

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

## Soc 101 (Section I) • Fall 2013

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(please put *SOC 101* & your name in subject line)

Office Hours: by appointment only

**Class Meets: M/W 12:30p-2:40PM, Room D103**

Course website accessible via *myBC*

### Course Description

Everyday our lives – our thoughts, ideas and actions – are the product of a complicated interplay between our personal traits and large-scale social forces outside ourselves. We can't understand either the individual "self" or the larger "society" if we don't understand them both and how they work together. This understanding is known as the "sociological imagination. This course is designed to help you cultivate the ability to see this intersection between self and society. You will be introduced to the theoretical perspectives and core concepts of sociology with an emphasis on social structure, social control, social inequality, social construction of reality, scientific knowledge, and social change.

### Readings

Required Textbook: Brent, Edward and J. Scott Lewis. 2013. *Learn sociology*. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning. (ISBN-13: 9781449672461)

Additional readings: will be posted on the course website.

### Learning Atmosphere

The student is the key stakeholder in their own education, as such active participation in the learning process is a must! This is an *active, interactive* course where you will often *learn by doing*. You are expected to observe the world, read, write, discuss, and participate. Every time you make a comment or ask a question, you teach something to the rest of us. I challenge you to abandon the traditional passive student role and to get involved with teaching and learning .

A note about course content: Since sociologists examine just about every aspect of the social world, we sometimes talk about provocative material in class. Please be advised that, when we explore controversial topics, they will always be framed within an academic context. You are free to leave the room at any time, but please know that you will be responsible for any course material you may have missed while you were gone. If you have any questions or concerns about course content or climate, don't hesitate to let me know.

## Course Objectives

Core Competencies: This course emphasizes reading and retaining information, critical thinking, academic writing, interpretation of online information, awareness of cultural and global diversity, respect for diverse thinking, and working effectively in small group settings.

Student Learning Outcomes: After completing the course a successful student will be able to:

- Think critically about the world, recognizing society's influence on the individual and the individual's ability to influence society in turn.
- Apply the sociological imagination to contemporary social topics, issues and trends.
- Demonstrate their understanding of the interrelationship between sociological theoretical perspectives, scientific method, and components of the social structure and organization.
- Explain how life experiences and opportunities differ according to race, class, and gender.
- Think critically about the components of social stratification and inequality and their influence on life chances.
- Better understand perspectives different from their own.
- Evaluate research and data -- recognizing bias, identifying underlying assumptions and knowing how to weigh the evidence and conclusions presented.

Course Objectives:

- Apply the sociological perspective and sociological imagination to social issues and social life.
- Describe the main steps of the research process and recognize the inherent strengths and weaknesses of the main research methods.
- Understand the historical development of sociology as a scientific discipline.
- Compare and contrast the main sociological theoretical perspectives and the three levels of sociological analysis.
- Identify components of culture and describe cultural change.
- Identify the main theories, concepts, and socialization agents associated with the development of the self.
- Identify the components of the social structure and its impact on beliefs, behaviors, values, and life chances of individuals.
- Analyze factors associated with group dynamics and organizational structures.
- Recognize the influence of social institutions in contemporary society including their affect on groups, individual behaviors and life chances.
- Understand historical and contemporary dimensions and factors related to social stratification.
- Analyze topics related to social change including population trends, social movements, and globalization.
- Apply sociological key terms, concepts and theories to historical and contemporary social issues.

NOTE: This course's General Education ratings are: 3 in Critical Thinking, 2 in Reading, 2 in Ethics, 2 in Historical and Intellectual Perspectives, and 3 in Cultural Diversity.

