

SOCA 101.001 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

FALL SEMESTER 2019, SYLLABUS

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Office: Knapp Hall, Room 219

Office Hours: MWF 11am – 12noon or by appointment

Course time & location: MWF 8:30 – 9:20AM, Oglebay Hall, G10

Course Description

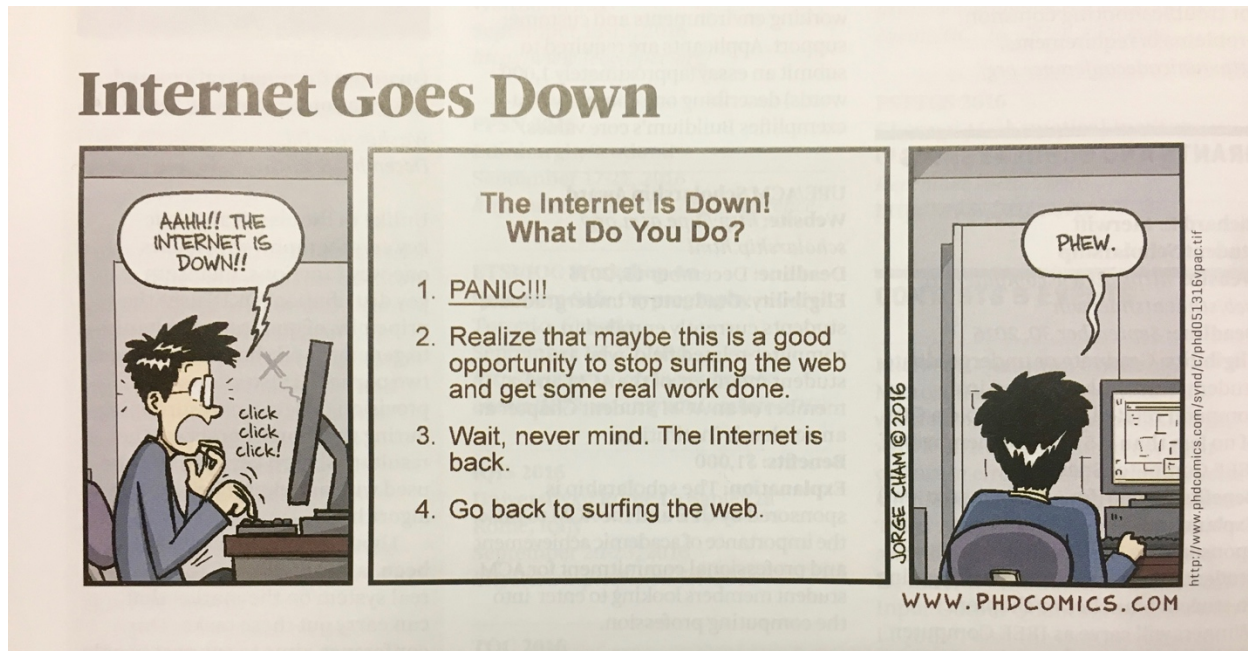
This course introduces students to the field of sociology, it is designed to be an overview of major sociological theories, concepts, principles and experiences that shape the human experience. Students are also introduced to the concept of socio-technology, the extent to which technologies are impacting and reshaping society. The Socio-technological concepts we will study include personal and group privacy, online security, information availability, online propaganda and misinformation, self-perception and algorithmic bias. Questions asked are: what is society and how can we understand it? What is the role of individuals in society and how are they affected by society? how do technologies (re)shape and impact cultures and social interactions? In answering these questions, we will move away from the “common sense” understanding of the social world and develop a “sociological imagination”, which is the capacity to think about how things we experience as personal problems are really social issues. We will pay attention to social phenomena across space and time by examining substantive areas of sociology such as theories, methods, culture, socialization, inequality, mass and social media, globalization and deviance through socio-technical lens.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this class, you will be able to:

- Explain key sociological theories, terms and concepts
- Discuss the social implications of technology, how the internet and the Web impact individuals, communities, and society.

- Apply sociological theories to understand local and global social and sociotechnical problems relating to cultures, inequalities, socialization and interactions, gender, race and ethnicity, and deviance.
- Develop a “sociological imagination” to critically analyze social and sociotechnical problems from the course materials.



