



Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101)

Class Code: 5512

Class Name: TEAM ALPHA

Class Location: Room C164

Class Time: Monday & Wednesday

3:00pm - 5:10pm



What defines you? Do you determine your identity? Does society influence your self-perception? Sociology is the scientific study of human societies and social forces that impact the way people think, act and interact. This introductory course will examine the interplay between individuals, groups and societies. We will explore individuals and groups from different cultures, races, social classes, genders, organizations and institutions through a sociological lens. We will use concepts like globalization, socialization and social constructivism to emphasize how these factors influence and impact our perspectives. This course aims to provide insight to help you develop an understanding and awareness of the connection between your personal experience and wider society. By integrating an interactive and innovative teaching approach, you will benefit by fully engaging in sociological theory and practice. Hopefully, you will find this course interesting, educational and useful.



Course Rules and Guidelines

PEACE: In sociology, we explore various phenomena across different cultures, races, social classes, genders, sexual orientations, etc. In this course, we will at times discuss and view videos about controversial topics; it is expected that we tackle these issues with an academic and respectful mindset. Students are encouraged to discuss matters critically, as long as it is done in a peaceful and respectful manner. Foul language and discriminatory statements are prohibited in class, on Canvas and in assignments. If you experience or witness something that offends you or other

students, please notify me. It is everyone's responsibility to promote a safe, comfortable, supportive and peaceful environment.



LOVE: Students should accept and appreciate one another. Hateful behavior is prohibited. Any form of inflammatory, violent or offensive comments (verbal or nonverbal) are prohibited. Questions and opinions

are welcome. I am here to help and I am looking forward to inspiring, empowering and growing with you. It is our duty to foster a state of harmony between us.

UNITY: Students must adopt a team building mentality in class. Our class is a team working towards a common goal of successful learning. I am not only an instructor but I am also a learner. I am not Dr. Wikipedia so I do not have all the answers - we are here to learn from each other. In order to succeed as a team, I will play my part as the instructor to deliver a fun, educational and interactive curriculum. I expect that you will play your role as students to comply with course rules and guidelines and fulfill the course requirements (see more under Course Assessment on page 3). By working together, we can maximize the learning benefits of this course.

RESPECT: Your classmates will have different racial, cultural, ethnic, social-economic, sexual and religious backgrounds. It is crucial that we respect each other's differences, experiences and opinions. When someone is speaking in class (student or instructor), please listen, respect their comments and do not interrupt. Also, so that everyone has a chance to participate, a student who has just answered or commented will need to wait for two other students to answer/comment before answering or commenting again in discussions. Please turn off or set your mobile devices on silent during class - no calls, text messaging, web browsing, social media or other apps. Laptops and tablets are permitted in class for taking notes only. Students who are seen using their mobile devices for purposes other than taking notes will receive zero points for that day's class attendance and participation. Thank you for your contribution and cooperation.



***Class Policy:** Students who violate the above rules and/or demonstrate disrespectful behavior to other students or the instructor will be asked to leave class. S/he will be marked absent until the instructor gives him/her permission to return to class.



Learning Outcomes. Upon completing the course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a general understanding of sociology;
- Identify how cultural standards and social landscapes shape and influence our everyday lives;
- Exercise critical thinking skills by applying sociological concepts to analyze personal issues and current affairs;
- Explain how life experiences and opportunities differ according to race, class, gender and sexuality;
- Appreciate and value personal, social and cultural differences/perspectives; and
- Better understand themselves, become more self-assured and embrace the person they are.