## General Expectations and Course Policies

- Come to class. Every day. Be on time. Be present (e.g. awake).
- Complete the readings no later than the start of the week assigned.
- Be prepared to contribute to the in-class conversations.
- Take notes on the readings, videos, and lectures and in-class discussion.
- DO NOT use your cell phone/text messaging device in the classroom.
- Proper use of laptops required. No Facebook, Twitter or Surfing.
- Consistently demonstrate respect and proper classroom behavior.
- Disrespectful behavior will result in you being asked to leave.
- Critical thinking is expected. Informed opinion is the standard we seek.
- Questions are welcome and encouraged. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Attendance: If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the information conveyed in that session and for any announcements that were made. I do not share my lecture notes and I recommend that you contact a fellow student for lecture notes and announcements. You will not be able to make up any in-class work you may have missed and you are responsible for any work that was due immediately upon your return. Missing class does not grant you an extension on any work.

Preparation: Students are expected to have completed assigned readings by the start of the week listed below (see Course Schedule). Students should: bring reading notes and/or textbooks to each and every class meeting; be prepared to ask relevant questions related to that week's topic; and be prepared to relate textbook topics to discussion, group work and in-class assignments, etc.

Participation: You are expected to be an active participant in this course. You should do your best to contribute to class discussions and activities. Please be advised your grade will suffer if you do not participate and contribute to class discussion and group activities.

Deadlines and Turning in Assignments: It is your responsibility to turn your work in on time. Work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero. If you know you will be absent on the day the assignment is due, then turn in your work early. I do not accept assignments via email. Some assignments may be turned in using CANVAS, depending on the instructions when the work is assigned.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Violation of academic integrity in this course includes plagiarizing (submitting the work of another person as your own) and tampering with the work of another student. All students are expected to act with civility, personal integrity; respect other students' dignity, rights and property; and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others and a civil community.

Email: Expect a response within a 24-48 period Monday-Friday. Write the course number and your last name in the subject header. If you miss class do not email me to request the lecture notes.

## Course Requirements & Grading

Your final grade in this course will be based on your performance around the course requirements:

Exams (3 @ 100pts each)	300 points	50% of final grade
Quizzes (6 @ 15pts each)	90 points	15% of final grade
Individual Assignments (6 @ 15pts each)	90 points	15% of final grade
Group Assignments (3 @ 15pts each)	45 points	7.5%% of final grade
<u>Response Papers (3 @ 25pts each)</u>	<u>75 points</u>	<u>12.5% of final grade</u>
TOTAL	600 points	

- (1) Performance on Exams: Three exams are given over the course of the quarter. Exams items will cover reading material, class lectures and activities and will not be cumulative. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in the blank, true/false, and short answer questions. **Please note I do not give make-up exams.** If you are absent on exam day or if you arrive to class after the first student has finished the exam, you will receive a zero grade. Note exam dates and plan ahead!
- (2) Performance on Quizzes: Six quizzes on the readings will be given during the quarter. If you miss the quiz given in class you will receive a zero grade. Quizzes will be multiple choice, fill in the blank and short answer. The quiz is meant to ensure you have a basic understanding of the readings.
- (3) Performance on Individual Assignments: You will be asked to complete six individual assignments during the quarter. You may be asked to complete the assignments during class time. In some circumstances you may be asked to complete the assignment on your own time and turn it in at the beginning of the next class. If you miss class or do not turn in the assignments when they are due you will receive a zero grade. Work completed at home must be typed written. Handwritten homework will only be accepted if the work is assigned and completed during class time.
- (4) Performance on Group Assignments: There will be three group assignments which will be assigned and completed during one class period. I will review your group's work and assign it a grade. I will then consider each person's contribution to the work and discussion. The person who contributed the most will receive the highest grade in the group. Those who participate less will receive fewer points and those who don't participate will receive zeros. For example, if the group earns 15 points, those who contribute most will earn 15 points, while those who contribute less may earn 10 or 5 points and those who don't contribute or miss class will receive 0 points. If everyone contributes equally, each person will receive the full points awarded to the group.
- (5) Performance on Response Papers: Three response papers will be required during this quarter. These will be 1-2 page type written papers regarding a specific topic or question. Due dates are noted in the course calendar. Details for this assignment will be given throughout the quarter.

