be subsequently updated. See the “Preface and Warning” on page 2 of the **.pdf** for additional details.

Change Log

- August 9, 2019 - Initial Spring 2019 release
- August 15, 2019 - Remove Sociological Experience assignment

- August 16, 2019 - Update language on academic accommodations, academic honesty, and Title IX to match latest versions of University syllabi statements
- August 17, 2019 - Fix broken links
- August 19, 2019 - Add link to office hours note in success section
- August 25, 2019 - Update student success links
- August 30, 2019 - Add links to University's attendance and incomplete policies

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Part I

Syllabus

Section 1

Course Introduction

The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden.

Pierre Bourdieu (1996)

This course will survey the field of sociology, stressing important ideas, methods, and results. We focus on health to illustrate the application of sociological ideas. The survey is designed to develop analytic thinking skills. Weekly readings from a text will be supplemented with articles and chapters illustrating topical issues and exercises on the skills and craft of the social sciences.

A Course Objectives

This course introduces the distinct sociological skills through the lens of health and illness, including:

1. The ability to recognize and examine social phenomena from multiple perspectives.
2. The recognition of what constitutes fact based arguments from appropriately designed information gathering.
3. The ability to understand the sources of attitudes and behaviors from cultures and structures and how they impact the quality of life of different groups in society.
4. The ability to reflect on the diversity around us and to act in a moral and just manner as citizens of the world.
5. Developing skills in independent thinking, aesthetic awareness, moral and/or ethical system of values, welcoming diversity, and committing to the value of life-long learning.

B Cultural Diversity Core Requirement

This course fulfills the College of Arts and Sciences core requirement for Cultural Diversity in the United States. The Cultural Diversity in the United States requirement is designed to help students gain a better understanding of the cultural groups in the United States and their interactions. Students who complete a Cultural Diversity course in this category will gain a substantial subset of the following skills:

1. Analyze and evaluate how various underrepresented social groups confront inequality and claim a just place in society.
2. Examine how conflict and cooperation between social groups shapes U.S. society and culture.
3. Identify how individual and institutional forms of discrimination impact leaders, communities and community building through the examination of such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, religion, economic class, age, physical and mental capability, and sexual orientation.
4. Evaluate how their personal life experiences and choices fit within the larger mosaic of U.S. society by confronting and critically analyzing their own values and assumptions about individuals and groups from different cultural contexts.
5. Understand how questions of diversity intersect with moral and political questions of justice and equality.

C Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a learning management system similar to Blackboard. There are two main areas - the **Stream** and the **Coursework** tabs. The **Stream** contains posts for announcements and assignments. Additions to the **Stream** should be emailed to your student e-mail account automatically. This will be my primary means for communicating with the class as a whole, and will be the venue where lecture slides and notes are made available. Assignments posted to the **Coursework** allow you to submit work for the course. Please see the section on “Google Classroom Submissions” for details on assignment submission.

You will need an invitation to **Google Classroom** from Chris. Invitations will be sent to all enrolled students before the first class. If you enroll after the first day of class, please let Chris know that you will need an invitation. Invitations will be sent to your SLU associated Google account, which consists of your *computer log in* (e.g. *doej* for Jane Doe) entered as an email - *doej@slu.edu*. The password will be the same as your password used to log in to mySLU and SLU computers. Using another Google account for this course is not permitted.

D Readings

There are two books required for this course. Each book has been selected to correspond with one or more of the course objectives. The books are:

1. Abraham, Laurie K. 2019. *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Health Care in Urban America*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. ISBN-13: 978-0226623702; List Price: \$20.00; e-book versions available.
2. Andersen, Margaret, Howard F. Taylor, and Kim A. Logio. 2016. *Sociology: The Essentials*. 9th edition. Independence, KY: Cengage. ISBN-13: 978-1305503083; List Price: \$202.95; e-book versions available.

I do not require students to buy physical copies of texts. You are free to select a means for accessing these texts that meets your budget and learning style. If ebook editions (e.g. Kindle, iBooks, pdf, etc) of texts are available, they are acceptable for this course. All texts should be obtained in the edition noted above.

All readings are listed on the **Reading List** and should be completed before the course meeting on the week in which they are assigned (unless otherwise noted). Full text versions of most readings not found in the books assigned for the course can be obtained using the library's Electronic Reserves system. The password for the Electric Reserves will be posted on **Google Classroom**.

