

# Bellevue College

## SOC& 101 Introduction to Sociology

### Fully Online Course

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Fall Term September 18th – December 7th

Office Hours – online only

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No On-Campus office this quarter

**\*\*If you see underlined, **bold**, [blue](#) words in our syllabus, click on them!  
They're links to webpages and will take you somewhere interesting!\*\***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course acquaints you with basic sociological concepts and perspectives as you become aware of and explore the importance of social topics such as class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and the way in which these subjects intersect with one another. You will also learn about the field of Sociology and become familiar with various “subfields” of the area. Through lecture, film and other media, as well as assigned readings, this course will take you on an



exploration of the many dimensions of contemporary sociology. We will make broad use of popular culture to understand the many complexities of our world. By the end of this course, I hope to have all of you thinking critically about the way things work, why things work the way they do, and who we are within the social fabric of the global entity in which we live. You will be asked, over the course of the term, to confront the things you take for granted. Everyday occurrences will be challenged and thought through critically. Imagine yourself as Neo from “The Matrix” when he decides to take the Red Pill or Alice when she decides to explore the rabbit hole. Both must deal with what’s at the end of their adventures. What will *you* find at the end of *this* adventure?

**A NOTE ABOUT COURSE CONTENT:** Since sociologists examine just about every aspect of the social world, we talk about provocative material. Please be advised that when we explore controversial topics, they will always be framed within an academic context. Keeping in mind that when we find ourselves in a space outside of our comfort zone, it's an opportunity for learning, and you may be confronted with subject matter that is difficult to watch, see, discuss, or listen to. Please note, however, that you will be responsible for any course material you miss if you choose not to participate. If you have any questions or concerns about content or climate, feel free to speak with me about it right away.

**READING REQUIREMENTS:**

- David R. Newman. *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition Pine Forge Press, 2011.
- Handouts and articles. All handouts (syllabus included) are available on our Canvas site.

**STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:**

- Any current Dictionary of the English Language
- Any current Sociology Dictionary
- *A Writer's Reference*, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. By Diana Hacker. See the companion website [here](#).

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you have medical information to share with me in the event of an emergency, please contact me via email or come to see me during office hours. Emergency preparedness is important! If you need course modifications, adaptations, or accommodations because of a disability, I can refer you to our Disability Resource Center (DRC). If you prefer, you may contact them directly by going to B132 or by calling 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110. Information is also available on their [website](#).

**EXPLORE THE LMC!** The Library Media Center is at your fingertips! I *strongly* encourage you to visit the LMC at least once a week, but you can also access it via the web. Talk to a Reference Librarian at the Library (D-126), by calling (425) 564-6161, or by [email](#).

- [Main Library Media Center](#)
- [For the LMC online catalog](#)
- [For article databases](#)



**LEARNING AND COURSE OUTCOMES:** Upon your dedicated participation and subsequent completion of this course, you will demonstrate:

- 1) A general understanding of basic concepts most widely used in sociology today. You will review some of the “classics” in sociology as well as exploring the recent move toward cultural studies.
- 2) A critical idea of society and community, including where in your social landscape you live, and how you observe those around you.
- 3) A general knowledge and comprehension of how social, political, and cultural forms of power are played out, and how some folks perceive those experiences.
- 4) A general understanding of the representation and identity construction of various groups in historical and contemporary analyses of culture in the United States. In addition, we will explore the way in which these representations are culturally subverted and contrasted in popular culture texts, particularly through the lens of documentary film.

