

# Bellevue College

## Sociology/Psychology 240 Social Psychology Fully Online Course

Sara Sutler-Cohen, Ph.D.

Winter Term: January 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 20<sup>th</sup>

Office Hours – online only

Phone: (425) 564-5722

Email: [sara.sutlercohen@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:sara.sutlercohen@bellevuecollege.edu)

Website: <http://sarasutlercohen.com>

No On-Campus office this quarter

**\*\*If you see underlined, bold, red 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 and psychological concepts and perspectives as you become aware of and explore the importance of topics such as class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and the way in which these subjects intersect with one another. Most importantly, you will begin to see yourself in the world, and understand your concepts of the world around you. Through posted lecture material, engaged online discussion boards, film clips and other media, as well as assigned readings, this course will take you on an exploration of the many dimensions of the exciting field of social psychology. We will make broad use of popular culture to understand the many ways we shape our social universe and the way our social universe may shape us. 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. When we explore controversial topics, they will always be framed within an academic context. Keep 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 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:**

- O'Brien, Jodi. *The Production of Reality*. 5<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:  
<http://www.dianahacker.com/>

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you have medical information to share with me in the event of an emergency, please contact me via email. Emergency preparedness is important! If you need course modifications, adaptations, or accommodations because of a disability, please let me know. I do not require that students go through the DRC for accommodations but I recommend you do this for your other classes. 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](#). Please note that *I do not require proof of need*. If you have learning struggles you're aware of, please communicate that with me. I make any and all necessary accommodations for students with or without paperwork.

**EXPLORE THE LMC!** The Library Media Center is at your fingertips! I *strongly* encourage you to visit the LMC at least once a week if you can, 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:** By integrating and connecting theoretical, conceptual, and empirical sources, and personal applications, you will:

- 1) Utilize the concept of the self as an entity created in interaction (i.e., socially constructed).
- 2) Analyze the relationship between the self and culture.
- 3) Connect social environment and interaction to thoughts, emotions and physical states.
- 4) Identify how social interaction sustains and changes the sense of self.
- 5) Delineate the sources and mechanisms that organize and provide patterns to social interaction.
- 6) Differentiate social interaction and social relationships, in order to identify how social relationships are collectively constructed, destructed and/or maintained.
- 7) Examine how our experiences and lives are structured, and how our interaction reproduces social structures, including the power of social structure over our lives.
- 8) Create the design for how we collectively create social structures out of interaction.



- 9) Apply the politics of social life in deciding the prevailing reality for members of social groups and situations, considering power and definitional contests.

**GENERAL RULES & EXPECTATIONS:**

- Check in to our online classroom no less than *four times per week* (yes – I do keep track!). This means you log on and surf around the site. No need to check in with me. Make this work for you on your own time.
- Complete readings and homework assignments **on time**. I do not check whether you complete your readings; this is on the honor system! You do need to read your required material in order to complete homework assignments.
- Late homework assignments **are accepted**, but **late quizzes and exams are not**.
  - Late homework is docked 10% for every day the work is late, including Saturdays and Sundays.
  - Late Discussion Boards that go beyond the date for responses can only be made up for half credit. Responses are due three days after the Initial Posts are due (see schedule for details). A big part of these assignments is your communication with other students. If you make up an initial post past the deadline for responses, you'll get credit for that post, with late points assessed, but the base grade will be half of its original worth, regardless of the days you're late. Otherwise, your post will be assessed late points within the first three days and your response will be accepted.
- 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. Be wary of soap boxing in this class; you may be tempted to present your opinion and editorialize, but refrain from doing this.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** In this course you will be completing assigned readings, participating in discussion board assignments, and completing short homework assignments. The work you do for this class will keep you critically engaged with the world around you from a sociological perspective. There is a Final Exam and a Midterm Exam. Expect to be writing every week. The key to this course is your thoughtful reflection on course material.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

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

*The Fine Print:*

**\*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*.\***

**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/read/comprehend 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. Make use of the Q&A Board as well. This is not scored, but even if you don't have questions, you might be able to answer somebody's query – so have some presence there.