Many of the readings posted on Electronic Reserves are peer reviewed journal articles. This means that they are written with an aim to contribute to scientific debates. Their primary audiences are typically health care providers, professors, and graduate students. They are therefore sometimes *difficult* to read. Give yourself time - I don't expect each student to fully understanding the intricacies of each article (especially the statistics included in some), but I do expect you to walk away with a general sense of the argument and evidence presented.

Section 2

Course Policies

My priority is that class periods are productive learning experiences for all students. In order to foster this type of productive environment, I ask students to follow a few general policies and expectations:¹

1. Work each week to contribute to a positive, supportive, welcoming, and compassionate class environment.
2. Arrive to class on time and stay for the entire class period.
3. Silence *all* electronic devices before entering the classroom.
4. Do not engage in side conversations. This is disrespectful to the speaker (whether me or a classmate), and can affect the ability of others in the class to learn.
5. Be respectful of your fellow classmates. Do not interrupt when someone is speaking, monopolize the conversation, or belittle the ideas or opinions of others.
6. Complete the assigned readings for each class in advance, and come prepared with discussion points and questions.

The following sections contain additional details about specific course policies related to attendance, participation, electronic device use, student support, academic honesty, and Title IX.

A Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are important components of this course. You are expected to attend all class sessions and to arrive before the beginning of class. If you cannot attend class or arrive on time because of a personal illness, a family issue, jury duty, an athletic match, or a religious observance, you must contact

¹These general expectations were adopted from language originally used by Dr. Shelley Kimmelberg.

me **beforehand** to let me know. I may ask for more information, such as a note from a physician, a travel letter from Athletics, or other documentation for absences. Please see the University's attendance policy for additional details.

A penalty will not be applied to your first two unexcused absences or late arrivals. Any unexcused absences or late arrivals beyond those two will result in no credit (for an absences) or only partial credit (for a late arrival) being earned for that day's participation grade.

Attendance check-ins will be collected either in-person or through a simple web-form. Students will need a QR code reader application installed on their smartphone to check-in. These web forms are **time stamped**, so if you sign in 3 minutes after the beginning of class or later, you will be marked as 'late' in the attendance database. This is done automatically by my gradebook, so please see me if you have a concern about how this works or, more generally, if you have a commitment that regularly prevents you from arriving to class on time.

If you do not own a smartphone, you will be able to sign-in with me before class. You should note that attendance check-ins are covered by the course's Academic Honesty policy. Sharing the check-in form with another student or signing in on their behalf are both violations of this policy.

Making up missed classes is your responsibility, including obtaining notes from a classmate. I do post slides on Google Classroom, but my slides are intended only to serve as references. I do not design slides to serve as a stand-in for not attending class - they are designed to make sense in the context of the lecture as it is delivered. All lecture slides will be posted on Google Classroom before class begins along with relevant notes for that lecture. Please note that lectures and discussions cannot be recorded by any means (e.g. audio or video recordings, or photographs) without my permission.

B Communication

Email is my preferred method of communication. I dedicate time to email responses each workday, meaning that my response time is typically within 24 hours during the workweek. If you have not received a response from me after 48 hours (or by end of business on Monday if you emailed me over the weekend), please feel free to follow-up with me.

Please use your SLU email account when emailing me. All messages regarding course updates, assignments, and changes to the class schedule including cancellations will be sent to your SLU email account. It is therefore imperative that you check your SLU email account regularly.

Please also ensure that all concerns or questions about your standing in the course are directed to me immediately. Inquires from parents, SLU staff members, and others will not be honored.

C Electronic Devices

During class periods, students are asked to refrain from using electronic devices (including cell phones) for activities not directly related to the course. For this class, I expect students to limit their use of electronic devices to accessing course readings, notes, and other course materials.

There is evidence that using electronic devices during lectures results in decreased retention of course content (Hembrooke and Gay 2003) and lower overall course performance (Fried 2008). Students who are not using a laptop but are in direct view of another student's laptop also have decreased performance in courses (Sana et al. 2013). Conversely, students who take notes the "old fashioned way" have better performance on tests compared to students who take notes on laptops (Mueller and Oppenheimer 2014).

I therefore ask students to be conscious of how they are using their devices, the ways such use impacts their own learning, and the effect that it may have on others around them. I reserve the right to alter this policy if electronic device use becomes problematic during the semester.

