

# Bellevue College

## SOC& 101, Introduction to Sociology, 5 Credits

Winter 2011: January 3 – March 23 Online only

Sara Sutler-Cohen, Ph.D. [sara.sutlercohen@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:sara.sutlercohen@bellevuecollege.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment or just come on by! D110-J.

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 discussion, 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?

***Keep in mind that falling behind may be hazardous to your health!***

**"Western civilization, unfortunately, does not link knowledge and morality but rather, it connects knowledge and power and makes them equivalent."**

**-- Vine Deloria, Jr. (Yankton Sioux)**

**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:**

- *Sociology: A Critical & Contemporary Perspective* by Scott Lukas, et.al. (Digital Text)

**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 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](mailto: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 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:**

- “Attend” class at least four times per week (yes – I do keep track!).
- Complete readings and homework assignments **on time**.
- Emailed assignments **are not accepted**; you must post them appropriately. If you’re having technical difficulties, contact the BC Help Desk at (425)564-HELP (4357).
- Deadlines are non-negotiable. Late homework assignments **are accepted**, but make-up exams **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 virtual classroom be respectful. So think before you post! Continued disrespectful behavior in my class may result in your being asked to exit the discussion board and will result in your grade lowering.
- **There are no extra credit assignments for this class.**
- Please consider this course a learning community, and one that everyone takes responsibility for and brings to it a certain modicum of respect.

**A note on my expectations about your responsibility for your own learning:** There is a lot of useful information in this syllabus. You should read it thoroughly, and check in with it no less than twice a week for the entire term (this is different than logging into our cyber-classroom. Print out a copy of the syllabus and refer to it often). Please consider consulting your syllabus prior to asking me when something is due, what the expectations are for an assignment or how much an assignment is worth. More often than not, the answer lies within. I have no problem fielding questions and helping you out as best I can to ensure your success in the course, but know that this course can be made even more demanding if you’re used to being reminded when things are due or what chapters we’re reading in a given week.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** In this course you will be completing assigned readings (some weeks are heavier than others, so keep a lookout), performing web-based exercises from your text, engaging in group discussions, and taking quizzes. 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 there will be quizzes throughout the quarter. There is no final research paper for this class, but you will be writing every week and engaging in sociological research throughout the course of the quarter. The key to this course is your thoughtful reflection on course material –be prepared to share those reflections with your colleagues in class.

**ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION, AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS:**

<u>Participation:</u>	200
<u>Web Exercises:</u>	350
<u>Group Discussions:</u>	250
<u>Quizzes:</u>	50
<u>Final Exam:</u>	150
<u>Total:</u>	1000

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

**Participation:** Occasionally you will be asked to post something for participation credit; this is indicated throughout the syllabus (see Week One). Other than that: log in often, provoke energetic discussion, “speak” out, “listen” actively, work diligently and respectfully in your groups and teams, take copious notes of your readings, look up words you don’t understand or know, ask lots of questions, etc. Oh yes and lest I forget: Think critically about the world around you. Every day. These assignments are located in the Discussion Board area of the classroom.

**Web Exercises:** (70 Points Each.) Each week we will be exploring Sociology and the way in which it relates to current events, popular culture, and our daily lives. The Web Exercises in your text give you an opportunity to explore these varying themes and the areas from the readings. Your Entries will reflect particular topics and themes we go over. You may be asked to comment on an article or report on the news. You are asked to respond to the Questions and Topics pointedly and show how you’re engaging both the reading material as well as the general themes in question. Explore and question what’s presented in class, and think about how they relate to our readings and the lecture material. The Web Ex’s are located in the Assignments Area of the course.

**Discussion Board Assignments:** (50 points each.) There are five Group Discussion Assignments in which you and three or four fellow classmates will discuss and debate an issue presented to you in the reading. You will be assigned a group by me (different combinations for each assignment) and posed a question or topic of discussion. These assignments will take place at the beginning of each week and proceed through the end of that week. You are expected to post three different times throughout the week to ensure discussion (in other words, posting three times in one day or in the first two days, will not garner you full credit). You are also required to have each post be directed to different people in your group. You are expected to think sociologically – and to avoid “Soap Boxing” or of being overly opinionated. Be thoughtful in your discussions!

**Quizzes:** (10 points each.) Quizzes cover everything up through the week you’re tested and will usually include multiple choice and short-answer questions. Your responses should be clear and concise. Your short-answer responses must range from no less than one full (four-sentence) paragraph, to three full paragraphs. If you’re up on your reading, you should have no problem with these. You will *never* be asked a question out of “left field”. Questions will be based on readings, class discussion, and lecture material. Information about point distribution for each question will be on each *timed* quiz.

**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 submit *each written assignment*.**

- ☐ Twelve-point sized Times font, double-spaced
- ☐ 1” margins all around
- ☐ 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

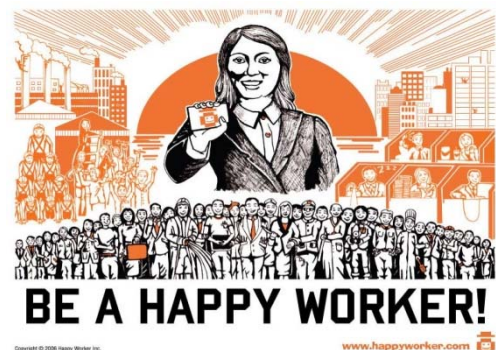
- a. Excellent command of the written English language. In other words, most excellent grammar. **NOTE: If you struggle with grammar and spelling or are an ESL student, *please* let me know! I’m happy to work with you and point you in the right direction.**
- b. Clarity of thought.
- c. Good organization 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. 😊

**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. 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.** “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.)