Course Assessment (70% Coursework, 30% Exam)

1. Reflective Essay x 3 (30%)
2. Midterm Exam (10%)
3. Final Exam (20%)
4. Group Project and Presentation (20%)
5. In-class Assignment x 2 (10%)
6. Attendance and Participation (10%)

Reflective Essay (30%): You will have **THREE** essays to submit in total. Each essay accounts for 10% of your overall grade. For each essay, you are required to incorporate class materials, readings and personal opinions. Essays should be two pages long (1-inch margin all around, Times New Roman, 12-point font and double spaced). You are required to submit a physical copy AND an electronic copy via Canvas by the beginning of class on the due date. Please see below:

- **Reflective Essay Question 1 (due April 16):**
Write a chronological biography relating your personal experiences with two sociological concepts you learned in class during week 1 and/or week 2. Explain how these concepts influence the choices you make in life.
- **Reflective Essay Question 2 (due May 7):**
In your own words, define the terms “culture” and “subculture” and give examples of each. Explain how “socialization” shapes your culture and/or subculture.
- **Reflective Essay Question 3 (due May 30):**
Discuss the similarities and differences between the school experiences, (i.e., USA, China and India) portrayed in the documentary “Two Million Minutes: A Global Examination.” Based on your background, which experience(s) can you relate with most and why?



Midterm Exam (10%): You will have 30 minutes to complete 25 multiple choice questions. The Midterm Exam will be based on materials covered during weeks 1 to 4. This will be an open book exam and you will use Canvas to take it in class. Please bring your phone, tablet or laptop. The Midterm Exam will be held on April 30 at 3:00pm.

Final Exam (20%): You will have 1 hour to complete 25 multiple choice questions and 1 short question. The final exam will be based on materials covered from weeks 5 to 8. This will be an open book exam and you will use Canvas to take it in class. Please bring your phone, tablet or laptop. The Final Exam will be held on June 13 at 1:30pm.

Group Project and Presentation (20%): In groups of 4 - 5, conduct in-depth research on a sociological phenomenon. Apply your sociological imagination by focusing your research on two or three sociological concepts introduced in this course. The purpose of this project/presentation is to illustrate the significance of a phenomenon in wider society. You may conduct your presentation in one of the following formats: PowerPoint (PPT), Prezi, video, role play, musical, rap, game/talk show. You are required to attend all presentations. Each presentation should be 15 minutes long and will be presented in week 10 and 11. On June 4, please submit one soft copy of your presentation notes, e.g., PPT slides, script or lyrics to the instructor via a Canvas message. Failure to contribute to the team will result in a reduced individual score (a peer evaluation and/or a meeting with the instructor will be conducted). If you have not joined a presentation group by the first class of week 4, you will receive 0% for your Group Project and Presentation.

In-class Assignment (10%): You will have **TWO** in-class assignments to complete in total. Each in-class assignment accounts for 5% of your overall grade. For each in-class assignment, you will bring an object or item of clothing that has a personal, social and/or cultural significance. You are required to do a 1-2-minute informal presentation to share with the class. In-class assignments will be presented on April 23 and May 14.

Attendance and Participation (10%): Attendance is **MANDATORY**. Participation is **EXPECTED**. Full credit is only available to students who attend each class on time (no later than 5 minutes after class starts) AND actively participate in group discussions and in-class activities. You are permitted one unexcused absence without penalty and will be penalized for two or more unexcused absences.

***Late Policy:** All missed classes, assignments and exams must be pre-approved by the instructor BEFORE the due date. Unapproved absences, late assignments or missed exams cannot be made up and will receive zero points.



Reading

Required Reading: Ferrante, Joan. (2015). *Sociology: A Global Perspective* (9th Edition). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. (Used and rented versions start at \$20 and \$30 respectively on Amazon).



Course Calendar

Week	1 st day/week	Topic	In-class Activity	Deadline or Exam
Week 1	April 2	An Introduction to Sociology The Sociological Imagination	Icebreaker, Syllabus and Introduction.	
Week 2	April 9	The Sociological Perspectives		
Week 3	April 16	Culture		Reflective Essay 1 Due
Week 4	April 23	Social Structure and Social Interaction	In-class Assignment: Show and Tell	
Week 5	April 30	Social Class and Social Control		Midterm Exam
Week 6	May 7	Sex, Gender and Sexuality		Reflective Essay 2 Due
Week 7	May 14	Race and Ethnicity	In-class Assignment: Dress Up Day	
Week 8	May 21	Education	Documentary Viewing: Two Million Minutes	
Week 9	May 28	Course Conclusion, Evaluation and Presentation Final Preparation		Reflective Essay 3 Due
Week 10	June 4	Group Presentations	Presentations	Presentation Notes Due
Week 11	June 11	Group Presentations and Final Exam	Remaining Presentations	Final Exam