D Student Support

D.1 Basic Needs

If you have difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or lack a safe and stable place to live, you are urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Likewise if you have concerns about your mental or physical health needs, or lack access to health care services you require, you should contact either the Dean of Students, Student Health Services, or the University Counseling Center.²

If you feel comfortable doing so, please discuss any concerns you might have with me. Doing so is particularly important if believe your performance in this course might be affected. I will do my best to work with you to come up with a plan for successfully completing the course and, if need be, work with you to identify on-campus resources. I will treat all discussions with discretion, though please be aware that certain situations, including disclosures of sexual misconduct or self harm, must be reported by faculty to the appropriate University office.

D.2 Academic Accommodations

If you meet the eligibility requirements for academic accommodations through the Office of Disability Services (located within the Student Success Center) *and you wish to use them for this class*, you should arrange to discuss your needs with me after the first class. All discussions of this nature are treated

²This language is adopted from text written by Dr. Sarah Goldrick-Rab.

confidentially, and I will make every effort to work with you to come up with a plan for successfully completing the course requirements.

Please note that I will not provide accommodations to students who are not working with Disability Services, and that I cannot retroactively alter assignments or grades if they have already been completed. This follows the University policies on disability accommodations:

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact Disability Services to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact Disability Services, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at Disability_services@slu.edu or by phone at 314-977-3484. Once approved, information about a student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from Disability Services and within the instructor's official course roster. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact Disability Services. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

D.3 Writing Services

I also encourage you to take advantage of the University Writing Services (UWS) program. Getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels and the quality of your writing will be reflected in assignment grades. The UWS has trained writing consultants who can help you improve the quality of your written work. UWS's consultants are available to address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources.

E Academic Honesty

All students should familiarize themselves with Saint Louis University's policies the the College of Arts and Sciences policies concerning cheating, plagiarism, and other academically dishonest practices:

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service through which SLU fulfills its mission.

The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

Any work that is taken from another student, copied from printed material, or copied the internet without proper citation is expressly prohibited, and will be addressed by the instructor.

All relevant assignments should include in-text citations and references formatted using the American Sociological Association (ASA) style guidelines. Any student who is found to have been academically dishonest in their work risks failing both the assignment and this course.

F Harassment and Title IX

While I have every expectation that each member of the Saint Louis University community is capable and willing to create a positive coursework experience, I fully recognize that there may be instances where students fall short of that expectation. Students should generally be aware that:

Saint Louis University prohibits harassment because of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, military status, veteran status, gender expression/identity, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other characteristics protected by law.

All students should also familiarize themselves with Saint Louis University's policies on bias, discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. In particular, they should be aware of policies on harassment and sexual misconduct:

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g., sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX coordinator (or that person's equivalent on your campus) and share the basic facts of your experience. This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX contact will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

For most students on the St. Louis campus, the appropriate contact is Anna R. Kratky (DuBourg Hall, Room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at

314-977-TALK. To view SLU's sexual misconduct policy, and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you> and <https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel>.

Instances of abusive, harassing, or otherwise unacceptable behavior should be reported either directly to the instructor or to the University Administration. Consistent with the above policies, I will forward all reports of inappropriate conduct to the Title IX Coordinator's office or to the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action. Please be aware that University policies may require me to forward information about the identity of any students connected to the disclosure.

Please also be aware that communications over various online services, including (but not limited to) Google Apps and Google Classroom, are covered by this policy.

Section 3

Success in this Course

Students often ask me how to do well in various aspects of the course, and so this section features my *suggestions* for a successful semester. *These observations are provided with no warranty* - following them does not guarantee any particular outcome. You could do everything in here and still do poorly in the course, and conversely you could ignore much of what is in discussed in the links below and still do well. However, *most* of the students who are successful in this course will follow *most* of these ideas consistently.

These tips are an effort to illuminate what sociologists refer to as the “hidden curriculum” of higher education - there are things you need to do to be successful, but they are often unstated or not clearly communicated.

Since I give this advice out in multiple classes, the documents themselves are stored on my personal website:

1. Doing the Little Things Right¹
2. Come to Office Hours!
3. Studying for Exams
4. Writing in the Social Sciences
5. Letters of Recommendation - Pay particular to the section titled “If I Say No” if you may want an Instructor Evaluation for medical school - I prioritize letter writing for students who I get to know outside of the classroom.

If there are other topics you have questions about, please let me know. These documents are a work in progress.

¹Part of this document involves tips for emailing faculty and links to an article with some additional tips. If you send me an email prior to the second lecture that breaks as many rules as possible (but clearly identifies in some way who you are), I’ll give you extra credit.

Section 4

Assignments and Grading

This section provides general details on the different types of assignments for this course. It also contains policies for submitting work, receiving feedback, and late work.

