

Introduction to Sociology

SOC 101 | Fall 2015

C164 | TTh 12:30-2:40pm

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Office Hours M 8-9 AM and by apt

Office A242

Course Outcomes: After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Critically examine the social landscape in which you live and how life experiences differ according to race, class, gender and sexuality.
- Identify the ways in which cultural and social institutions shape the everyday experiences of individuals, groups and communities.
- Describe fundamental sociological concepts, and theories, and apply them to real-life situations.

Texts

There is no textbook for this class and no books to purchase. All class resources can be accessed through canvas or will be provided by the professor.

Policies

Student Attendance: Attendance is essential to your success in this course. I will take attendance every day and you will receive 10 points if you are in class on time and 5 points if you arrive late. There are 22 class meetings and a maximum of 200 attendance points so it is possible to miss two classes and still receive full credit for attendance. I will make accommodations for college sanctioned events (athletic contests, artistic performances, conferences) provided that you inform me of your anticipated absence in a timely fashion. An example of timely notification can be found in the tentative schedule. I will be attending a college sanctioned conference on November 5th and class is cancelled on that day. In any case, you will be responsible for material covered in your absence and for turning in any work due on the day of your absence.

Instructor Attendance: My attendance is essential to the success of this course. If I cancel a class (not including November 5th which is noted on the syllabus) every student will have 20 points added to their final point total. If I am late to class every student will have 10 points added to their final point total.

Attention: When we are in class everyone needs to pay attention and contribute. If you fall asleep or are playing games on your phone or talking loudly about things not related to class I will prompt you once to pay attention and then ask you to leave for the day. If I have to ask you to leave I will **NOT** take away your attendance points for the day so if you really can't stay awake or feel absolutely compelled to text with your friends about what happened on Parks and Recreation feel free to leave on your own terms.

Civility: This course involves a lot of discussion and we will be talking about many things about which people are very passionate. Many of the things we discuss may have affected you personally. Here are some guiding principles for our discussions.

- The point of our discussions is to find the truth not to win the argument,
- We will attack arguments not people
- We will be passionate and forceful but not mean.
- We will neither allow nor require anyone to speak for a group of which they are part.

Assessment

The course has the following graded components.

Attendance: See Above

Discussion Questions: Every student will contribute one discussion question per class period. These are due at 10:00 AM. Questions should be submitted through canvas. If canvas is unavailable for some reason you should submit your questions through email. These must be open ended questions that invite discussion not multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank type quiz questions. Discussion questions are graded on a pass/fail basis. If I don't return them to you should assume that you received full credit. There are 22 class days and a maximum of 100 possible points which allows you to miss two discussion questions and still receive full credit.

Introductory Paper: The prompt for this paper will be distributed on Thursday September 24th and is due on Thursday October 1st. The paper should be 600-1000 words in length.

Response papers: Prompts for response papers will be assigned every week (generally but not always on Thursday) and will be due Thursday of the next week. You must complete at least one response paper before the midterm and at least one response paper after the midterm. You may write as many response papers as you wish and I will use the highest grades before and after the midterm to calculate your final grade.

In these papers I expect you to make an argument. In other words I will expect you to state your answer to the question I have posed and then back that answer up with evidence. The evidence can come from the class resources or from other sources. If you use other sources you are responsible for their quality, truthfulness and reliability. In general you should find original resources. If a political candidate or someone on the daily show quotes a statistic you need to find the source of that statistic and evaluate it before you include it in your paper. You may reference your personal experiences but personal experience should not be the major source of evidence for the paper.

Sociological Artifacts: These are things that you find in the world that illustrate something we have talked about in class. Examples might include commercials, television shows, newspaper articles, scholarly articles, song lyrics, music videos, or movies. You will need to write a one page explanation of the relevance of your artifact and present the artifact to the class in a short (2-5 minute) presentation. We will take time at the beginning of class for artifact presentations.