The following are the letter-grade equivalents to the course points:

<u>Grade</u>		<u>Point Total</u>	<u>Grade</u>		<u>Point Total</u>
A	=	558-600 points	C+	=	462-479 points
A-	=	540-557 points	C	=	438-461 points
B+	=	522-539 points	C-	=	420-437 points
B	=	498-521 points	D+	=	402-419 points
B-	=	480-497 points	D	=	360-401 points
			F	=	0-359 points

## Course Schedule

You are responsible for all required readings even if the material is not covered in class. The lecture outline is tentative and exams dates are subject to change. Due to the interactive nature of lectures and class activities, assignment due dates will depend on the completion of each unit. Every effort will be made to follow the outline and policies on this syllabus. Changes to the course outline will be posted in our online course shell and announced in class.

Week	Topic / Readings / Assignments / Exams	Readings,
<b>Week 1</b> 9/23-9/27	What is Sociology? The Sociological Perspective and Research Process	Syllabus Brent, Chapter 1
<b>Week 2</b> 9/30 – 10/4	Culture Socialization	Brent, Chapters 2 Brent, Chapter 3
<b>Week 3</b> 10/7 – 10/10	Society, Social Structure, and Social Interaction Groups and Organizations	Brent, Chapter 4 Brent, Chapter 5
<b>Week 4</b> 10/14 – 10/18	<b>Exam 1: Chapters 1-5</b> Deviance and Crime Class and Stratification in the United States	<b>Exam 1</b> Brent, Chapter 6 Brent, Chapter 7
<b>Week 5</b> 10/21 – 10/25	Global Stratification No Class on 10/23	Brent, Chapters 8
<b>Week 6</b> 10/28 – 10/30	Race and Ethnicity in Society Sex and Gender	Brent, Chapter 9 Brent, Chapter 10
<b>Week 7</b> 11/4 – 11/8	Aging and the Elderly <b>Exam 2: Chapters 6-11</b> Population and Urbanization	Brent, Chapter 11 <b>Exam 2</b> Brent, Chapter 16
<b>Week 8</b> 11/11 – 11/15	No Class on 11/11 Family and Intimate Relationships	Brent, Chapter 12
<b>Week 9</b> 11/18 – 11/22	Education and Religion Politics and Economy in Global Perspective	Brent, Chapter 13 Brent, Chapter 14
<b>Week 10</b> 11/25 – 11/27	Health and Health Care Collective Behavior, Social Movements, & Social Change Thursday 11/28 Holiday	Brent, Chapter 15 Brent, Chapter 17
<b>Week 11</b> 12/2 – 12/6	Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change (conclude) Course Wrap Up	Brent, Chapter 17
<b>Week 12</b> 12/9 – 12/11	FINALS WEEK <b>Exam 3: Chapters 12-17</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>

## Resources

Bellevue College Email: All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to *MyBC*.

^To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam>.

Canvas: Canvas is web-based software that allows teachers to build and maintain a secure web space to share course content, communicate with students, and provide online learning activities and assessments. Canvas supports multiple browsers for both desktop and mobile versions. To get started with Canvas either:

- Log in at <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/canvas/>
- Visit the Technology Help page at <http://depts.bellevuecollege.edu/helpdesk/students/canvas/>
  - Workshops are scheduled in A265 this week
  - Webinars are also scheduled this week
  - This page also features helpful hints, FAQs, and contact information if you need more support or help

Computer Labs: BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website](#).

Academic Success Center: Students who need help with writing or sharpening their reading skills are encouraged to take advantage of the resources provided by the Academic Success Center in Building D – Room 204.

Disability Resources: Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs should meet with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) office temporarily located in the Library Media Center (telephone 425-564-2498 or TTY 425-564-4110) to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter which the student should review with me during the first week of the quarter.