A Assignments

Your grade for this course will consist of a number of different assignments on which points may be earned. Each category of assignment is described below.

A.1 Attendance and Participation



Attendance and participation are worth **10%** of your final grade

As discussed above, both attendance and participation are important aspects of this class. The class participation grade will be based on (a) attendance, (b) level of engagement during class, and (c) class “entry” and “exit tickets”.

Each of these elements is assigned a point value and assessed using a scale that awards full, partial, or no credit. Not attending class or completing an “entry” or “exit” ticket will result in no credit being earned for that element on a given day. Disengagement during class may result in partial or no credit being earned. Late arrivals will result in only partial credit earned for that element on a given day.

Your participation grade will be split, with 25 points (5% of your final grade) for the first half of the semester (through Week 8) and another 25 points (5%) for the second half (Weeks 9 to 17). Since the number of points awarded for participation are variable, the total number of points earned for each half will be

weighted so that it is converted to a 0 to 25 scale. I provide the final number of points earned for each half of the course. If you would like a more detailed breakdown of your participation grade and/or attendance record, please reach out and I will happily provide one.

“Entry” and “exit” tickets will be collected via **Google Classroom**. These will only be graded for students who present in class on the day that they were collected. Students without access to a smartphone or laptop should submit their tickets as soon as possible after class on the days the tickets are collected. Beginning and end of the semester activities, like the ‘Student Information Sheet’ and the ‘Speaking Up In Class Survey’, are counted as “entry” tickets.

A.2 QHQ Papers



QHQ Papers are worth **30%** of your final grade

Each student will write a QHQ reflection paper on three chapters (one chapter per discussion period) of *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead* (Abraham 1993). These reflection papers will integrate previous lecture material and readings to understand the cycle of events described in the book. Additional details and a grading rubric are available on **Google Classroom** under the ‘Classwork’ tab. QHQ Paper 1 will be due on **Thursday, October 10th**, QHQ Paper 2 will be due on **Thursday, November 14th**, and QHQ Paper 3 will be due on **Tuesday, December 3rd**. QHQ Paper 1 is ungraded. If it is not turned in or not taken seriously, however, a deduction of 3% will be applied to your final grade. QHQ Papers 2 and 3 each count for 15% of your final grade.

A.3 Exams



Exams are worth **60%** of your final grade

Three non-cumulative multiple choice exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will cover the breadth of the material in the course, including readings, lectures, and videos. Exam 1 will be given on **Tuesday, September 24th**, Exam 2 will be given on **Thursday, October 31st**, and Exam 3 will be given during our class’s schedule final exam period on **Tuesday, December 17th**. Please note that Exam 3 will be held at a slightly different time (from 8am to 9:50am, though its format will be the same as the prior exams and most students should not need the full time period). Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade.

B Submission and Late Work

B.1 Google Classroom Submissions

All assignments must be submitted via **Google Classroom** as a *Google Doc file* unless otherwise noted in the assignment instructions. **Google Classroom** will have submission portals for each assignment in the **Coursework** tab. Create your file in Google Docs and then use the submission portal to submit the file. Do not upload a .pdf, .docx, .doc, or other file format - you must submit a **Google Doc file**. Once submitted, you will not be able to edit the file again until it is returned with feedback and a grade. Feedback will be returned to students via comments embedded in each Google Doc.

The Google Doc submission policy is in place because it facilitates clear, easy grading that can be turned around to you quickly. Submitting assignments in ways that deviate from this policy will result in a late grade (see below) being applied in the first instance and a zero grade for each subsequent instance. If you have questions about how to use Google Docs or Google Classroom, or believe there has been an issue with your submission, please reach out to me **before** the submission deadline.

B.2 Late Work

Once the due date has passed, any assignments shared will be treated as late. Be advised that Google time-stamps submissions, so that even being a few seconds over the due date and time will result in your assignment being marked late. Like arriving late to class, this happens automatically, so please let me know as soon as possible **before** class if you have a concern about a potentially late submission.

Assignments shared within 24-hours of the due date will have 15% deducted from the grade. I will deduct 15% per day for the next two 24-hour periods that assignments are late; after 72-hours, I will not accept late work. If you cannot submit work on time because of a personal illness, a family issue, jury duty, an athletic match, or a religious observance, you must contact me beforehand to discuss alternate submission of work. Internet or computer issues are not grounds for missed deadlines. I may ask for more information, such as a note from a physician, a travel letter from Athletics, or other documentation for absences.