**GENERAL RULES & EXPECTATIONS:**

- Check in to our online classroom no less than *four times per week* (yes – I do keep track!).
- Complete readings and homework assignments *on time*.
- Late homework assignments *are accepted*, but make-up exams *are not permitted*.
  - Late homework is docked 10% for every day the work is late, including Saturdays and Sundays.
- I expect that your behavior in our virtual classroom be respectful. Continued disrespectful behavior in my class will result in your grade lowering. Please keep your postings to discussion boards (DBs) thoughtful and polite. One-on-one conversations should be taken off-board and onto email so our DBs don’t get clogged. If you find at any point that you are uncomfortable with anything posted to a DB, please email me right away.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Attendance and Participation*:	200 points
Key Terms Assignments (5):	100 points
Your Turn Assignments (5):	200 points
Main Discussion Boards (3):	300 points
Course Exams, Overall:	200 points
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

*\*Participation points accrue with various short assignments in the Discussion Area, such as your Introductory DB. These are labeled **PARTICIPATION DBs**. The Main DB assignments are labeled **MAIN DBs**.\**

The Fine Print (or, what I really mean by that table above):

**Attendance & Participation:** Check in no less than four times per week, be engaged with all of your discussion board assignments, provoke energetic and polite discussion, listen actively, work respectfully with your colleagues in class, take loads of notes from your readings, look up words you don’t understand, ask questions, think critically about the world around you, etc.

**Key Terms Assignments:** You will be expected to understand certain terms used in the field of Sociology. For these assignments, you will need to write a definition in your own words and demonstrate your understanding by explaining by a real-world example.

**Your Turn Assignments:** At the end of each chapter is a section called, “Your Turn.” These short assignments are an opportunity to put your learning to use as you explore the world around you using the Sociological Imagination.

**Main Discussion Board Assignments:** The work done in the Discussion Board area will have you engage course material and work closely together. You are expected to participate in these assignments in order to generate critical discussion amongst one another. This method of learning gets you going socially! These assignments are always due on Wednesdays and Saturdays (your initial post goes up Wednesday and your responses to one another are due Saturdays). Your DBs are graded on two things: your original post and your responses (usually two of them) to colleagues of yours in the class. You must do both to earn full credit. A submission with no responses posted earns ½ credit at most, and responses without an original submission receive zero credit.

**Participation Discussion Board Assignments:** These are meant to support you throughout the course. They are required and the grades get folded into your overall Participation Grade.

**Midterm and Final:** Your Exams cover everything up through the week they’re scheduled and are made up of short-answer questions that engage a documentary film. Your responses should be clear and concise. Study guides will be made available to you. You will never be asked a question out of “left field”. Questions are based on readings, Main discussion boards, and Power Point material, and will be crafted in such a way as to engage the Exam Film. Point distribution info will be on the exams.

**For all of your written work:** Submit proofread work **only**. Work not proofread will be returned **once** for a rewrite, expected to be handed in within 48 hours. If you need help with your writing, please make use of the following student support services:

- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [Academic Tutoring Center](#)
- [TRiO Student Support Services](#)
- [Writing Lab @ BCC](#)

**Below is a checklist for you to go over before you hand in each written assignment.**

- Twelve-point sized Times font, single-spaced
- 1” margins all around
- MLA Citations where appropriate – you need to give credit to the author/s even where any *ideas* presented in the paper are not your own
- Title pages and bibliographies are not counted in final page count
- Student information is at the top left of the page, single spaced
- There are no extra spaces between paragraphs.
- Paragraphs contain no less than four sentences.
- Magazines, newspapers, journals, and books are *italicized*. Movie titles, article titles, song titles, etc. are “in quotation marks.” Quotes inside of a quotation use ‘single quotation marks.’

**Your written work is evaluated on:**

- 1) Content
  - a. Fulfilling the assignment.

