

Bellevue College

SOC& 101 Introduction to Sociology**

Sara Sutler-Cohen, Ph.D.

Spring Term April 1st – June 28th

Daily 11:30 – 12:20 C-164

Office Hours Daily 12:30 – 1:30

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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?



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Check out BC Sociology’s MySpace page and add us as a Friend!

<http://www.myspace.com/bccsoc>

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:

- Newman, David R. *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life*. 7th Edition Pine Forge Press, 2009.
- Handouts and articles. All handouts (syllabus included) are available on MyBCC. *It is your responsibility to download and print all required material for yourself.*

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:

- Any current Dictionary of the English Language
- Any current Sociology Dictionary
- *A Writer's Reference, 6th 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 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 at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/drc/>

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 bccref@bcc.ctc.edu.

- **Main Library Media Center:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/>
- **For the LMC online catalog:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/catalogs.html>
- **For article databases:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/periodicals.html>

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

- 1) A general understanding of basic concepts most widely used in sociology today, including 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:**

- Come to class every day and *on time* (yes – I do keep track!).
- Coming to class five minutes late or more, three times, equals one absence.
- Complete readings and homework assignments *on time*.
- Emailed assignments *are not accepted* without prior arrangement.
- Late homework assignments *are accepted*, but make-up exams and make-up in-class assignments *are not*.

- Late homework is docked 10% for every day the work is late, including Saturdays and Sundays.
- I expect that your behavior in our classroom be respectful. Continued disrespectful behavior in my class may result in your being asked to leave and will result in your grade lowering. **Electronic devices are *not allowed* without permission.**
- **There are no extra credit assignments for this class.**

Remember: Falling behind can be hazardous to your health!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Attendance and Participation: | 150 points |
| Documentary Responses (3): | 300 points |
| Final Project (1): | 250 points |
| In-Class Assignments (3): | 150 points |
| Course Quizzes, Overall: | 150 points |
| TOTAL: | 1000 points |

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

Attendance & Participation: Be here, provoke energetic and polite discussion, listen actively, work respectfully with your colleagues in class, take loads of notes in class and from your readings, look up words you don't understand, ask questions, etc. Think critically about the world around you.

Quizzes: Your quizzes will cover everything up through the week they're given, and may include multiple choice and/or short-answer questions (either or both). Your responses should be clear and concise. Your short-answer responses will range from no less than **one full paragraph**, to three **full paragraphs**. Study guides will not be available to you, as the expectation is that you're up on the reading, attending class, and taking copious notes.

Documentary Responses: You will be writing about your ideas based on class discussion and documentaries. You will all explore your own understanding of storytelling, based on your **social landscape** and through the medium of documentary film.

In-Class Assignments: The work done in class will have you engage course material and work closely together. You will be working in pairs or groups for these assignments in order to generate critical discussion to be reflected on in the assignments. Occasionally the assignments will take more than one class period so it's imperative that you do not miss class. **Assignments partially completed receive partial credit (if you miss 1/3 of the assignment, you get 1/3 of the grade).**

Final Project: This is a free-flowing and creative project for which you come up with the idea(s) on your own. You may work on this independently or pairs. You will choose an area of sociology that we cover this quarter that is of interest to you. Media, Family, Education, Religion, Deviance, anything! You will spend some time researching your topic and then choose whether you want to generate a creative way of presenting your research or produce an exploratory research paper. For the creative project, you must do original art work, but you **do not** have to be an "artist!" Students

have done paintings, skits, or documentary films in the past. I will bring in examples of past student work. What the project ends up looking like is also up to you (I will help you stay on track to make certain it remains sociologically relevant). Really, there is no limit to applying your sociological imagination to a project and getting something educational out of it! We'll talk about this over the first couple of weeks of class. All creative projects have a final writing component. If you want to do a straight research paper, that's fine, too. Guidelines for both types of research projects are posted online. Choose one and stick with it.

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: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/>
- Academic Tutoring Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/tutoring/>
- TRiO Student Support Services: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/TRiO/>
- Writing Lab @ BCC: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/>

Below is a checklist for you to go over before you hand in each written assignment. Points are deducted when these are not followed.