Required Resources



Textbook: Revel for Sociology, 17e

ISBN-13 9780134722948

Author: John Macionis, Publishers: Pearson

There are two ways to purchase Revel access:

1. Purchase a Revel access code from the WVU Bookstore.
2. Online Instant Access: you can purchase Revel access online from Pearson.

This is a required textbook, I will assign readings, writing and quizzes in Revel.

Additional required readings

Will be available on eCampus or via the WVU libraries for each week assigned.

Course Website(s) and Technologies

| Technology | Purpose | Link |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>eCampus</i> | Access to course announcements, Revel textbook, assignments, additional readings, grades | https://ecampus.wvu.edu 201908-SOCA-101-001 |
| <i>REVEL Pearson</i> | Access to Revel required textbook, readings, writing and homework activities will be assigned in Revel. Log in frequently and check the calendar for due dates. | Sign-on via eCampus course (recommended) or from http://console.pearson.com |
| <i>Google Drive</i> | We will use google docs (Gdocs)for collaboration activities in class. | |
| <i>Poll Everywhere</i> | For class activities and polls. All students are required to purchase access to Poll Everywhere. There will be individual and team polls in each lecture. | See eCampus for info on how to log in and using Poll Everywhere |
| <i>**Social Media account</i> | For interaction, sharing knowledge and engaging in public sociology | Optional. We will discuss and decide in the first week which social media (Twitter, Facebook) is best for our class, & if we need one. |

How to Contact Me

Email is the best way for you to contact me or during the office hours. Please use vfg0002@mix.wvu.edu and I will try to respond within 24 to 48 hours (except on weekends). Do not forget to state the course name and purpose of your message in the subject line of the email.

Class Format & Participation

This is not a lecture class; it is an active learning class designed to be engaging and relevant. Research has found active learning to be highly effective, a lot of learning will come from your own independent work to complete required readings, review required media (videos or podcasts) and complete assignments from eCampus/Revel platforms. In class, you will not be passive recipients of information, but will instead be actively engaged participants in group discussions and team activities. This course may require more of you during class meetings than some of your classes, but you will get more out of your experience in return. As in the work environment, much of the learning in class will take place in teams of 4-5, you will be collaborating in class as a team. Each team will have a project manager (PM) responsible for the team and assignments, the PM's should alternate each week. You will also have a chance to assess team members based on their contributions to collaborative discussions and activities. If you are experiencing difficulties in your team, or if a member of the team is violating the social contract please contact me immediately.

Learning Assessment Descriptions

Exams (300 points)

The course has three exams (worth 100 points each), two during the semester and a final exam. Each exam will include multiple choice questions, true or false, and short answer questions. The questions will test materials (readings and videos/films) covered in class since the last exam. The final exam will be administered during the University's officially scheduled exam timeslot for this course, which is Tuesday, December 17, 5 to 7pm.

Revel Reading Quizzes (150 points)

Each chapter from the Revel Sociology textbook has quizzes you can take online, the quizzes are 15 questions each worth 1 point. You must complete the 10 quizzes by the due date and time. You must work independently to complete the quizzes, no collaborations or assisting other students. I will have to bring academic misconduct charges against anyone I suspect of cheating.

Revel Shared Writings (50 points)

Each chapter in the Revel readings has journals and shared writings, you will only write 5 shared writings exercises following the prompt given in the chapter assigned. The shared writings will be viewed by everyone in the class and are a minimum of 140 characters. Be prepared to discuss the shared writings during class team activities and discussions. Each shared writing is worth 10 points.

Team Activities & Participation (200 points)

You are expected to actively participate in class. In order to fully participate, you must show up in class having read the materials and submitted the assignments due. Your primary avenues for participation are in small team activities. There will be several in-class activities and polls each day in class, at least one of these mechanisms will be graded and used to measure participation and attendance. The class activities include readings and video discussions, case studies, polls, and exit tickets writings.

