

Sociology 100 – Introduction to Sociology

MWF 10:00am – 10:50am & MWF 12:30pm-1:20pm

Location: Stager Hall 109 & Life Sciences and Philosophy 257

Instructor: Dr. Bryan C. Cannon

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Office Hours: MW 11:00am – 12:00pm; F 2:00pm – 4:00pm or By Appointment

Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviation announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Welcome everyone! Welcome to the class and to your first step into the discipline of sociology. In this class we'll take a deeper look at the social world we are all a part of and take a new approach to looking at everything around us and I am very glad to be making this journey with you. At times it may be distressing and at other times funny, but hopefully by the end of this course, you'll see things about the world that before we started you would have never considered. Along the way, always feel free to reach out. This class is about the social world after all... I'm always happy to help out and to answer questions when they come up.

Course Overview

In this class we will explore sociological concepts broadly, introducing topics of primary concern to sociologists and building a foundation of theoretical, methodological, and substantive knowledge.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Understand and explain sociological concepts and theories; apply these theories and concepts to events in the world around them and their own experiences.
2. Deconstruct inequalities, social events, and social structures by integrating core theoretical perspectives and concepts.
3. Investigate social problems using theory and literature; articulating the issue, what is known about it, and what should be investigated further.

This course covers a large collection of concepts and topics, though it does not try to be comprehensive by any extent. The goal of this course is to introduce you to a large section of the field and, subsequently, provide a good starting point from which to expand your own knowledge.

Note: In this class, we will talk about important and sometimes difficult social issues. It is important that you take care of yourself as we go on throughout the class. If you need to, please feel free to step away during class time or to reach out if you feel the need.



Course Materials and Expectations

Canvas: The course Canvas page will be used to provide access to the syllabus and any readings not included in the main text, provide access to video lesson content, provide you with feedback and grades through the grade book, and serve as your method of turning in assignments.

Required Texts: During the first part of the course, we will rely on assorted readings you will find on your Canvas pages for each day. These readings should be completed before class along with the Canvas video lessons.

Canvas Lessons: For each class section, there will be at least one Canvas Video Lesson. These Lessons should be completed ahead of the class section noted and will provide the introduction to the section topic and expand on topics found in the readings. During the class time, we will take this further through discussion and follow up with activities that build on the information provided.



Evaluation

Exams: You will take two exams as part of this course. A Mid-Term and a Final.

Mid-Term: The first exam will take place after we complete the first portion of the course and will make up a total of **20 points** of your final grade. This exam will be comprised of 20 multiple choice questions (worth 2.5% of the exam score each for 50%) and 2 (out of 3) short essays worth 25% of the exam score each. This exam will be administered in class after a review day, and you will have **50 Minutes** to complete it.

Final: The final exam will follow a similar structure to the mid-term but will be worth **25 points**. The final is non-cumulative in the sense that questions will not repeat. However, as the second part of the class builds on concepts covered during the first part of the class, you will be utilizing the concepts covered before the mid-term in your answers.

Participation: Your participation score makes up a total of **15 points** of your final grade. Attending and participating in class sessions is incredibly important - as we will be moving quickly across the course topics and each class session will cover a considerable amount of material. The reason for the video lessons ahead of the class sessions is to provide core ideas in a digestible way, which then leaves our face-to-face time for things like discussion, activities, and elaborating on the concepts covered in the videos. Participation in these activities and in-class work provides an opportunity to solidify understanding and to work with me and your peers to deepen your learning and thinking. As such attendance and participation are central to the course.

Given that problems and unexpected events to arise over the course of a class, I will not take participation credit during every class period, and I will drop a number of missed activities from your participation grade. Usually, this involves around 10% of the days in which activity credit is taken up.

"Doing" Sociology: Sociology is a very relatable discipline and thinking about it in your own social world is one of the central aims of this course. As such, across the semester you will have assignments focused on examining your own experience and social world through a sociological lens. These assignments will involve an active examination of some part of the social world, making notes about observations and events, then reflecting on them using the concepts and ideas we've explored. Each of these assignments will be worth **10 points** and you will complete 4 of them over the course of the class – in total earning up to **40 points**.

