

Bellevue Community College
Syllabus
SOC 110: Introduction to Sociology, 5c Credits
Winter 2008
Online Only

“The sociological imagination enables us to grasp history and biography and the relations between the two in society. That is its task and its promise.”

-C. Wright Mills, sociologist

Course Description: This course is about life. In the process of asking and exploring questions about life, and about contemporary social experience in society, this course will introduce students to the field of sociology and help cultivate in them an analytical and critical perspective, which will enable the curious student to see her/his life and society in a “new light.” The unique aspect of this course is that rather than simply learn about sociology, students are expected to engage with their world sociologically. As such, students will develop a sociological consciousness and then apply the framework to the real world and social concerns.

A central aim of this course is to help students become more aware of how their lives are shaped by social forces and to gain an appreciation of their ability to engage and interact with the world in a constructive manner.

NOTE: THIS COURSE IS WRITING INTENSIVE (One advantage of online learning is its inherent structure of writing as a form of communication. Therefore students will find this course to contain writing as its primary form of learning, as well as reading and discussion. There are no exams in this course.)

Course Objectives:

- Develop a sociological orientation toward the world.
- Learn how to sociologically analyze their personal experiences, their society, and the world at large.
- Develop college level critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication skills.

Reading Requirements:

Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life, by David M. Newman, (Textbook)
Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life, by David M. Newman, (Reader)
Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America, Barbara Ehrenreich

Course Requirements:

220 pts. Weekly Discussion Essays: Each week you will post an essay in response to assigned questions related to course readings.

220 pts. Weekly Discussion Responses: Each week you are will respond to at least three peoples essay postings. See specific instructions for responses.

150 pts. Challenges: You are to complete *three* of the *six* essay challenges. See specific challenges for dates and directions. No late challenges accepted. You may do more than three if you like, but only the three highest grades will be counted.

50 pts. Final Reflection Paper: See specific instructions for this essay.

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