Assessments & Grading

The final course grade will be calculated using the following categories:

| Assessment | Total Points |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 3 Exams @ 100pts each | 300 |
| 10 Online quizzes @15 pts each | 150 |
| 5 Shared writings @10pts each | 50 |
| In-Class Participation & Polls | 200 |
| Total | 700 |

Students will be assigned the following final letter grades. Grades are assigned on the 10% cut-offs, please note being close to the cutoff is not the same thing as making the cut thus 89.99 is not equal to 90.00.

| Letter Grade | Percentage | Performance |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| A | 90 – 100% | Excellent work |
| B+ | 85 – 89% | Very good work |

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|----|----------|--------------------|
| B | 80 – 84% | Good work |
| C+ | 75 – 79% | Above average work |
| C | 70 – 74% | Average work |
| D+ | 65 – 69% | Below average work |
| D | 60 – 64% | Poor work |
| F | Below | Failing work |

Course Policies

- **Late-work policy:** I will accept late written assignments up to a week after the due date but please note for each day an assignment is late, I will deduct 5 points for each late working day. Not accepting late quizzes, you have until the end of the week to complete it.
- **Make-up policy:** all exams are mandatory, if for some reason you cannot take the exam on the given date you need to let me know in advance and I will need documentation to show why you could not take the exam. You must make-up the exam within 3 days of the scheduled exam or department's make-up exam schedule, whichever comes first. Please plan your travels after the assigned final exam date, I will not accept make-ups for early travels. There is no make-up for individual or group in-class activities or online quizzes.
- **Re-grade policy:** there is none, I will not be re-grading any assignment or exam. If you want to review any of your grades, or have questions about how it was scored, email me to schedule a time for us to meet in my office.
- **Extra credit policy:** I normally do not offer extra credit assignments or points. However, one of the in-class activities will count towards extra credit.
- **Grades policy:** check eCampus course website frequently, all grades will be posted on eCampus. It is your responsibility to check and inform me if there is anything missing or incorrect before the end of the semester. If I have made a mistake, I will immediately correct it. There is no grading on the curve, you get the grade you earn. Grades are not negotiable, they are given, you have to do the work and earn the grade. If earning a particular grade is important to you, please speak with me at the beginning of the semester so that I can offer some helpful suggestions for

achieving your goals. If you attend class every day, pay attention, do the readings, assignments and take the exams, quizzes etc. you will do well in class.

- **Attendance & participation policy:** it is your responsibility to show up in class. If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get the information you missed. I will not hand out lecture notes for any reason other than a documented disability. Please note without showing up in class, you will be missing out on the team activities and in-class activities which are graded, thus failing the course.

Academic & University Policies

Please take the time to read the following WVU Academic policies, click on the links:

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Academic Dishonesty](#)
- [Academic Standards Policy, including Academic Dishonesty](#)
- [Adverse Weather Statement](#)
- [Appropriate Use of Technology Statement](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)
- [Campus Safety Statement](#)
- [Inclusivity Statement](#)
- [Grading & Incomplete Grade Policy](#)
- [Sale of Course Material Statement](#)
- [Sexual Misconduct Statement](#)
- Student Wellness: [Carruth Center](#)

Our Social Contract

As members of a learning community, we need to have a mutual understanding of what is expected from each of us, and what we have the right to expect from others.

I, as the instructor, agree to...

- Create and maintain a classroom environment that fosters student engagement and active learning
- Establish clear standards, assess your learning in a fair and honest way, and give you helpful feedback
- Respond to your questions in a timely manner

You, as the student, agree to...

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- Take personal responsibility for your learning
 - Actively engage with the material and in-class meetings
 - Actively monitor email and eCampus announcements
 - Ask questions
 - Attend class

We, as members of this learning community, agree to...

- Abide by the course and campus policies
- Be respectful and encouraging as we actively cultivate an inclusive classroom climate
- Give each other our individual attention and respect
- Not use phones, laptops or tablets during class meetings, unless we need them for an activity or polls
- Be professionals – arrive on time, be prepared, and prevent foreseeable problems

Classroom Culture

Because the topics covered in this class are complex, it is important that we create and maintain a learning environment that is safe for ALL students and free from judgement. Be ready to openly share your own opinions and experiences and to be understanding and accepting of others' perspectives. We are here to learn from one another, and our differences create opportunities for discussion and deeper understanding of ourselves and our social world. If you disagree with content or comments in this course, I encourage you to express your thoughts, but you must do so respectfully, and you must use evidence to support your statements. Personal attacks, offensive language, or threats will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Tentative Schedule

The following course outline is tentative, and subject to change throughout the course. Changes will be announced in class, via email and on eCampus as soon as possible. Readings are to be done by Sunday before class, quizzes are due on Friday 7:00am. Additional readings and videos with *asterisk are available on eCampus. See Revel assignment calendar for specific assignment details, including due date and time.