Grade Breakdown:

Item	Points
Mid-Term	20
Participation	15
"Doing" Sociology	40
Final Exam	25
Total	100

Grading Scale: The grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Points Earned
A	93-100
A-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D+	67-69.99
D	63-66.99
D-	60-62.99
F	<60

Late Work and Extensions on Assignments: I will take late work after the time it is due with a penalty. To account for small errors in timing, I will not count off for assignments turned in within an hour after they are due. Past this “grace” period, a late penalty of 25% of the potential points will be applied for every 24 hours since the assignment was due.

I assume that you will do your best to turn in assignments promptly. This being said, I understand that sometimes unanticipated events can occur. As such, and in order to make sure I am being fair with providing opportunities to turn things in late when something happens, I provide one 72-hour (3 day) extension to each student. This is the only extension I provide beyond those following a leave of absence.

Leave Policy: If you are granted a leave of absence, I will honor the leave policy re: any graded material. Assignments due during a leave are due upon returning from leave plus as many days as transpired between the beginning of the leave and the due date of the assignment. Tests must be taken within a number of days as transpired between the beginning of a leave and the original date of the test. For example, if you go on leave three days before an assignment is due, the assignment is due 3 days after you return from leave. If a test is given 3 days into a leave, you are responsible for taking the test within 3 days of returning from leave.

***NOTE:** While these policies for make-up and late work aim to cover most situations, it is possible that a situation may arise in which this policy fails to provide equitable opportunity. In such cases, I reserve the right to make exceptions or adjustments on a case-by-case basis. Such adjustments will only be made after having exhausted the breadth of the policies as they stand.

***NOTE:** As a policy, I do not round final grades. When looking at your grades for the course, it is recommended that you think of it in terms of "points accumulated" rather than looking at a percentage column. You have the opportunity to earn up to 100 points, think on how many points you need to achieve your desired grade.



Communication:

Office Hours: I will hold regular office hours and am more than willing to meet at a different time should it be required. During this time, you are welcome to pop in if you have questions, need guidance, want to talk through some of the material, or just want to chat!

Email: I schedule dedicated email time twice daily, once in the morning around 9:00am and once around 6:00pm at night. Please understand that this means that if you contact me after around 7pm, it is likely you will not receive a response until morning. If I do not respond within 24 hours, please don't hesitate to send me a reminder.

In general, I will reply to a question within 24 hours. If I have not replied by then, please feel free to remind me!



Expectations and Policies:

Classroom Behavior: The material we discuss may be uncomfortable or may challenge you. This is okay and I am always willing to speak with you about this, whether in class or during office hours. Discussion will also be a regular part of the course, both in small groups and as a whole class and to make the classroom an inclusive and open environment for learning it is important that we be respectful to one another. Disagreements may and

likely will occur at times and, when handled with mutual respect, are often opportunities to learn. I expect that you will follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Student Bias and Discrimination Guidelines](#) at all times. In addition, please keep shared personal information during classroom discussions private – others' information isn't yours to share (I follow this rule as well – excepting in cases where I am a mandated reporter).

Academic Honesty: I expect that all work you turn in to me is your own. Honesty and Integrity are central to the academic endeavor. Stress and frustration can lead to poor decision making so if you do find yourself tempted to turn in work that is not your own, please reach out and we can work to find a different strategy.

The [Academic Honesty policy](#) is found in the catalog. If a student is found to have violated the academic honesty policy, penalties may range from failing an assignment/exam/etc. to completely failing this course in addition to any penalties at the administration level. This is not an outcome any of us want, so if you are tempted to violate this policy, please reach out so we can find some other strategy.

Special Accommodations/Learning Differences: Students requiring reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment. I am glad to make accommodations when needed. You will need to contact the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) and acquire the appropriate documentation. **Do this as soon as possible, do not wait until right before the assignment or test!**

Mandated Reporter: Franklin & Marshall College is committed to creating a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, and stalking, please know that help and support are available. F&M strongly encourages all members of the community to take action, seek support, and report incidents of sexual harassment to the Title IX Office. You may contact the Title IX Coordinator, Kate Buchkoski, Ph.D., at kate.buchkoski@fandm.edu or 717-358-7178 or learn more by visiting the College's Title IX website.

