

Introduction to Sociology

SPRING 2019, SOC 110-02

ILC S-331

T/Th 8:30-9:45 am

PROFESSOR:

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Course Materials

- McIntyre, Lisa. 2014. *The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology*. 6th Edition. McGraw Hill Higher Education Publishing. ISBN:9780078026874.
- We will read essays from other sources. Copies will be available through Moodle.

Course Overview

This introductory course acquaints students with the discipline of sociology and the sociological perspective. We will look at patterns of life that may be so familiar as to be rendered “invisible.” We will closely examine the social forces that shape our lives and examine unequal social arrangements, their consequences, and ask ourselves what social life might look like if such arrangements were different.

Sociologists constantly ask themselves basic questions like “why,” “how,” and “what if” that challenge our common sense understandings of the world:

- Why do Americans believe this about _____ (childhood, gender, sexuality, social mobility, etc.)?
- Why is _____ the norm in American society?
- What if I behaved in this (atypical) way? What would happen? How would society treat me?
- What perspective is missing from this argument/story/article?
- How did our society become the way it is now?
- What if things could be different? What would that look like? How would that happen?

It is my hope that you leave the course with a stronger curiosity about our social world and a better ability to analyze it.

Ethics Statement

Acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. This includes using work from another course and passing it off as original work in this course, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, and facilitating any of the above. For instance, sharing your paper(s) with a classmate constitutes facilitating dishonesty.

Academic misconduct represents unethical behavior unbecoming of the academic setting. There is no tolerance of such behavior. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Dean of Students. In addition, I will fail the guilty student(s) for the paper.

Note: All electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, etc.) should be turned off during class. If there is any use of such devices during examinations, I will assume that it is for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage. This will result in an automatic "F" for that examination. No exceptions.

General Education Learning Objectives

This course is registered with the University as a General Education course. As such, it fulfills specific overall general education and designation-specific learning criteria. Among these:

- This course exposes students to the fundamental questions, core concepts, ideas, and research methods that are used in sociology.
- Students are exposed to the scientific nature of sociology, with a strong emphasis on sociologists' reliance on theory and empirical research to make sense of data in order to reveal social insights.
- Students are exposed to everyday, real-world facts from a sociological lens, and are encouraged to understand individual and group behavior sociologically, rather than driven purely by individual choice or action.
- Most importantly students are taught about the importance of the sociological imagination. We encourage students to take the (often difficult) first step towards seeing the world sociologically.

Learning and Testing Accommodations

If you require accommodations to facilitate your learning in this course, please see me after class, within the first week of classes. Provide the proper documentation from the campus resources so that alternative testing venues, etc. can be arranged in a fair amount of time.

Sexual Violence Resources

If you have *witnessed* or been a *victim* of a sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, you can contact the Title IX Coordinator, Débora D. Ferreira, 413- 545- 3464. More information can be found here: <http://www.umass.edu/titleix/>

What You Can Expect of your TAs and me:

- Show up for class on time.
- Deliver well prepared lectures.
- Be available to meet you outside of class during our office hours.
- Have your assignments graded and turned back to you in a timely fashion (Be patient. Each TA has about 75 papers to grade.)
- Provide fair, transparent, and unbiased grading of your work.

What I Expect of You:

- Come to class regularly.
- Turn off & put away your cell phone and other gadgets during class.
- You may not videotape or audio-record my lectures.
- If you need to catch up on your sleep, do so somewhere besides my class (preferably your bed).
- I do not schedule make-up exams, so don't even ask about this. Illness isn't usually excused.
 - For documented cases, like team travel or a court date, a different exam will take place at the **end** of the semester in Professor Brubaker's office.
- Turn assignments in via "TurnItIn" (on Moodle course page) on the day they are due. Late assignments are docked a full letter grade per day. That is, a perfect paper turned in 1 day late can receive no more than a 90%, a perfect paper turn in 2 days late can receive no more than an 80%, etc. After 3 late days, no assignment will be accepted.
- If you are having trouble in the class, or do not understand something, please do not hesitate to talk to me about it after class or during office hours. I enjoy chatting with students!
- Good writing skills are required in college and in this class. I encourage visiting the UMass writing center prior to turning in writing assignments for this class.
<http://writingprogram.hfa.umass.edu/writingcenter/writingcenter.asp>

Grading

I will use a non-competitive grading scale. In other words, the grade you receive will not depend on how well others have performed in class. Your grade will be based on your mastery of each of the course requirements:

Grade Breakdown At-A-Glance

Exam A - Ch 1,2,4,8	20%
Exam B - Ch 10, 12, 14	20%
2 Take home tests: Ch 7, 11	10%
Quizzes and Pop Participation	26%
3 Application Papers	24%

The grading scale for each component of the course and the final course grade is as follows:

94-100%=A; 90-93.99%=A-; 88-89.99%=B+; 83-87.99%=B; 80-82.99%=B-; 78-79.99%=C+; 73-77.99%=C; 70-72.99%=C-; 68-69.99%=D+; 60-67.99%=D; 59.99% & below=F.

Two Exams – 40%

There will two in-class exams (non-cumulative). These exams will consist of true/false, multiple-choice, and short-essay questions.

Two At-Home tests - 10%

To be completed outside class online. There is a time limit, about 48 hours. That time starts immediately after class ends the day we complete the unit.