| Date | Topic | Activities |
|---------------|---|--|
| Week 1 | | |
| W 8/21 | Introductions | Read: Syllabus |
| F 8/23 | Onboarding: Course materials, Revel etextbook, google docs, eCampus, Poll Everywhere, teams | Revel & Poll Everywhere registration Syllabus discussion |
| Week 2 | | |
| M 8/26 | The Sociological Perspective & How Technology Changes Love | Read Chapter 1, Sec 1.1 to 1.3 Revel *Video: Technology Hasn't Changed Love – Helen Fisher |
| W 8/28 | | |
| F 8/30 | | Shared Writing 1 |
| Week 3 | | |
| M 9/2 | <i>Labor Day – No class ☺</i> | |
| W 9/4 | The Sociological Perspective | Read Chapter 1, Sec 1.4 to 1.6 Revel |
| F 9/6 | | Quiz 1 |
| Week 4 | | |
| M 9/9 | Sociological Investigation & Online (Mis)information, Data Points | Read Chapter 2 Revel *Video: Beware online “filter bubbles” – Eli Pariser *Video: Political Manipulation, Fake News – Al Jazeera English |
| W 9/11 | | |
| F 9/13 | | Quiz 2 |
| Week 5 | | |
| M 9/16 | Culture & Cyborgs | Read Chapter 3 Revel *Video: We are all cyborgs now – Amber Case |
| W 9/18 | | Shared Writing 2 due |
| F 9/20 | | Quiz 3 |
| Week 6 | | |

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|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| M 9/23 | Society & Automated Future | Read Chapter 4 Revel *Video: 3 myths about the future of work – Daniel Susskind |
| W 9/25 | | |
| F 9/27 | Exam 1 | Exam 1 |

Week 7

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|---------------|-----------------------------|--|
| M 9/30 | Socialization & Screen Time | Read Chapter 5 Revel Read Screen Time for Kids, NPR |
| W 10/2 | Guest Lecture | |
| F 10/4 | Guest Lecture | Quiz 4 |

Week 8

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|----------------|---|--|
| M 10/7 | Social Interaction and Online Connections | Read Chapter 6 Revel, *Introduction: Alone Together – Turkle Sherry |
| W 10/9 | | Shared writing 3 due |
| F 10/11 | Fall Break – No class 😊 | |

Week 9

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|----------------|---|--------|
| M 10/14 | Social Interaction & Online Connections | Quiz 5 |
| W 10/16 | Documentary: The Great Hack | |
| F 10/18 | | |

Week 10

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|----------------|---------------------|---|
| M 10/21 | Mass & Social Media | Read Chapter 7 Revel *Video: Your Social Media “likes” expose more than you think – Jennifer Golbeck |
| W 10/23 | | |
| F 10/25 | | Quiz 6 |

Week 11

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|----------------|---|--|
| M 10/28 | Social Stratification & Automating Inequalities | Read Chapter 11 Revel *Introduction: Automating Inequalities – Virginia Eubanks |
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|-------------------|---|---|
| W 10/30 | | |
| F 11/1 | Exam 2 | Exam 2 |
| Week 12 | | |
| M 11/4 | US & Global Stratification | Read Chapters 12 and 13 Revel |
| W 11/6 | | Shared Writing 4 (Ch 12) |
| F 11/8 | | Quiz 7 (Ch 13) |
| Week 13 | | |
| M 11/11 | Gender Stratification | Read Chapter 14 Revel |
| W 11/13 | Guest Lecture | |
| F 11/15 | Guest Lecture | Quiz 8 |
| Week 14 | | |
| M 11/18 | Race & Ethnicity, Algorithms of Oppression | Read Chapter 15 Revel *Video: Algorithms of Oppression – Safiya Noble |
| W 11/20 | | Shared Writing 5 |
| F 11/22 | | Quiz 9 |
| Week 15 | | |
| November 23–Dec 1 | <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> | |
| Week 16 | | |
| M 12/2 | Deviance & Online Hate Crime | Read Chapter 10 Revel *Online Hate & Harassment: The American Experience - ADL |
| W 12/4 | | |
| F 12/6 | | Quiz 10 |
| Week 17 | | |
| M 12/9 | Review | |
| W 12/11 | | |
| Finals | EXAM 3 Tuesday, December 17, 5pm – 7pm | |