

SOCIOLOGY 101

Bellevue College Fall 2009



Instructor: Eric C. Davis Phone: 425-564-6167

Email: eric.davis@bellevuecollege.edu Twitter: /rap101

Office Hour: 10:30-11:20 Daily Office: D200A

Class meeting times: M-F 11:30-12:20, Room C-164

Course website accessible via myBC

Course Catalog Description

Investigate the human social condition, and develop a useful way to think critically about the world around you. Themes include power dynamics, culture, the development of self in society, deviance, stereotyping, and/or the social construction of knowledge.

Course Content

Sociologists study a broad range of topics--some of which includes provocative content and adult themes. While every attempt will be made to keep things PG-13, please know that there will be times where R-rated content (language, images, etc.) is necessary to examine course topics within an academic context. Students will not be penalized for excusing themselves from content they find objectionable or difficult to watch, see, discuss or listen to. That being said, students who excuse themselves are responsible for any course material they miss as a result of choosing not to participate. If you have any questions or concerns about course content or classroom climate, feel free to speak with me about it at any time. I am not punitive, I am here to support you. Come talk to me during office hours or email me. When emailing, please put SOC 101--[your name] in the subject line so that I can easily identify you and quickly respond.

Classroom Theme/Pedagogical Approach

Hip-hop music will be prominently featured in this class. Songs will be used to illustrate course topics and themes. Students are encouraged to share relevant music selections with the class. Email suggested song titles and lyrics to me for approval before being shared with the whole class.

Video selections will also be featured in this course. All multimedia selections are chosen for their ability to make you think and therefore, inspire engaging classroom conversations. No one will be put on the spot, but please be prepared to participate in class discussions. Critical thinking is the goal.

General Rules and Expectations

- Come to class. Every day. Be on time. Be present.
- Complete the readings no later than the *start* of the week assigned.
- Make-up exams are available to those who notify me ahead of time.
In-class assignments CANNOT be made up. Extra credit opportunities available by request. See me after class or during office hours for details.
- Properly manage your laptop, netbook, cell phone and/or PDA.
- 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.
- *Discussion:*
 - *What do you expect from me as classroom facilitator?*
 - *What can I expect from you all as students?*

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the fully engaged, actively participating student will be able to 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 subverted and contrasted in cultural texts.
5. A introductory ability to see the impact of social forces on your private life (e.g. find your Sociological Imagination)
6. An ability to think critically and express informed thoughts and opinions on topics related to social stratification and inequality.

Readings:

Students are expected to have completed assigned readings by the start of the week listed. Please be prepared to discuss assigned readings for a given week as soon as we return to class from the preceding weekend.

Required Textbook:

Newman, David R. Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life. Brief Edition. Pine Forge Press, 2009.

Course Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Readings and Assignments</u>
Week 1	Welcome; <i>What is Sociology?</i>	Syllabus, Handouts
Week 2	<i>The Individual and Society</i> <i>Building Reality and Order:</i> <i>Knowledge, Culture and History</i>	Newman, 1-56
Week 3	<i>Identity: Socialization and</i> <i>The Presentation of Self</i>	Newman, 57-82
Week 4	<i>Social Relationships:</i> <i>Family and Life with Others</i>	Newman, 83-101 Response Paper #1
Week 5	<i>Social Deviance</i>	Newman, 103-120
Week 6	<i>The Structure of Society</i>	Newman, 121-137 Response Paper #2
*****Midterm Examination: Wednesday, November 4th*****		
Week 7	<i>Social Class and Inequality</i>	Newman, 139-159
Week 8	<i>Race and Ethnicity</i>	Newman, 161-181 Response Paper #3
Week 9	<i>Sex and Gender</i>	Newman, 183-199
---Thanksgiving Break Nov. 26-27: NO CLASS---		
Week 10	<i>Trends and Change</i>	Newman, 201-230 Response Paper #4
*****Final Examination: Monday, December 7th, 11:30a-1:30p*****		

Course Requirements:

- *Attendance and Participation*

100 points. Be in class. On time. Complete readings in a timely manner. Listen actively. Join in discussions. Engage in activities. Take notes. Demonstrate critical thinking. Ask questions. Be an active learner. Quizzes will be used to assess your comprehension of readings and acclimation to terms and definitions listed in the textbook.

- *In-class Response Papers*

200 points. There will be four (4) opportunities for students to express their thoughts and reflections on songs, films, exercises or activities shared in class. Attendance is essential. Grading is based on your ability to demonstrate an understanding of the content through your own Sociological Imagination. See handout for more information.

Due Dates: 10/12, 10/26, 11/16, and 12/2.

- *Midterm Examination*

100 points. The midterm will be given on **Wednesday, November 4th.**

Mark your calendar now. The test will feature matching, multiple choice and true/false questions. No short answer or essay questions.

- *Final Examination*

100 points. The final will be given on **Monday, December 7th at 11:30am.** The specific test format still to be determined...

NOTES:

Grading:

There are 500 points available in this class. Here is the grading scale:

496pts = (4.0) A

480pts = (3.7) A-

460pts = (3.3) B+

440pts = (3.0) B

420pts = (2.7) B-

400pts = (2.3) C+

380pts = (2.0) C

360pts = (1.7) C-

340pts = (1.3) D+

320pts = (1.0) D-

>319pts= (0.0) Fail

NOTE: A student must take both exams, complete the final project and participate in at least 50% of in-class requirements in order to earn a passing grade in this class. Failure to meet this expectation will result in a "F" grade being assessed.

Accommodations:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact our Disability Resource Center (DRC): Room B132. Phone: 425-564-2498 or TTY 425-564-4110. Web: www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc/

Bellevue College FLU policy:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is predicting that more than one kind of flu virus will be spreading this season, including seasonal flu and the influenza virus H1N1 (otherwise known as swine flu). Bellevue College has established the website below to keep students, employees and the public informed of the latest information about the flu and to provide resources, recommendations and planning guides on what you can do now to prepare, and what to do if you get sick. www.bellevuecollege.edu/flu

Academic Honesty:

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 Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services.

The Student Code, Policy 2050, in its entirety is located at:
http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp
Please refer to the following websites for even more information:
http://bellevuecollege.edu/socsci/student_policies.asp
http://bellevuecollege.edu/stupro/handbook_cd2008/policies/programs4.html

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>.

*****REQUIRED for this Class**

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](#).