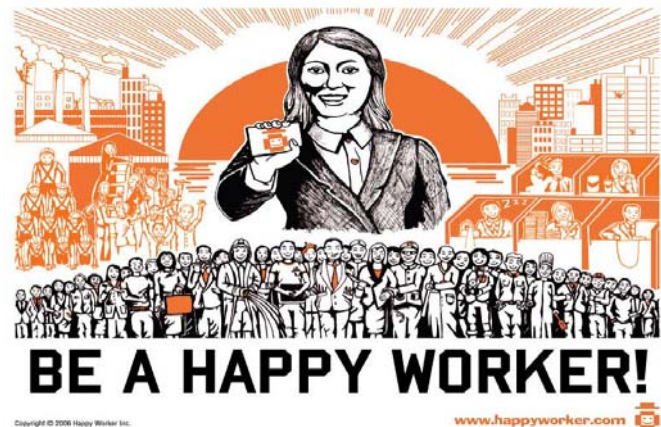
- b. Developing your argument and making use of examples and evidence to support your argument.
  - c. Flow of thought throughout the paper, with strong analyses and conclusions.
- 2) Writing Style
- a. Excellent command of the written English language. In other words, most excellent grammar. **NOTE: If you struggle with grammar and spelling or are an ESL student, *please* let me know! I'm happy to work with you and point you in the right direction.**
  - b. Clarity of thought.
  - c. Good organization and attention to detail.
  - d. Persuasiveness of your argument/s.
  - e. Creativity. Make it an interesting read!
  - f. PROOFREAD your work. Please do a spell/grammar check before you hand it in.
  - g. Dude, like totally don't write **colloquially**. A conversation is a conversation. A paper is an entirely different set of discussions. ☺

**Preventing Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty occurring when students use information or material from outside sources and do not properly cite those sources. This is grounds for disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences. Plagiarism occurs if:

- a. You do not cite quotations and/or attribute borrowed ideas.
- b. You fail to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks.
- c. You do not write summaries and paraphrases in his/her own words and/or doesn't document his/her source.
- d. You turn in work created by another person.
- e. You submit or use your own prior work for a current or past course, or work from one current course in another course *without express permission* from your professors. This may also be considered academic dishonesty.
- f. Consequences: If it is determined that you have plagiarized or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty, you will likely fail the assignment and possibly the course, despite points earned through other work. Acts of academic dishonesty are reviewed for disciplinary action.

**Grading:**

Please use the following rubric to help explain the grade you're given for a given assignment. I offer comments on all of your written work and general comments on the Discussion Boards – sometimes more, sometimes less. Please read my comments and do not hesitate to come to me with any questions you ever have on a grade you receive. There is no limit to how many times you email me! My email door is *always* open.



**90-100 = A.** The A paper shows me you're engaged with the readings, the media, and the lectures in class by utilizing quotes and ideas. It's a paper *completely free* from grammar and spelling errors, and demonstrates your command not only of the English language, but of the form and flow of a solid piece of written work. I also like to see/read/hear your "writing voice." That is, I want your style to come through! Your arguments should be solid and backed up with intellectual ammunition. You should demonstrate a strong understanding of our readings and the in-class media and how they intersect with one another. Your ideas should be "fleshed out" and not just a series of statements, in other words.

**80-89 = B.** The B tells me you're doing very good work. You may have a couple of grammar issues, but your paper is still tidy and the writing is still strong. You have a firm grasp on the themes in the course but you may not be as well-versed in the readings and/or media and/or lecture material as you could be. I should see that you're being challenged and that you're struggling with the course issues and themes, and what they represent to you in an interconnected way. Your understandings of some of the course materials are stronger than others.

**70-79 = C.** The C paper means that you're not as invested in the material as I would like to see. Your writing is relatively weaker than it could be and you're not thinking as critically as I would like you to. Some of what you point out I may not follow logically, and your use of the course materials may not be as solid as it could be. You omit some of the important points raised in class.

**60-69 = D.** Ah, the D. D is for "Don't be Discouraged." I will work closely with each of you as much as time allows, getting you up to speed in class. Your struggles should not be with writing so much at this point but if they are please see me immediately. A D paper is not proofread, nor does it deal critically with the themes in the course. It responds, perhaps, to one part of one of the readings but there is no integration of material and you're not responding to the questions raised in class. Demonstrated understanding of the course materials is not presented clearly, or at all. (NOTE: A D and below may be rewritten **once** if you choose to do so. It must be turned in within 72 hours, and I enter the better grade.)

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE:**

**DO NOT WORK AHEAD MORE THAN ONE WEEK**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- Main Discussion Boards are due Wednesdays and you are required to respond by Saturdays.
- Key Terms & Your Turn Assignments are due Fridays.
- Participation DBs have varying deadlines; some do not require responses.
- All assignments are due midnight.
- Readings should always be done by Mondays of their given week.
- All deadlines are in the course calendar.