B.3 Missed Exams

If you cannot attend an exam due to a personal illness, a family issue, jury duty, an athletic match, or a religious observance, you must contact me **beforehand** to discuss alternate exam scheduling. I may ask for more information, such as a note from a physician, a travel letter from Athletics, or other documentation for absences. Unless there is an extreme situation, such as emergency hospital-

Table 4.1: SOC 1120 Points Breakdown

Assignment	Points	Quantity	Total	Percent
Participation	25 pts	x2	50 pts	10%
QHGs	75 pts	x2	150 pts	30%
Exams	100 pts	x3	300 pts	60%

ization, I do not allow students to make up exams if I have not been notified prior to the original exam date.

Since the final exam schedule is not yet available, please do not book travel home at the end of the semester until you know the date of the third exam - I cannot accommodate students who request an alternative exam date due to travel conflicts.

C Extra Credit

From time to time I may offer extra credit to be applied to your final grade. I will only offer extra credit if it is open to the entire class (typically for something like attending a lecture or event on-campus). If I offer extra credit, I will generally require you to submit a short written summary of the activity within a week of the event to obtain the credit. Papers should be submitted via **Google Classroom**. When offered, extra credit opportunities cannot be made-up or substituted if you are unable to attend the event.

D Grading

I use a point system for calculating grades. The following table gives the weighting and final point totals for all assignments for this course:

All feedback will include grades that represent number of points earned. If you want to know your percentage on a particular assignment, divide the number of points earned by the number of points possible and then multiply it by 100.

Some of the provided rubrics on **Google Classroom** result in final points for assignments that include decimals. In the event of non-standard decimals (those other than .25, .5, or .75), I will round your grade up to the next standard decimal value (e.g. .25, .5, or .75).

D.1 Conflicting or Incorrect Grades

Assignment grades will generally be given both as a comment in the Google Doc itself and on Google Classroom. If you notice a discrepancy between the grade you received in the feedback and what appears on Google Classroom, please

Table 4.2: Course Grading Scale

GPA	Letter	Percent	GPA	Letter	Percent
4.0	A	93.0% - 100%	2.3	C+	77.0% - 79.9%
3.7	A-	90.0% - 92.9%	2.0	C	73.0% - 76.9%
3.3	B+	87.0% - 89.9%	1.7	C-	70.0% - 72.9%
3.0	B	83.0% - 86.9%	1.0	D	63.0% - 69.9%
2.7	B-	80.0% - 82.9%	0.0	F	< 63.0%

let me know as soon as possible. I will default to taking the higher of the two grades as the official grade.

Since exams and scantrons are handed back in class, I will only consider possible scantron scoring errors that I am made aware of at the end of class on the day that exams are returned. Please make sure to discuss any concerns you have about your scantron with me that day. As with other assignments, if there is a discrepancy between the grade noted on your exam and what is entered on Google Classroom, I will default to taking the higher of the two grades as the official grade.

D.2 Letter Grades

letter grades will be calculated by taking the sum of all points earned and dividing it by the total number of points possible. This will be multiplied by 100 and then converted to a letter grade using the following table:

For this course, midterm grades will be calculated out of a total of 150 possible points (first half participation and the first exam), a “week 16” grade will be calculated out of 400 possible points (all grades except the third exam), and the final grade will be calculated out of 500 possible points. Extra credit will be factored into the “week 16” and final grades. All letter grades will be disseminated via Google Classroom, and midterm as well as final grades will also be made available through Blackboard.

D.3 Revisions and Incompletes

No chances will be given for revisions of poor grades. Incomplete grades will be given upon request only if you have a “C” average and have completed at least two-thirds of the possible points (330 points). You should note that incomplete grades must be rectified by the specified deadline or they convert to an “F”. This policy reflects the University’s policy on incomplete coursework.

Part II

Reading List

Section 5

Course Schedule

The following is a high-level schedule that details the general topic covered by each lecture.

.1 Scheduling Notes

The lecture schedule may change as it depends on the progress of the class. In the event of a cancellation due to weather or another disruption, I may alter the lecture schedule. The web version of this document will be updated to reflect any alterations, but the `.pdf` version will remain unaltered.