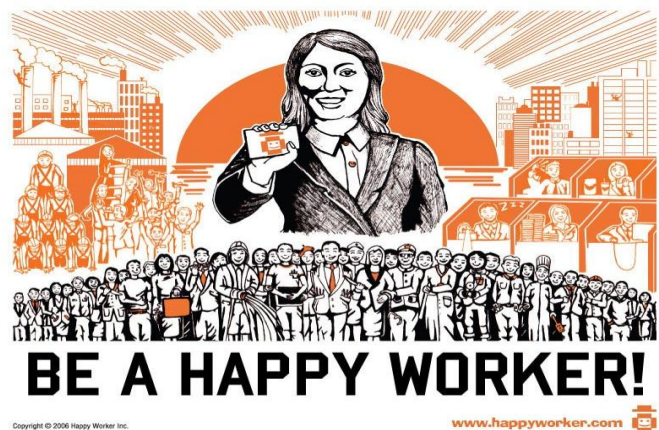
**Key Terms Assignments:** You are expected to understand certain terms used in the field of Social Psychology. For these assignments, you will demonstrate your understanding by following exercises laid out for you in the Key Terms accompanying Prezi presentations. Remember this important note about your KT assignments: you ***must do the reading***. There are several Terms in these assignments you will not find in the index of the book, as they are incorporated into the articles. In order to do well on these assignments, reading the articles all the way through is vital to your success. Be aware that some of these require a few days, or even a week, of preparatory work. Make sure you look ahead at your homework!

**Your Turn Assignments:** These short assignments are an opportunity to put your learning to use as you explore the world around you using the themes and theories we examine in this course. Be aware that some of these require a few days, or even a week, of preparatory work. Make sure you look ahead at your homework!

**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. Be aware that some of these require a few days, or even a week, of preparatory work. Make sure you look ahead at your homework! 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; the midterm is made up of short-answer questions that engage a documentary film. The Final Exam is a series of short answer questions. Your responses should be clear and concise. You will never be asked a question out of "left field". Questions are based on readings, Main discussion boards, Prezi, and Power Point material. Point distribution info will be on the exams. Be advised also that you may see the occasional pop quiz! Be ready for these.



**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 @ BC](#)

**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 or APA Citations where appropriate – credit is given 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
- 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 entire assignment. Doing the minimum amount of work expected will likely get you a passing grade, but not an outstanding one. You’re expected to go the extra mile.
  - b. Fully developing your argument(s) and making use of examples and evidence to support your argument(s).
  - 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. Read it out loud to yourself, too! It really helps.
  - g. Dude, like totally don’t write **colloquially**. A conversation is a conversation. A paper is an entirely different way of presenting your research and ideas. ☺

**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.** “A” work shows me you're engaged with all course material by utilizing quotes and ideas. It is writing *completely free* from grammar and spelling errors, demonstrating 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 work 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.** “C” work 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. You write the bare minimum of the length requirement. 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. “D” work 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 little-to-no integration of material and you're not responding to the questions raised in the assignment. 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 modules and in this syllabus.

### **Week One: January 2**

#### **Readings:**

- Begin Part I: Introduction: 1 – 48
- View this video on **Conformity**.

#### **Assignments:**

- Participation Points DB: Introductions, due Friday, 1/4

### **Week Two: January 7**

#### **Readings:**

- Complete Part I: Introduction: 1 – 48

#### **Assignments:**

- Key Terms Assignment I, due Friday 1/11

### **Week Three: January 14**

#### **Readings:**

- Part II: Humans as Symbol-Using Creatures

#### **Assignments:**

- Key Terms II, due Friday 1/18
- Your Turn Assignment I, due Friday 1/18

### **Week Four: January 22**

**January 21<sup>st</sup>: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; college is closed**  
**Film list for Midterm Exam distributed this week**

#### **Readings:**

- Part III: Producing Social Selves
  - Who Am I? Developing Character, p. 108
  - The Self, the I, and the Me, p. 121
  - Looking Glass Self, p. 126
  - The Digital Self: Through the Looking Glass of Telecopresent Others, p. 153

#### **Assignments:**

- Main Discussion Board I, initial response due Wednesday 1/23, Responses by Saturday 1/26
- Your Turn Assignment II, due Friday 1/25
- Email me with your Film Request for your midterm.