Quizzes and Pop Participation Points - 26%

For each of the non-textbook essays assigned in the course, there will be an online quiz on Moodle that must be taken before we cover the essay in class. Longer essays/quizzes are worth a bit more than shorter ones. Pop participation happens during class.

Application Papers - 24% (8% each)

Instructions for each paper will be discussed in class and posted on Moodle. Papers are uploaded on TurnItIn at 11:59 p.m. on due dates. Students are responsible for making sure they upload the correct version of the paper by the deadline. Penalties start accruing immediately (at 12:00 a.m.) after deadline. Students may not share work with each other or use work completed in another class. If TurnItIn shows a match, student(s) get an automatic zero on the paper and it is reported to the Academic Honesty Office.

Week by Week - subject to change

WEEK 1: Introduction

Jan 22 (T) - syllabus, get acquainted with course on Moodle

Introduction (pgs. 1-4)

Jan 24 (Th) - Chapter 1

WEEK 2: The History of Sociology

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Jan 29 (T) - Chapter 1 - Note: we will focus on the topic of suicide today.

Jan 31 (Th) - Chapter 1

WEEK 3: The Sociological Eye

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Feb 4 (M) - (Last day to drop/add)

Feb 5 (T) - Chapter 2

"How Would a Sociologist Think About Sports?" on Moodle

(Complete online quiz on Moodle before class starts today. 2 attempts are acceptable.)

Feb 7 (Th) - Chapter 4

(Writing assignment on the surface and deep culture of a society you are NOT familiar with.

5 days to complete.

WEEK 4: Culture

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Feb 12 (T) - Chapter 7

[Surface/deep culture paper due before start of class today on TurnItIn/Moodle.

Late penalty starts at 8:30 a.m.]

Feb 14 (Th) - Chapter 7

"The Decline of the Date; The Rise of the Hook Up" on Moodle.

(Complete online quiz on Moodle before class starts today. 2 attempts are acceptable.)

(Writing assignment on hooking-up, gender disparities, finding romance in the Tinder era.

7 days to complete.

WEEK 5: Culture

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Feb 18 (M) - Holiday.

Feb 19 (T) - NO CLASS. Make-up day for Monday classes.

Feb 21 (Th) - Chapter 7

[TA's aim to upload Deep/Surface culture grades no later than today.]

[Hooking-up paper due before start of class today on TurnItIn/Moodle.

Late penalty starts at 8:30 a.m.]

WEEK 6: Culture and Social Structure

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Feb 26 (T) - Chapter 7

At-Home test over Ch 7 can be taken between today and before Th's class (8:29 a.m.) That's about 48 hrs.

Feb 28 (Th) - Chapter 8

"The Tragedy of Old Age in America" on Moodle

(Complete online quiz on Moodle before class starts today. 2 attempts are acceptable.)

Mar 2 (Sat) - [TA's aim to upload Hooking-Up grades no later than today.]

WEEK 7: Social Structure

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Mar 5 (T) - Ch 8

Mar 7 (Th) - EXAM A.

[I do not give make ups. I'm strict. If you miss, you get a zero. Period. The only exceptions must be discussed *in advance* and present me a handwritten note from a legal court or UMass team travel. General illness or car/weather troubles are not excused. Plan accordingly. NO EXCEPTIONS.]

WEEK 8: Spring Break

Mar 10-17 -- no classes

WEEK 9: Socialization

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Mar 19 (T) - Ch 10

"Civilize Them with a Stick" on Moodle

(Complete online quiz on Moodle before class starts today. 2 attempts are acceptable.)

[TA's aim to upload exam grades no later than today.]

Mar 21 (Th) - Ch 10

WEEK 10: Deviance

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Mar 26 (T) - Ch 11

"On Being Sane in Insane Places" on Moodle

(Complete online quiz on Moodle before class starts today. 2 attempts are acceptable.)

Mar 28 (Th) - Ch 11

WEEK 11: Deviance

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Apr 2 (T) - Ch 11

"Sand Castles and Snake Pits" on Moodle

(Complete online quiz on Moodle before class starts today. 2 attempts are acceptable.)

Apr 4 (Th) - Ch 11

At-Home test over Ch 11 can be taken between today and Saturday noon. That's about 48 hrs.

(Writing assignment on deviance assigned today.)

7 days to complete.

Apr 6 (Sat) - At-home exam must be completed by noon.

WEEK 12: Stratification

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Apr 9 (T) - Ch 12

Apr 11 (Th) - Ch 12

[Deviance paper due before start of class today on TurnItIn/Moodle.
Late penalty starts at 8:30 a.m.]

WEEK 13: Stratification, Race and Gender

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Apr 15 (M) - [TA's aim to finish grading Ch 11 at-home tests no later than today.]

Apr 16 (T) - Ch 12

Apr 18 (Th) - Ch 14

"Racism" on Moodle

(Complete online quiz on Moodle before class starts today. 2 attempts are acceptable.)

WEEK 14: Race and Gender

In-class quizzes are possible. Bring smartphone or laptop/tablet to class each day.

Apr 23 (T) - Ch 14

Apr 24 (W) - [TA's aim to upload grades for Deviance paper no later than today.]

Apr 25 (Th) - Ch 14

"What it Means to be a Gendered Me" on Moodle

(Complete online quiz on Moodle before class starts today. 2 attempts are acceptable.)

WEEK 15: Course Conclusion

Apr 30 (T) - **Exam B**

Course Ends Here. No more meetings or exams.