**“When you don’t see your own images through the media or in books, you start thinking you’re weird, and your self-esteem gets bruised.” - Francisco Alarcón, poet and director of Spanish for Native Speakers, UC Davis**

**COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE (READING ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE BEGINNING OF EACH WEEK, BUT FOR YOUR FIRST WEEK YOU SHOULD HAVE THINGS READ BY FRIDAY):**

<p><b><u>DATES AND READINGS:</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>ASSIGNMENTS:</u></b></p> <p>ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SATURDAYS @ 5PM PST UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED</p> <p>CHECK THE CALENDAR ON OUR VISTA COURSE SITE FOR ADDITIONAL REMINDERS!</p>
<p><b>Week One: Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jan 7<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>*Please consider joining a sociology listserv! See Ch. One, Sect. One*</b></p> <p><b><u>Readings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your Syllabus</li> <li>• "Getting Started" Handout</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 1:</b> The Sociological Perspective</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 2:</b> Sociological Thinkers &amp; Their Influence</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Assignments:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web Exercise #1</li> <li>• Personal Introduction (Participation Assignment #1)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Quote of the Week:</u></b></p> <p>"Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Frank Zappa</p>
<p><b>Week Two: January 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b><u>Readings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 3:</b> Sociological Theories and Methods of Research</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 4:</b> Culture and Society</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Assignments:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board #1</li> <li>• Web Exercise #2</li> <li>• Quiz #1. Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Quiz open from 8:00am to 5:00pm</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Quote of the Week:</u></b></p> <p>"Two hundred years of tradition does not make using Indians as mascots right."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Tim Giago (Lakota)</p>
<p><b>Week Three: January 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup></b></p> <p><b><u>Readings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 5:</b> Socialization</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 6:</b> Forms of Social Organization</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Assignments:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board #2</li> <li>• Participation Assignment #2</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Quote of the Week:</u></b></p> <p>"All you touch and all you see is all your life will ever be."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-- Roger Waters</p>
<p><b>Week Four: January 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>School closed Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> (quiz is open)</b></p> <p><b><u>Readings:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 7:</b> Crime, Deviance, and Social Control</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Assignments:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web Exercise #3</li> <li>• Quiz #2. Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Quiz open from 8:00am to 5:00pm</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Quote of the Week:</u></b></p>

<p><u>DATES AND READINGS:</u></p>	<p><u>ASSIGNMENTS:</u></p> <p>ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SATURDAYS @ 5PM PST UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED</p> <p>CHECK THE CALENDAR ON OUR VISTA COURSE SITE FOR ADDITIONAL REMINDERS!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chapter 8:</b> Social Class and Social Stratification</li> </ul>	<p>"In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future."</p> <p>-- Alex Haley</p>
<p><b>Week Five: January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 4<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chapter 9:</b> Gender &amp; Sexuality</li> <li>● <b>Chapter 13:</b> Marriage &amp; The Family</li> </ul>	<p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Discussion Board #3</b></li> <li>● <b>Mid-Term Check-In (Participation #3)</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Quote of the Week:</u></p> <p>"We must trust our own thinking. Trust where we're going. And get the job done."</p> <p>- Wilma Mankiller (former Chief of the Cherokee Nation)</p>
<p><b>Week Six: February 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chapter 10:</b> Race &amp; Ethnicity</li> </ul>	<p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Quiz #3. Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Quiz open from 8:00am to 5:00pm</b></li> <li>● <b>Web Exercise #4</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Quote of the Week:</u></p> <p>"Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous."</p> <p>—Confucius</p>
<p><b>Week Seven: February 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chapter 11:</b> The Economy &amp; Work</li> <li>● <b>Chapter 12:</b> Politics &amp; Government</li> </ul>	<p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Discussion Board #4</b></li> <li>● <b>Participation Assignment #4</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Quote of the Week:</u> "You think you're so clever and classless and free." -- John Lennon</p>
<p><b>Week Eight: February 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>No school Monday - holiday</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chapter 14:</b> Religion</li> <li>● <b>Chapter 15:</b> Education</li> </ul>	<p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Quiz #4. Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Quiz open from 8:00am to 5:00pm</b></li> <li>● <b>WebEx #5</b></li> </ul>



<p><u>DATES AND READINGS:</u></p>	<p><u>ASSIGNMENTS:</u></p> <p>ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SATURDAYS @ 5PM PST UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED</p> <p>CHECK THE CALENDAR ON OUR VISTA COURSE SITE FOR ADDITIONAL REMINDERS!</p>
<p><b>Week Nine: February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 16:</b> Health &amp; Medicine</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 17:</b> Population, Urbanization &amp; the Sociology of Space</li> </ul>	<p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion Board #4</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Week Ten: March 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 18:</b> Sociology, Technology &amp; the Future</li> </ul>	<p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz #5. Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Quiz open from 8:00am to 5:00pm</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Week Eleven: March 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>No readings this week! Time for questions, studying, catching up on your reading.</b></p>	<p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Participation Assignment #5</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Week Twelve: March 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup></b></p>	<p><u>Final Exam:</u> Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Final exam will be open from 8:00am to 5:00pm. The exam will be open for three hours once you begin.</p>

**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, running, roller skating with PFM (a Roller Derby Practice Squad), 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 fifth year as Instructor of Sociology at BC, and my second year as Dean of the Social Science Division. I am the Programmer for BC's Annual American Indian Film Festival and the faculty advisor for the Single Parents Club on campus. I love to write and am currently working on a memoir and a collection of poetry. More at: <http://sara.sutlercohen.com>, or you can add me as a friend on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/docsara>.

*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](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/ccn)**