Please be aware that all employees, including faculty members, are mandated reporters and are required to disclose information about suspected or alleged sexual harassment to the Title IX Office. If the Title IX Office receives information about an incident, the Title IX Coordinator will reach out to offer information about resources, rights, and procedural options as a member of the campus community. If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, the following on-campus options are available:

Student Wellness Center: (717) 544-9051, College Square

Counseling Services: (717) 544-9051, College Square

The YWCA is a local, off-campus confidential resource and can be reached via their 24-Hour Sexual Assault Hotline: (717) 392-7273.

For questions about the mandated reporter policy or any sexual misconduct issue, you may contact the Title IX Coordinator, Kate Buchkoski, Ph.D. at kate.buchkoski@fandm.edu or 717-358-7178. Policies and additional information can be found on the Title IX webpage (<https://www.fandm.edu/campus-life/title-ix>)

Support Services

You have a number of resources available to you through the College. I encourage you to reach out when you need assistance in the course.

[F&M Library](#) – Access to texts and assistance in research

[Information Technology Services \(ITS\)](#) – Technology support and information

[Canvas Guides for Students](#) – Help performing various tasks in Canvas with procedures and visuals.

General Course Schedule

*This schedule can serve as a guide for planning out modules, class days, and assignments throughout the semester. Please note that this schedule is preliminary and is subject to change. Changes will be made to this schedule via Canvas and in-class announcements.

Date	Topics	Assignments
What is Sociology?		
31-Aug	Introduction	
2-Sep	What is Sociology?	
Theory and Theoretical Perspectives		
5-Sep	Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology	
7-Sep	Exploring Theory	
Sociological Research		
9-Sep	Research in Sociology	
12-Sep	Ethics in Social Research	
14-Sep	Reading Sociological Research	
Culture		
16-Sep	Exploring Culture	
19-Sep	Culture as a Resource	
21-Sep	Cultural Consumption	
Socialization		
23-Sep	Socialization at Play	
26-Sep	The Socialization Process	
28-Sep	Socialization and Inequality	
30-Sep	No Class	Assigned: "Doing" Sociology: Socialization and Media
The Structure of Society		
3-Oct	Social Institutions	

5-Oct	Groups and Organizations	
7-Oct	Networks and Connections	Due: “Doing” Sociology: Socialization and Media
12-Oct	Social Structure and Health	
The Self in Society		
14-Oct	The Self in Society	
17-Oct	Impression Management	
19-Oct	The Self Online	
21-Oct	Online Impression Management	Assigned: “Doing” Sociology: You, Online
Preparing for Exam 1		
24-Oct	Wrap Up: Section 1	
26-Oct	Study Guide: Exam 1	
28-Oct	Exam 1	
Overview of Inequality		
31-Oct	Constructing Inequality	
2-Nov	Constructing Inequality, Cont.	
4-Nov	Constructing Inequality, Cont.	Due: “Doing” Sociology: You, Online
Inequality: Social Class		
7-Nov	Overview: Social Class	
9-Nov	Exploring Social Class	
11-Nov	Getting By...	Assigned: “Doing” Sociology: Getting By...
Inequality: Race and Ethnicity		
14-Nov	Overview: Race and Ethnicity	
16-Nov	Exploring Race and Ethnicity	
18-Nov	Case Studies in Race and Ethnicity	Due: “Doing” Sociology: Getting By...
Inequality: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality		
21-Nov	Overview: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality	
28-Nov	Exploring Sex, Gender, and Sexuality	
30-Nov	Case Studies in Sex, Gender, and Sexuality	
Wrapping Up: Intersectionality, Privilege, Social Movements, and Social Change		
2-Dec	Inequality: Intersectionality	Assigned: “Doing” Sociology: A Day Through the Sociological Lens
5-Dec	Exploring Social Change	
7-Dec	Wrapping Up	
9-Dec	Review for Final Exam	Due: “Doing Sociology: A Day Through the Sociological Lens
Finals Day	Final Exam	