### **Week Five: January 28**

**Readings:**

- Part IV: Producing Social Identities & Social Scripts
  - Learning the Script: Socialization, p. 174
  - Socialization: The Internalization of Society, p. 189
  - Reference Groups as Perspectives, p. 192
  - Shades of White, p. 198

**Assignments:**

- Participation II: Mid-Term Check-In, due Wednesday 1/30
- Midterm Examination Open Friday through Sunday for submission, 2/1 through 2/3. Covers Weeks 1-5.

**Week Six: February 4**

**Readings:**

- Part V: Producing Social Order Through Interaction
  - Meaning is Negotiated Through Interaction, p. 250
  - The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life: Selections, p. 262
  - Panhandling Repertoires and Routines for Overcoming the Nonperson Treatment, p. 295
  - The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling, p. 320

**Assignments:**

- Key Terms Assignment III, due Friday 2/8
- Your Turn Assignment III, due Friday 2/8

**Week Seven: February 11**

**Readings:**

- Part VI: The Social Production of Reality
  - Five Features of Reality, p. 363
  - Self-Fulfilling Prophecies, p. 392
  - Common Knowledge & The Law: Do the “Haves” Come Out Ahead?, p. 419
  - The Persistence of Gender Inequality in Employment Settings, p. 444

**Assignments:**

- Main Discussion Board II, initial response due Wednesday 2/13, Responses by Saturday 2/16
- Key Terms Assignment IV, due Friday 2/15

**Week Eight: February 19**

**February 18<sup>th</sup>, President’s Day, Professional Development Day; college closed**

**Readings:**

- Part VII: Social Complexity, Ambiguity, & Contradiction
  - Boundaries and Contradictions, p. 454
  - Double Consciousness and the Veil, p. 474
  - Talking Back, p. 513

**Assignments:**

- Your Turn Assignment IV, due 2/22
- Key Terms Assignment V, due Friday 2/22

**Week Nine: February 25**



**Readings:**

- Epilogue, p. 517

**Assignments:**

- Main Discussion Board III, initial response due Wednesday 2/27, Responses by Saturday 3/2
- Your Turn Assignment V, due Friday 3/1

**Week Ten: March 4**

- No readings – catch up and study for your final! Final Exam study guide distributed this week.
- 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 Friday, 3/8** 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 8<sup>th</sup> will not be granted.**

**Week Eleven: March 11**

**Assignments:**

- Extra Credit Assignments due 3/15

**Finals Week: March 18 – 20**

**Final Exam will be open from 8am 3/18 through midnight 3/20**  
**Exam will time out after four hours. Do not start the exam unless you intend to finish it during your chosen time period.**

**Assignments:**

- Participation DB, Quarter Reflection, due Wednesday, 3/20

**ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:**

When I'm not teaching, I'm usually skating, whipping up some sort of baked goodness in my kitchen, doing collage art, taking photos of the world around me, hanging out with my kid, watching horror movies, playing roller derby, or going out to listen to live music. Mostly, I go to hear metal, bluegrass, punk, or local hip-hop shows. I received my Ph.D. in Sociology (with an emphasis in American Studies) from UC Santa Cruz. I received my first MA in Sociology from Humboldt State University and my second MA in Sociology from UCSC, my BA in Sociology and Journalism from Mills College, and my AA in English and Creative Writing from Vista Community College. This is my seventh and final year as Instructor of Sociology at BC. I am currently working on two research projects. One that deals with heavy metal and social class and another that looks at death, dying, and bereavement. More at: <http://sarasutlercohen.com>.

*Let's have a wonderful term!*