***There will be NO CLASS on Monday, May 28, 2018 due to Memorial Day.**







Tentative Course Outline

Week	Sociological Concepts	Required Readings (should be completed by the end of each week).	In-class Assignment, Essay Deadline, Presentation or Exam
Week 1: An Introduction to Sociology and The Sociological Imagination - With Emphasis on Globalization and Glocalization	Sociology; Social Forces; Sociological Imagination; Troubles; Issues; Industrial Revolution; Globalization; and Glocalization	Chapter 1: Pages 2 – 23.	N/A
Week 2: The Sociological Perspectives - With Emphasis on Socially Assistive Robots	Classical Sociological Theory; Socially Assistive Robots (SARs); Social Order; Functions; Dysfunctions; Functionalism; Conflict Theory; and Symbolic Interactionism.	Chapter 2: Pages 24 – 34.	N/A
Week 3: Culture - With Emphasis on Transcultural Encounters	Culture; Beliefs; Values; Norms; Symbols; Identity; Subcultures; Ethnocentrism; Cultural Relativism; and Socialization.	Chapter 3: Pages 46 – 65 and Chapter 4: Pages 66 – 89.	 Reflective Essay 1 due <u>April 16</u> by the beginning of class.
Week 4: Social Structure and Social Interaction - With Emphasis on Transnational Relationships in a Digital Age	Social Structure; Status; Role; Groups; Institutions; Social Network; Weak Ties; and Social Interaction.	Chapter 5: Pages 90 – 105.	 <u>In-class Assignment</u> <u>“Show and Tell” to be presented on April 23.</u> Bring an object that has personal, social and/or cultural significance, e.g. diary, photo, etc. You are required to do a 1-2-minute informal presentation to share with the class the connection you have with the object.



Week 5: Social Class and Social Control - With Emphasis on Social Mobility and Mass Surveillance	Caste System; Class System; Social Stratification; Cultural Capital; Social Mobility; Social Inequality; Deviance; Conformity; Labeling Theory; Social Control; and Surveillance.	Chapter 8: Pages 150 – 169 and Chapter 7: Pages 126 – 149.	 Midterm Exam Schedule: <u>April 30 at 3:00pm</u>
Week 6: Sex, Gender and Sexuality - With Emphasis on Gender Ideals	Sex & Gender; Masculinity; Femininity; Gender Inequality; Imperialism; Patriarchy; Sexism; Feminism; Sexuality; and Sexual Orientation.	Chapter 10: Pages 198 – 221.	 Reflective Essay 2 due <u>May 7</u> by the beginning of class.
Week 7: Race and Ethnicity - With Emphasis on Social Construction	Social Constructivism; Race; Ethnicity; The Foreign-Born Population; Minority Groups; Assimilation; Prejudice; Discrimination; and Stereotypes.	Chapter 9: Pages 170 – 197.	 In-class Assignment <u>“Dress Up Day” to be presented on May 14.</u> Dress up to represent one of the following: your culture, subculture, belief, religion, favorite sports team, superhero or music genre. You are required to do a 1-2-minute informal presentation to share with the class the personal, social and/or cultural connection you have with the outfit.
Week 8: Education - With Emphasis on Social Reproduction in a Knowledge Economy	Education; Social Reproduction; Knowledge Economy; Cultural Capital; Self-Fulfilling Prophecy; The College Experience; and Education in Other Parts of the World.	Chapter 13: Pages 272 – 295.	 Documentary screening on <u>May 21.</u> All students must attend class. Students who miss screening will be asked to purchase their own copy of the documentary.



