

**Introduction to Sociology**  
SOC 101 | Winter 2017  
Room C164 | Daily 7:30-8:20pm

Instructor: Aaron Reader  
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### **Course Description and Goals**

This course will examine the many different areas of study in sociology including race, gender, class, education, etc. Critical thinking and discussion will be important components of the course.

### **Course Outcomes**

After completing this course, successful 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, theories, and theorists, and apply them to real-life situations.

### **Required Text**

Ritzer, George. 2014. *Essentials of Sociology*. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. ISBN-13: 9781483340173  
(Feel free to purchase or rent the e-book version of the text or go to Amazon.com for a cheaper rental price.)

Additional readings for the course will be available through our Canvas course in the Files tab (in the Readings folder).

### **Attendance**

Attendance is required. Students are allowed to miss TWO class periods without documentation. All other absences must be excused absences; please review the Bellevue College Student Rules on excused absences. More than two undocumented absences will result in a reduction of your overall grade, taken from your overall participation score for the course in direct proportion to the number of classes missed. If you miss zero to one class, you will not be penalized. If you miss over one-third of classes, a further 1/3 letter grade deduction will be taken out of your grade. A roll sheet will be used to keep track of attendance (see course requirements).

### **Classroom Policies**

Please silence cell phones before the beginning of class. Students whose cell phones ring in class or who I see using their mobile devices will receive no points for that day's class participation. Students are permitted to use computers to take notes if they wish. However, note taking is the **only** activity allowed during class. If any students engage in other activities on their computers during class meetings they will receive a zero for that day's class participation after one warning.

As this is a college course, this classroom shall be treated as a professional environment. I expect everyone to be respectful of others. There will be zero tolerance for disrespect including but not limited to racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, and heterosexism.

## Course Requirements

### *Online Discussions*

(250 points total, 25 points each)

A new topic of discussion will be available each week. Initial posts—your own response to the discussion topic—are due each week on Friday by 11:59pm PST. Response posts—responses made on your classmates' threads (not including replies made on your own thread)—are due each week on Sunday by 11:59pm PST. You are required to make a minimum of THREE posts each week (one initial and two response posts) but are encouraged to post more to demonstrate your engagement with your peers and the topic. Each post should use critical thinking, be thoughtful, concise, and include related research from the textbook or news sources. The lowest discussion grade will be dropped.

TIP: thoughtful *response* posts should include critical reflection, meaningful questions, and/or related content or research from the textbook or news sources. Simple agreement or disagreement will not count toward your minimum number of posts.

### *Exams*

(300 points total, 100 points each)

There will be three exams in this course. Each exam is worth 100 points. The exams will be composed of multiple choice questions and potential short essay questions. However, there will be no scantron or bluebook needed.

### *Sociological Imagination Papers*

(250 points total)

Throughout the quarter, you will be writing two short (2-3 pages) and one longer paper (5-6 pages) relating sociology to your life. The larger paper (5-6 pages) will be made up of sections of the two papers before it along with additional content. Assignment guidelines will be available on Canvas.

Paper 1 – Family (75 points)

Paper 2 – Education (75 points)

Paper 3 – Sociological Portrait (100 points)

Each paper should follow proper citation guidelines using either MLA or APA style. This website contains helpful guidelines: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>. The format for all papers should be double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, with 1 inch margins on all sides, and no title page or running header. Guidelines and a grading rubric will be available for students to review. Papers are to be uploaded on Canvas on or before the due date.

### *Outside Class Write Ups*

(60 points total)

There will be 3 write ups during the quarter. Each write up will be worth 20 points. You will need to write a minimum of 2 paragraphs that answer the writing prompts.

### *Sociological Portrait*

(40 points total)

On the last regular class session of the quarter, each student will be required to bring something that they created that represents their sociological self, of their identity as it is situated in a sociological context. Ask yourself, how does your newfound sociological knowledge impact how you understand/see yourself? Your project is more open ended in format, but it could be any of the following creative projects: spoken word, poetry, collage, drawing, painting, song, Vine, PowerPoint presentation, etc. For videos/songs and presentations, a time limit of 4 minutes will be in place. For alternative ideas from this list, please check with me. These portraits will be presented in a gallery format.

### *Attendance and Participation*

(100 points total, 50 for attendance, 50 for participation)

Attendance is required. Notecard assignments and/or a roll sheet will be used for attendance. You may miss up to 2 classes without penalty. You will be penalized if you have 2 or more unexcused absences (see BC policy regarding excused vs unexcused absences). This penalty includes an overall reduction in grade relative to the number of unexcused absences and an additional 1/3 letter grade reduction if absences total one-third or more of the class sessions.

Participation includes answering questions when called upon, participating in discussions, and asking insightful and engaging questions related to course material.

### Grade Distribution

TOTAL: 1000 points

A = 950 - 1000+

A- = 900 - 949

B+ = 870 - 899

B = 830 - 869

B- = 800 - 829

C+ = 770 - 799

C = 730 - 769

C- = 700 - 729

D+ = 670 - 699

D = 630 - 669

D- = 600 - 629

F = 0 - 628

Note: There will be no curve in this class, including for single assignments. Your grade is what you earn.