Table 5.1: SOC 1120 Course Overview

Week	Tuesday	Topic
01	August 27 th	Course Introduction; Inequality & Health
02	September 3 rd	*Labor Day* / Theory & Health
03	September 10 th	Culture
04	September 17 th	Socialization
05	September 24 th	Exam 1 / Social Structure
06	October 1 st	Social Constructionism / Urban Sociology
07	October 8 th	Urban Sociology / *Mama*, Part 1
08	October 15 th	Crime & Deviance
09	October 22 nd	*Fall Break* / Class & Stratification
10	October 29 th	Stratification & Health / Exam 2
11	November 5 th	Race & Ethnicity
12	November 12 th	Gender & Sexuality / *Mama*, Part 2
13	November 19 th	The Health Care Experience / Indigenous Americans
14	November 26 th	Intersectionality & Health / *Thanksgiving*
15	December 3 rd	*Mama*, Part 3 / Course Conclusion
16	December 10 th	*No Class*
17	December 17 th	Exam 3

Section 6

Lecture Schedule

Select a lecture from the menu to see details about topics, readings, and assignments. Additional notes and links to course materials are available through the Google Classroom, which has dedicated pages for each lecture. Links to these pages are included on each lecture's reading list entry.

The primary readings will be referred to with an abbreviation each time they appear in the reading list:

Table 6.1: SOC 1120 Primary Readings

Abbreviation	Citation
Anderson	Andersen, Margaret, Howard F. Taylor, and Kim A. Logio. 2016. *Sociology: The Ess
Mamma	Abraham, Laurie K. 2019. *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Health C

Week 01

Lecture 01 - Tuesday, August 27th

Topics

- Course Introduction

Lecture 02 - Thursday, August 29th

Topics

- Sociological Theory
- Inequality & Health

Documentary

- *Unnatural Causes*, Part 1 - “In Sickness and in Wealth” (Pius Library)

Readings

- Andersen, Chapter 1 - “The Sociological Perspective” (Electronic Reserves)
- Carter, Gregg L. 2009. “A Primer on Critical Reading.” Pp. 1-5 in *Empirical Approaches to Sociology: A Collection of Classic and Contemporary Readings*, edited by G.L. Carter. 5th ed. New York, NY: Pearson. (Electronic Reserves)

Assignments Due

- Entry Ticket - Student Information Sheet (Google Classroom)

Week 02

No Class - Tuesday, September 3rd

Topics

- The Roots of Labor Day

Readings

- Kazin, Michael, and Steven J. Ross. 1992. "America's Labor Day: The Dilemma of a Workers' Celebration." *The Journal of American History* 78(4):1294-1323. (Electronic Reserves)
-

Lecture 03 - Thursday, September 5th

Topics

- Social Science Research - The Sociological Imagination
- Theory and Health - Fundamental Cause Theory

Readings

- Phelan, Jo C., Bruce Link, and Parisa Tehranifar. 2010. "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Health Inequalities: Theory, Evidence, and Policy Implications." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(S):S28-S40. (Electronic Reserves)
- *Mama* - Preface and Introduction (Electronic Reserves)

Assignments Due

- Entry Ticket - Reflecting on Labor Day's Roots (Google Classroom)

Week 03

Lecture 04 - Tuesday, September 10th

Topics

- Social Science Research - Praxis and Method
- What is Culture?

Readings

- Anderson, Chapter 2
 - Anderson, Chapter 3 - “Doing Sociological Research”, pp. 57-72
 - read up to “Research Ethics: Is Sociology Value Free?”
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Lecture 05 - Thursday, September 12th

Topics

- Social Science Research - Research Ethics
- Culture & Health

Documentary

- *Unnatural Causes*, Part 3 - “Becoming Americans” (Pius Library)

Readings

- Acevedo-Garcia, Dolores and Lisa M. Bates. 2008. “Latino Health Paradoxes: Empirical Evidence, Explanations, Future Research, and Implications.” Pp. 101-113 in *Latinas/os in the United States: Changing the Face of América*, edited by H. Rodríguez, R. Sáenz, and C. Menjívar. New York: Springer. (Electronic Reserves)
- Anderson, Chapter 3 - “Doing Sociological Research”, pp. 72-74
 - read “Research Ethics: Is Sociology Value Free?”