- Twelve-point sized Times font, double-spaced.
- 1" margins all around.
- PAPERS ARE STAPLED.
- MLA 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.
- 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. ☺

Grading:

Please use the following rubric to help explain the grade you're given for a given assignment. You will receive a Numerical Grade from me, with little-to-no commentary. This is only because I've found that most students do not read written comments from their professors. Please 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 and I'm always happy to go over grades with you.



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." 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 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

READINGS DUE MONDAYS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
 ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES VARY; PLEASE SEE SCHEDULE BELOW

Week One: April 1st, 2nd

Thematic Overview:

- Introduction to this course
- The Social Self
- The Sociological Imagination
- Documentary Filmmaking as Sociological Storytelling

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

- Chs. 1 & 2: *Taking a New Look at a Familiar World, Seeing and Thinking Sociologically*

Quote of the Week:

“Perhaps the world's second worst crime is boredom. The first is being a bore.” - Jean Baudrillard

Week Two: April 6th – 10th

Thematic Overview:

- Social Construction of Knowledge
- Subject-as-Self, Self-as-Subject
- Beginning Discussions of Final Project

Readings:

- Ch. 3: *The Construction of Self and Society*

Film Screening:

- **HALF OF ANYTHING** (2007), Dir. Jonathan Tomhave, 33 minutes
- **ON RESERVE @ LMC** after in-class screening



Assignments:

- In-Class Assignment.

Quote of the Week:

“Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible.” - Frank Zappa

Week Three: April 13th – 17th

Thematic Overview:

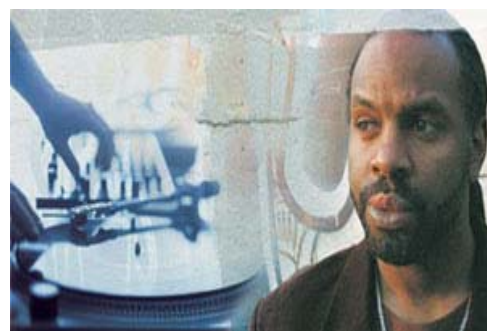
- Culture, History, and Socialization
- Is it Real? Is it Imagined? Can it be both?

Readings:

- Chs. 4 & 5: *Building Order: Culture and History, Building Identity: Socialization*

Film Screening:

- **HIP-HOP: BEYOND BEATS AND RHYMES** (2006), Dir. Byron Hurt, 60 mins.
- **LMC STACKS: ML3531.H57**



Assignments:

- Documentary Response #1 Due Friday
- Final Project Topic Idea Due Friday

Quote of the Week:

“You can bomb the world to pieces, but you can’t bomb it into peace.” - Michael Franti

Week Four: April 20th – 24th
CAMPUS CLOSED APRIL 23RD

Thematic Overview:

- Who we become, what we believe, why things are the way they are, & other responses to difficult questions
- Stratifications of Social Inequality

Readings:

- Chapter 6: *Supporting Identity: The Presentation of Self*

Film Screening:

- **THE FIRST BATTLE: BATTLE FOR EQUALITY IN WAR-TIME HAWAII** (2007) Dir., Tom Coffman, Director), 60 minutes.
- **ON RESERVE @ LMC** after in-class screening



Assignments:

- In-Class assignment.
- Outline for Research Project Due Friday

Quote of the Week:

“All you touch and all you see is all your life will ever be.” - Roger Waters

Week Five: April 27th – May 1st

Thematic Overview:

- Family and Relationships

Readings:

- Ch. 7: *Building Social Relationships: Intimacy and Families*

Film Screening (Tuesday & Wednesday):

- **CONSUMING KIDS: THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF CHILDHOOD** (2008) Dirs., Adriana Barbaro and Jeremy Earp, Dirs.), 66 minutes.
- **LMC Stacks. Call Number: HF5415.32.C6**



Assignments:

- Working Bibliography due for All Research Projects Due Friday

Quote of the Week:

“In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future.” - Alex Haley

Week Six: May 4th - 7th
CAMPUS CLOSED MAY 8TH

Thematic Overview:

- Social Deviance, its definers and their definitions
- Inequality and Identity

Readings:

- Chs. 8 & 10: *Constructing Difference: Social Deviance & The Architecture of Stratification: Social Class and Inequality*

Film Screening:

- **PEOPLE LIKE US: SOCIAL CLASS IN AMERICA** (2001) Dirs., Louis Alvarez & Andy Kolker, 124 minutes.