To excel in this course, a student should stay on top of course readings. All students are expected to have read the assigned material **before** each class meeting. Attendance is always helpful (and required) to get a better understanding of the material. If you have any questions at all, please utilize my office hours. I want you to do your very best in this course, and I will help all students as much as I can.

### **Extra Credit**

There may be opportunities for extra credit throughout the quarter. These opportunities are generally events on campus which involve a lecture, documentary showing, debate, or a cultural event with an educational component. The requirements for the reflection paper are on Canvas. The papers will be due by 11:59pm one week after the event. Additionally, video links will be posted in the Canvas assignment link. These videos may be watched and analyzed similar to the events. Video link extra credit papers will be due by 11:59pm on the last regular course day. Students may complete TWO of these extra credit opportunities for a possible 15 points each or 30 points total. These extra points are added onto a student's total points for the course. No late work will be accepted without a pre-approved reason.

### **Late Policy**

#### *Exams*

All missed exams must be pre-approved by the instructor **PRIOR** to the due date. Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor and must occur **before** the due date. Missed exams without prior approval can only be made up if the absence accompanies an approved excuse and if immediate notice is given to the instructor via email or phone.

### *Assignments*

Any missed assignments not pre-approved by the instructor must accompany an approved excuse in order for an extended due date to be given. Pop quizzes, even with approved absences, cannot be made up.

Unapproved absences will result in zeros on assignments and exams and **cannot** be made up. Approved absences include school-sponsored event participation, hospitalization, childbirth, major accident or injury, or bereavement. It is the student's responsibility to provide the instructor appropriate documentation within a reasonable timeframe. The only exceptions to this policy are late papers, which will receive a 10% deduction per day late, or presentations, which will receive a 10% deduction per day late if class days remain.

### **Tentative Schedule**

#### **HOW TO READ THE SCHEDULE BELOW:**

Day of the Week
Topic
Reading Due <b>Before</b> Class
Assignment Due

<i>Week One – January 3-6</i>				
M	T	W	Th	F
Holiday	Intro to the class	Foundations	Foundations	Documentary on W.E.B. Dubois
No reading	Who Am I (activity)	Pg. 15-26, 29-36	Pg. 36-46	Class Discussion
				Responses DUE SUNDAY

<i>Week Two – January 9-13</i>				
M	T	W	Th	F
Culture	Culture	Socialization and Interaction	Film	Discussion 2 DUE
Pg. 68-80	Pg. 80-95	Pg. 98-114	No reading	Responses DUE SUNDAY

<i>Week Three – January 16-20</i>				
M	T	W	Th	F
Holiday	Socialization and Interaction	Social Stratification	Social Stratification	Social Stratification
No reading	Pg. 114-125	Pg. 188-202	Pg. 202-218	

<i>Week Four – January 23-27</i>				
M	T	W	Th	F
Family	Family	Exam Review	Exam 1	Discussion 4 DUE
Pg. 278-291	Pg. 292-305	No reading		Responses DUE SUNDAY
				Paper 1 DUE SUNDAY

*Week Five – January 30-February 3*

M	T	W	Th	F
Race and Ethnicity Pg. 220-229	Race and Ethnicity	Race and Ethnicity Pg. 229-238	Race and Ethnicity Pg. 239-249	Discussion 5 DUE Responses DUE SUNDAY

*Week Six – February 6-10*

M	T	W	Th	F
Education Pg. 325-329	Education Pg. 330-343	Gender and Sexuality Pg. 259-268	No Class Pg. 268-277	Discussion 6 DUE Responses DUE SUNDAY

*Week Seven – February 13-17*

M	T	W	Th	F
Gender and Sexuality Pg. 250-260	Film No reading	Film No reading	Politics Pg. 129-130 (types of authority) and 144 (The Global Domain)	Discussion 7 DUE Responses DUE SUNDAY Paper 2 DUE SUNDAY

*Week Eight – February 20-24*

M	T	W	Th	F
No Class Politics Pg. 349-356	Economy Pg. 357-362	Economy Pg. 363-377	Deviance Pg. 156-168 Discussion 8 DUE	NO CLASSES (College-wide) Responses DUE SUNDAY

*Week Nine – February 27-March 3*

M	T	W	Th	F
Deviance Pg. 169-173	Deviance Pg. 173-187	Exam Review No reading	Exam 2	Discussion 9 DUE Responses DUE SUNDAY

*Week Ten – March 6-10*

M	T	W	Th	F
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Final Exam Review	No Class	Final Exam Review	Final Exam Review	Final Exam Review
No reading	No reading	No reading	No reading	No reading

*Week Eleven – March 13-17*

M	T	W	Th	F
Film	Film	Final Exam Review	Sociological Gallery	Discussion 10 DUE Responses DUE SUNDAY
No reading	No reading	No reading	No reading	
Paper 3 DUE			Last day to submit extra credit	

*Week Twelve – March 20-23 Final Exam Week*

M	T- 1:30-3:20am	W	Th	F
NO CLASSES	TBD			