Week 04

Lecture 06 - Tuesday, September 17th

Topics

- Nature, Nurture, & Socialization

Readings

- Anderson, Chapter 4 - "Socialization and the Life Course", pp. 77-79
– read through the end of "The Nature-Nurture Controversy"
 - Bearman, Peter. 2008. "Introduction: Exploring Genetics and Social Structure." *American Journal of Sociology* 114(S1):v-x. (Electronic Reserves)
-

Lecture 07 - Thursday, September 19th

Topics

- The Socialization Process
- The Life Course Perspective

Readings

- Anderson, Chapter 4 - "Socialization and the Life Course", pp. 80-101
- Braveman, Paula and Colleen Barclay. 2009. "Health Disparities Beginning in Childhood: A Life-Course Perspective." *Pediatrics* 123(S3):S163-S175. (Electronic Reserves)

Week 05**Exam 1 - Tuesday, September 24th****Topics**

- covers Lectures 1 through 7, all associated readings, and the Labor Day reading
-

Lecture 08 - Thursday, September 26th**Topics**

- Structure & Structural Inequalities

Readings

- Andersen, Chapter 5 - “Social Structure and Social Interaction”

Week 06

Lecture 09 - Tuesday, October 1st

Topics

- The Social Construction of Health
- Medicalization

Readings

- Conrad, Peter and Kristin K. Barker. 2010. "The Social Construction of Illness: Key Insights and Policy Implications." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(S):S67-S79. (Electronic Reserves)
-

Lecture 10 - Thursday, October 3rd

Topics

- Urban Sociology

Readings

- For the Sake of All Project. 2018. *Segregation in St. Louis: Dismantling the Divide*. St. Louis, MO: Washington University in St. Louis and Saint Louis University. (Link)
 - Chapter 1 - "Segregation at the center", pp. 4-13
 - Chapter 2 - "St. Louis: A city of promise, a history of segregation", pp. 14-25
 - Chapter 5 - "Segregation in St. Louis today", pp. 64-85

Week 07

Lecture 11 - Tuesday, October 8th

Topics

- Neighborhoods & Health
- Urban Health Disparities in St. Louis

Readings

- For the Sake of All Project. 2015. *For the Sake of All: A report on the health and well-being of African Americans in St. Louis and why it matters for everyone*. St. Louis, MO: Washington University in St. Louis and Saint Louis University. (Link)
 - Chapter 1 - “Introduction: Why consider economics, education, and health together?”, pp. 10-15
 - Chapter 3 - “Place matters: Neighborhood resources and health”, pp. 26-33
 - Chapter 5 - “A health profile of African Americans in St. Louis”, pp. 46-67
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QHQ 1 - Thursday, October 10th

Topics

- Discussion - *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead*, Part 1

Readings

- Abraham - Chapters 1 through 5

Assignments Due

- QHQ 1 (Google Classroom)
 - see the QHQ Group assignments assignments for which chapter you should write about

Week 08

Lecture 12 - Tuesday, October 15th

Topics

- The Social Construction of Deviance
- Disparities in Crime

Readings

- Andersen, Chapter 7 - "Deviance and Crime", pp. 147-160
 - read through the end of "Measuring Crime: How Much Is There?"
-

Lecture 13 - Thursday, October 17th

Topics

- The War on Drugs
- Social Responses to Crime
- The Mark of a Criminal Record

Readings

- Anderson, Chapter 7 - "Deviance and Crime", pp. 160-167
 - read from "Types of Crime" onward
- Bourgois, Phillipe. 2008. "The Mystery of Marijuana: Science and the U.S. War on Drugs." Substance Use and Misuse 43: 581-583. (Electronic Reserves)

Week 09

No Class - Tuesday, October 22nd - Fall Break

Topics

- Michael Brown's Death

Readings

- Civil Rights Division. 2015. *Investigation of the Ferguson Police Department*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice. (Link)
 - Part 1 - "Report Summary", pp. 1-6
 - Part 2 - "Background", pp 6-9
 - Part 3 - "Ferguson Law Enforcement Efforts Are Focused on Generating Revenue", pp. 9-15
-

Lecture 14 - Thursday, October 24th

Topics

- What is Social Class?

Readings

- Andersen, Chapter 8 - "Social Class and Social Stratification"

Assignments Due

- Entry Ticket - Contextualizing Michael Brown (Google Classroom)

Week 10

Lecture 15 - Tuesday, October 29th

Topics

- Stratification & Health

Readings

- Dow, William H. and David H. Rehkopf. 2010. "Socioeconomic gradients in health in international and historical context." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 1186:24-36. (Electronic Reserves)
-

Exam 2 - Thursday, October 31st

Topics

- covers Lectures 8 through 15, all associated readings, and the Fall Break reading on Michael Brown