### **Week One: September 18th – 21st**

#### **Readings (please have your reading done by Friday this week only):**

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*: Part I, Chapter I: Taking a New Look at a Familiar World

#### **Assignments:**

- Participation I: Personal Introduction due Friday, 9/21. No need to respond unless you'd like to. I do encourage you to socialize here!

**Week Two: September 24th – 28th**

**Readings:**

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*: Part I, Chapter II: Seeing & Thinking Sociologically

**Assignments:**

- Key Terms Assignment I due Friday, 9/28

**Week Three: October 1st – 5th**

**Readings:**

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*: Part II, Chapter III: Building Reality: The Social Construction of Knowledge

**Assignments:**

- Your Turn Assignment I: News Media due Friday, 10/5

**Week Four: October 8th – 12th**

**October 9th: College Issues Day; college is closed**

**Midterm Film Options delivered via Announcements this week!**

**Readings:**

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*: Part II, Chapter IV: Building Order: Culture & History and Chapter V: Building Identity: Socialization

**Assignments:**

- Key Terms II due Friday, 10/12
- Main Discussion Board I Initial Posting due Wednesday, 10/10. Respond to two people by Saturday, 10/13

**Week Five: October 15th – 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Submit your Midterm Request via Canvas Email by Monday the 15th!**

**Readings:**

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*: Part II, Chapter VI: Supporting Identity: The Presentation of Self and Chapter VII: Building Social Relationships: Intimacy & Families

**Assignments:**

- Participation II: Mid-Term Check-In due Friday, 10/19
- Midterm Examination. Covers Weeks 1-5. Midterm open 10/19-21

**Week Six: October 22nd – 25th**

**October 26th: Faculty Professional Development Day; all classes canceled**

**Readings:**

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*: Part II, Chapter VIII: Constructing Deviance: Social Deviance

**Assignments:**

- Your Turn Assignment II – Impression Management due Friday, 10/26.

- Key Terms Assignment III due Friday, 10/26

**Week Seven: October 29th – November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Readings:**

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*: Part III, Chapter IX: The Structure of Society: Organizations, Social Institutions, and Globalization and Chapter X: The Architecture of Stratification: Social Class and Inequality

**Assignments:**

- Your Turn Assignment III: Bureaucratization due Friday, 11/2
- Main Discussion Board II Initial Posting due Wednesday, 10/31. Respond to two people you don't know by Saturday, 11/3.

**Week Eight: November 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Readings:**

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*: Part III, Chapter XI: The Architecture of Inequality: Race and Ethnicity

**Assignments:**

- Key Terms Assignment IV due Friday, 11/9
- Your Turn Assignment IV – Race in Prime Time TV due Friday, 11/9

**Week Nine: November 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day; college closed**

**Readings:**

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*: Part III, Chapter XII: The Architecture of Inequality: Sex and Gender

**Assignments:**

- Key Terms Assignment V – due Friday, 11/16
- Your Turn Assignment V – Demography due Friday, 11/16

**Week Ten: November 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> Fall Break; college closed**

**Readings:**

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*: Part III, Chapter XIII: Demographic Dynamics: Population Trends & Chapter XIV: Architects of Change: Reconstructing Society
- Extra Credit Requests taken this week. You must have a grade of C or lower to qualify for an extra credit assignment. **You must email me by Wednesday, 11/21 and request an Extra Credit assignments.** ECs will be different for each student, and are randomly selected. You may earn up to 50 points. **Requests for ECs later than the 21<sup>st</sup> will not be granted.**

**Assignments:**

- Discussion Board III Initial Posting due Wednesday, 11/21. No responses for this DB.

**Week Eleven: November 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**

- No readings – catch up and study for your final! Final Exam study guide distributed this week.

**Assignments:**



- Extra Credit assignments due Friday, 11/30

**Week Twelve: December 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Exam due December 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm to the drop box**

Please watch for announcements about our Final Exam.

**Assignments:**

- Participation DB, Quarter Reflection, due Tuesday 12/4

*Thank you for a wonderful term!*