Week 9: Course Conclusion, Evaluation and Presentation Final Preparation	N/A	N/A	 Reflective Essay 3 due <u>May 30</u> by the beginning of class.
Week 11: Group Presentations	N/A	N/A	  Presentation Notes (one copy per group) due on <u>June 4</u> .
Week 12: Group Presentations and Final Exam	N/A	N/A	 Final Exam Schedule: <u>June 13 at 1:30pm to 2:30pm</u>

The course is completed. Thank you very much for your active participation and contribution!





Grade Descriptors

Adopted from The University of Hong Kong

Grade Grade Point	(+) A (-) 4.0 4.0 3.7	(+) B (-) 3.3 3.0 2.7	(+) C (-) 2.3 2.0 1.7	(+) D 1.3 1.0	F 0
Mark	100 - 90	89 - 80	79 - 70	69 - 60	59 and below
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent and outstanding performance with full coverage of the topic • Meets all basic and higher order goals • Very high level of skills (interpretation, application, analysis, evaluation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to very good performance with good coverage of the topic • Meets all basic and most higher order goals • High level of skills (interpretation, application, analysis, evaluation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory to reasonably good performance with reasonable coverage of topic • Meets all basic and some higher order goals • Satisfactory to reasonably high level of skills (interpretation, application, analysis, evaluation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass: Barely satisfactory performance, with limited coverage • Meets only basic goals • Only basic level of skills (interpretation, application, analysis, evaluation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fail: Unsatisfactory performance • Question / Task possibly misunderstood • Key aspects of topic neglected • Basic goals not met • Basic skills not demonstrated
Logic & Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts very clearly understood • Argument always logical • Assignment follows highly logical structure and development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts clearly understood • Argument generally logical • Assignment follows logical structure and development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts understood • Logic of argument is satisfactory despite some minor weaknesses • Only minor problems with structure or development of assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic understanding of concepts • Argument is weak but can be followed • Some problems with structure or development of assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many concepts not understood • Illogical argument • Assignment rambles & lacks structure
Reading & Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide, supportive reading of relevant literature • Good critical understanding • Referencing very clear & appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well aware of relevant literature • A high level of reflective understanding • Referencing clear & appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound awareness of relevant literature • Evidence of reflective understanding • Referencing satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some awareness of relevant literature • Basic understanding but limited reflection • Some problems with referencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little or no evidence of reading • Uncritical acceptance of others' views • Referencing inadequate
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses meaning very clearly • Highly fluent and accurate use of grammar and vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses meaning clearly • Fluent and accurate use of grammar and vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses meaning satisfactorily • Satisfactory to quite good level of grammar and vocabulary use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of meaning is acceptable, although: • Some confusion caused by grammatical errors and/or inappropriate vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning often unclear • Unacceptable grammar and/or vocabulary use
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very high standard of presentation • Format requirements fully met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good standard of presentation • Format requirements met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally good standard of presentation • Format requirements mostly met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable despite some weaknesses in presentation • Format requirements partially met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor presentation • Unacceptable format



Procedures and Guidelines of the Social Science Division¹

- **Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing:** 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 Dean 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 at <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2050/>
- **Incomplete:** If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").
- **F Grade:** Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."
- **Final Examination Schedule:** The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.
- **Withdrawal from Class:** College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.
- **Hardship Withdrawal:** Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.
- **Distribution of Grades:** Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Website.
- **Return of Papers and Tests:** Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following way ONLY: by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets will be discarded after 60 instructional days following the end of the quarter.

¹ <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/socsci/procedures-guidelines/>



- **Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter. Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Center, and review those needs with the instructor as well.
- **Affirmation of Inclusion:**² Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.
- **College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX):** Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates. For further information and contacts, please consult College Anti-Discrimination Statement.
- **Religious Holidays:** Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.
- **Unauthorized Use of Material:** All materials distributed by the instructor are intended only for use in this course. Any unauthorized reproduction of class material is prohibited.

² <http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>