Week 11

Lecture 16 - Tuesday, November 5th

Topics

- The Social Construction of Race

Readings

- Andersen, Chapter 10 - "Race and Ethnicity"
 - Cooper, Richard S., Jay S. Kaufman, and Ryk Ward. 2003. "Race and Genomics." *New England Journal of Medicine* 348(12):1166-1170. (Electronic Reserves)
-

Lecture 17 - Thursday, November 7th

Topics

- Racial Disparities in Health

Readings

- Williams, David R. and Michelle Sternthal. 2010. "Understanding Racial-ethnic Disparities in Health : Sociological Contributions." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(S):S15-S27. (Electronic Reserves)

Week 12

Lecture 18 - Tuesday, November 12th

Topics

- Gender, Sexuality, & Health

Readings

- Andersen, Chapter 11 - “Gender”
 - Krieger, Nancy. 2003. “Genders, Sexes, and Health: What Are the Connections - and Why Does It Matter?” *International Journal of Epidemiology* 32(4):652-657. (Electronic Reserves)
-

QHQ 2 - Thursday, November 14th

Topics

- Discussion - *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead*, Part 2

Readings

- Abraham - Chapters 6 through 10

Assignments Due

- QHQ 2 (Google Classroom)
 - see the QHQ Group assignments for which chapter you should write about

Week 13

Lecture 19 - Tuesday, November 19th

Topics

- The Health Care Experience

Readings

- Boyer, Carol A. and Karen E. Lutfey. 2010. "Examining Critical Health Policy Issues within and beyond the Clinical Encounter: Patient–Provider Relationships and Help-seeking Behaviors." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(S):S80-S93. (Electronic Reserves)
 - Spencer, Karen Lutfey and Matthew Grace. 2016. "Social Foundations of Health Care Inequality and Treatment Bias." *Annual Review of Sociology* 42:101-120. (Electronic Reserves)
-

Lecture 20 - Thursday, November 21st

Topics

- Indigenous Americans
- Health and Native Communities

Documentary

- *Unnatural Causes*, Part 3 - "Bad Sugar" (Pius Library)

Readings

- Jones, David S. 2006. "The persistence of American Indian health disparities." *American Journal of Public Health* 96(12): 2122-2134. (Electronic Reserves)
- Sarche, Michelle, and Paul Spicer. 2008. "Poverty and health disparities for American Indian and Alaska Native children." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 1136(1): 126-136. (Electronic Reserves)

Week 14

Lecture 21 - Tuesday, November 26th

Topics

- Intersectionality and Health: Race, Class, Gender, and Birth Weight

Documentary

- *Unnatural Causes*, Part 2 - “When the Bough Breaks” (Pius Library)

Readings

- Collins, Jr, James W. et al. 2004. “Very Low Birthweight in African American Infants: The Role of Maternal Exposure to Interpersonal Racial Discrimination.” *American Journal of Public Health* 94(12):2132-2138. (Electronic Reserves)
- David, Richard J. and James W. Collins, Jr. 1997. “Differing Birth Weight among Infants of U.S.-Born Blacks, African-Born Blacks, and U.S.-Born Whites.” *The New England Journal of Medicine* 337:1209-1214. (Electronic Reserves)

No Class - Thursday, November 28th - Thanksgiving Break

Topics

- Culture and Myth

Readings

- Siskand, Janet. 1992. “The Invention of Thanksgiving: A ritual of American nationality.” *Critique of Anthropology* 12(2): 167-191. (Electronic Reserves)

Week 15

QHQ 3 - Tuesday, December 3rd

Topics

- Discussion - *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead*, Part 3

Readings

- Abraham - Chapters 11 through *Epilogue*

Assignments Due

- QHQ-03 (Google Classroom)
 - see the QHQ Group assignments for which chapter you should write about
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Lecture 22 - Thursday, December 5th

Topics

- Health Care Reform
- Course Conclusion

Readings

- Quadagno, Jill. 2010. "Institutions, Interest Groups, and Ideology: An Agenda for the Sociology of Health Care Reform." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51(2):125-136. (Electronic Reserves)
- Williams, David. 2010. "Beyond The Affordable Care Act: Achieving Real Improvements In Americans' Health." *Health Affairs* 29(8):1481-1488. (Electronic Reserves)

Week 16*No Class* - Finals Week

Week 17

Exam 3 - Tuesday, December 17th



The time for Exam 3 is different than for the rest of the course - it will be held from 8:00am until 9:50am. The length will not be any different than the other exams, however, so most students should be finished prior to the official end time.

Topics

- covers Lectures 16 through 22, all associated readings, and the Thanksgiving Break reading