Assignments:

- Documentary Response #2 Due Friday

Quote of the Week:

“College isn't the place to go for ideas.” - Helen Keller

Week Seven: May 11th - 15th
NO FILM THIS WEEK

Thematic Overview:

- How everything is made to come together, and your role in that sense of (dis)order
- Thinking differently, just for kicks
- The Global Village is spinning on an axis.

Readings:

- Chapters 9 & 10: *The Structure of Society: Organizations, Social Institutions, and Globalization*

Assignments:

- Creative Research Projects Detailed Plan Due Friday (see handout)
- Research Paper Projects First Draft Due Friday (see handout)
- In-class assignment.

Quote of the Week:

“You think you're so clever and classless and free.” - John Lennon

Week Eight: May 18th - 22nd
NO FILM THIS WEEK

Thematic Overview:

- Catch up on your reading this week
- Detailed discussions, Final Projects
- The Sociology of Everything!

Readings:

- Chapter 13: *Demographic Dynamics: Population Trends*

Quote of the Week:

“The only thing more pathetic than Indians on TV is Indians watching Indians on TV.” - Evan Adams (Coast Salish) as Thomas Builds-The-Fire in “Smoke Signals”

Week Nine: May 26th – 29th

CAMPUS CLOSED MAY 25TH FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Thematic Overview:

- Inequality and Identity, con't
- Race and Racialization
- The Ethnography and Ethics of Race and Storytelling
- Schedule Final Presentations

Readings:

- Ch. 11: *The Architecture of Inequality: Race and Ethnicity*

Film Screening:

- **THE BOYS OF BARAKA** (2005. Heidi Ewing & Rachel Grady, Directors), 84 minutes.
- **LMC STACKS. Call Number: HV9069.B697**



Quote of the Week:

“The reality is it’s up to you guys to figure out how the media works and break through.” - Claudia Dreifus

Week Ten: June 1st – 5th

Thematic Overview:

- Even more Inequality and Identity
- Sex, Gender, Gendered Sexuality, Sexual Lives, Gendered Culpability

Readings:

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life:* Chapter 12: *The Architecture of Inequality: Sex and Gender*

Film Screening:

- **WRONG BATHROOM** (2006), Dir. Shani Heckman, 6 mins.
- **LMC Stacks: HQ1075.W76**

Assignments:

- Documentary Response #3 Due Friday

Quote of the Week:

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” - Marcus Garvey

Week Eleven: June 8th – 12th

NO FILM THIS WEEK

Thematic Overview:

- ...and in the end...

Readings:

- *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life:* Ch. 14: *Architects of Change: Reconstructing Society*

Assignments:

- Final Presentations and Discussion

Quote of the Week:

“A friend is someone who gives you total freedom to be yourself.” - Jim Morrison

Week Twelve: June 15th – 18th

Our last class is Monday, June 15th.

Final Exams are June 16th – 18th.

Commencement is June 18th.

Your last day to come to class is Monday, June 15th. This is a regular, required class period.

EMAILING ME:

When you email me using my BCC EMAIL, ALWAYS put in the SUBJECT LINE the following, in this order: SOC& 101 – YOUR NAME – SUBJECT

For example: SOC& 101 – Jane Doe – Question about Quiz Number 4.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

When I'm not teaching, I'm usually 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, 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 third year as Instructor of Sociology at BCC, and my first year as Chair of the Sociology Department. I am the Programmer for BCC's Annual American Indian Film Festival. I love to write and am currently working on a memoir collection of poetry. More at: <http://sara.sutlercohen.com>

Thank you for a wonderful term!

** This course was formerly known as SOC 110. Credit will only be given for one sociology course, SOC 110 or SOC& 101. For complete listing of affected courses and student FAQs, visit: www.bellevuecollege.edu/ccn