Exams: Exams will consist primarily of short answer (one or two paragraph) questions although they may include some multiple choice questions (If I really think you haven't been doing the reading) and/or a short essay (If I think up a really good question).

Points are assigned to each of these graded components in the following way

Attendance: 10 points per day	200 points
Discussion Questions 5 points per day	100 points
Introductory Paper	100 points
2 Response papers paper (500-750 word)	200 points
2 Sociological artifacts	200 points
2 exams	200 points
Total	1000 point

Grade Distribution

TOTAL: 1000 points

A = 930 - 1000+	B = 830 - 869	C = 730 - 769	D = 630 - 669
A- = 900 - 929	B- = 800 - 829	C- = 700 - 729	D- = 600 - 629
B+ = 870 - 899	C+ = 770 - 799	D+ = 670 - 699	F = 0 - 599

Tentative Schedule

September 22: Introduction

September 24: The sociological Imagination

Reading: C. Wright Mills - "On Sociological Questions"

September 29: Social Construction

Video: [Sydney Brown on Social Construction](#)

Video: [Lisa Wade and Gwen Sharp on Social Construction](#)

October 1: Presentation of Self

Video: [BBC Radio - Erving Goffman and the Performed Self](#)

Video: [Erin Long-Crowell - Presentation of Self: Methods to Presenting the Self](#)

Reading: [Ashley Crossman - Presentation of self in everyday life](#)

Reading: [Nicki Lisa Cole - Why we really ignore each other in public](#)

October 6: Gender and social construction

Reading: [Zuleyka Zevallos - Sociology of Gender](#)

Reading: [Ariel Levy - Either/Or: Sports, sex and the case of Castor Semenya](#)

October 8: Gender and equality

Reading: [Liana Sayer: Interpreting Changing Household Patterns.](#)

Reading: [Wall Street Journal: The Gender Wage Gap in Eight Charts](#)

October 13: Race

Reading: [NOVA: Does Race Exist](#)

Video: [Eduardo Bonilla Silva - "Why can't we just get along"](#)

Video: [Charles Mills - What is Race](#)

Video: [Dalton Conley - Social Construction of Race](#)

October 15: Race and inequality

Video: [Thomas Shapiro - Black Wealth White Wealth](#)

Reading: [Data on Racial Inequality](#)

Reading: [Alan Jenkins - Inequality, Race and Remedy](#)

Reading: [Erik Olin Wright - Inequality in the 21st Century](#) (pp 12 – 25)

October 20: No Class

October 22: Class

Reading: [Erik Olin Wright: Class](#)

October 27: Review

October 29: Examination

November 3: Understanding Quantitative Evidence

Lecture only – No texts.

November 5: No Class

November 10: Social Movements

Reading: [Wikipedia: Collective Behavior](#)

Reading: [Wikipedia: Relative Deprivation](#)

Reading: [Wikipedia: Resource Mobilization](#)

Reading: [Wikipedia: Political Opportunity](#)

Video: [Francesca Polleta – Social Movement Theory](#)

November 12: Social Movements

Reading: [Malcolm Gladwell: Small Change](#)

November 17: Crime

Reading: Merton- Social Structure and Anomie (JSTOR)

November 19: Crime

Film: The Thin Blue Line (viewed in class)

November 24: Incarceration

Video: [Bruce Western - Punishment and Inequality in America](#)

Reading: [Ta-Nehisi Coates: The Black Family in the age of mass incarceration](#)

November 26: No Class Thanksgiving

December 1: Education

Reading: Annette Lareau Social Class Differences in Family School Relationships (JSTOR)

Reading: Prudence Carter - Straddling Boundaries (JSTOR)

Reading: [John Cassidy - College Calculus: What is the real value of a College education](#)

December 3: Community Colleges

TBA

December 8: Review

December 10: Final exam

CAVEAT: I reserve the right to change any aspect of this syllabus in the interest of improving the educational experience for the students in this class.

Disability Resource Center

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code_.asp