

SOC 101

- - Introduction to Sociology | Spring 2019 - -

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:

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Office: D184



Campus Office Hours:

MTuW 10-11am
Online: Tu 10-11am

Required Text:

Seeing Sociology: An Introduction, 3rd edition by Joan Ferrante. Published by Cengage Learning

Why Sociology?

My goal for this course is for you to develop a “sociological imagination” or the ability to understand human lives as shaped by historically-conditioned social forces. Sociology allows people to see that the things that seem normal/natural to us are ‘not quite so familiar’ once we begin to delve critically into our taken-for-granted assumptions about the world. To develop a sociological imagination you will need to think honestly and critically about the information you are receiving, examine your own experiences and observations, and be receptive to sociological data and analyses that challenge your assumptions. That is to say in order to be successful in this course you will be asked to rethink common sense. Remember: “Resist the urge to trust your gut!”.

Course Description

Sociology is the scientific study of society. As such, it closely examines human interactions and cultural phenomena, including topics like inequality and its effects on groups and individuals. To do their work, sociologists rely on a philosophy of science called positivism. The philosophy of positivism asserts that authentic knowledge, or truth, can only be gained through empirical observations. In other words, knowledge comes through observation and scientific measurement, as opposed to faith-based or emotional experiences.

Another central concept to sociology is that of the sociological imagination. The sociological imagination allows sociologists to make connections between personal experiences and larger social issues. For example, did you know the U.S. has the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the industrialized world? In order to understand this trend, sociologists use scientific methods to make concrete connections between social issues like sex education in schools, sexualization in the media, poverty, and the personal issue of teenage sexual activity and pregnancy.

This course is designed to introduce you to a range of basic sociological principles so that you can develop your own sociological imagination. You will learn about the origins of sociology as a discipline and be introduced to major sociological theories and methods of research. You will also explore such topics as sex and gender, deviance, and racism. As you move through the course, try to develop your sociological imagination by relating the topics and theories you read about to your own life experiences.

Goals and Expectations

Course Goals/Learning Outcomes:

- Explain fundamental sociological theories, concepts, and research methods
 - Apply sociological perspectives to various issues and problems in society
 - Analyze sociological findings and claims
 - Develop sociological questions
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Expectations:

- Read the syllabus and other course information carefully.
 - Make a commitment to work regularly on the course.
 - Prepare for class discussion, activities and writing assignments by carefully reading and studying the text readings by the due date.
 - Communicate with one another (and me) with respect.
 - Maintain a positive attitude toward learning – you may encounter some new ideas in this course.
 - Submit work that is well organized, well written and on time.
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Late/make-up work policy

It is best to try to stay with the course calendar and get your work in on time. Even when you have the best intentions, I do realize that sometimes there is an unavoidable reason for lateness. Therefore I have developed guidelines for the acceptance of late work. These guidelines apply regardless of the reason for lateness.



Pre-Assessments, Discussion Packets, Module Assignments, and Tumblr: No late work is accepted. Remember some grades are dropped.

Photo Essay Project: Late work will be accepted with a 20% late penalty up to one week after the initial due date.

A habit of lateness will lead to an overall lower course grade. Experience shows that the incidence of sick relatives, car trouble, and other maladies, seem to peak at the same time as major deadlines/finals.

Be respectful.
Be successful.

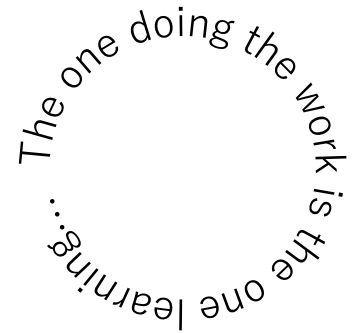
Technology

This classroom is a **laptop-free zone**. If you need a laptop, tablet, or any other device for taking notes please speak with me. Research shows that taking notes by hand aids in processing material and comprehension. Moreover, electronic devices have a tendency to be distracting to both you and your fellow classmates. All personal devices should be silenced. Cell phones should be put away, except in the rare instance that I ask you to use them for an activity. If there is a serious need to leave your cell phone on, such as a family emergency, please put it on vibrate and let me know. If you leave the classroom to take a call, I'll understand why. I will reduce discussion grades for cell phone use unrelated to class.



Requirements and Assessments

You are expected to come to class *prepared and ready to learn*. What does that mean? It means you are expected to *read and to study* the assigned reading before you come to class. It is important that you do the required reading so that you will understand basic concepts, be able to ask informed questions, and fully participate in class activities. So as difficult as it is – set up a schedule and get your reading done – the class will be more meaningful, make a lot more sense, and be more fun.



The one doing the work is the one learning...

Learning Objectives

In your Cobra Learning online space for the course, please note that learning objectives are listed for each chapter of the text. The objectives help you know what to focus on as you read and study. I also rely heavily on Power Point. I will make my Power Point available on Cobra. You can print that off before class and make additional notes as needed. That way you can focus on listening, participating, and thinking rather than trying to write everything down.

Pre-Assessment Quizzes

Prior to beginning a lecture on a new chapter you will be asked to take a short reading assessment quiz on Cobra. You will get more out of the lecture and discussion if you do the reading before coming to class. This is a formative assessment to check your learning before coming to class. For that reason you will get two attempts at the quiz, the lowest of two attempts will be dropped. There will be 12 Pre-Assessment Quizzes. Your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.

Attendance/Class Discussion

Current scientific wisdom indicates that people learn best they come to class and when actively engaged. To facilitate this, we will begin each class with a free-write, and frequently break for "active learning" short writing assignments and small group discussions. For each course module you will get a Discussion Packet. This packet is to be picked up at the beginning, and handed in at the end, of each class. Completion of this packet will count as your discussion grade. The Discussion Packet is where you will record your free-writes and short writing assignments. The free-write at the beginning of class will serve as attendance for the day. The free-write is your buy-in for discussion points. If you come to class late, you will not be able to receive discussion points for the day. For this reason, it is to your benefit to be in class as frequently as possible. Of course, I know that life happens, you will be allowed 3 freebies - tardies or absences - no questions asked. After that, your absences must be excused (official Parkland business, death in the family, etc. and you must provide proof).

Module Assignments

Throughout the course, you will be required to complete 5 module assignments. These will include discussion posts and written assignments turned in on Cobra. Since this is a Hybrid class these assignments largely take the place of our "missing" classroom day. These assignments will ask you to "do" some type of sociological observation, experiment, and/or outside research and write about it.

Mid-Term Exam

There will be one course exam, a mid-term issued before Spring Break.

Requirements and Assessments

Class Tumblr Blog/Photo Essay Project

One way to help students become better critical thinkers (and sociologists) is to assign projects that encourage them relate course content to their everyday world. We will be doing this through a private class Tumblr account. For every course module you will be given list of sociological concepts to choose from and asked to post two photos to our class Tumblr blog account. You are label your post with the # of the sociological concept you are illustrating. For example #conflicttheory. Then, write a brief description of the photo that explains how/why it illustrates a particular sociological concept. To facilitate course dialog, you will also be asked to comment on two other classmate's posts. More guidelines for photos and posting are available on Cobra in the course content.

At the end of the semester, you will be asked to compile these pictures/posts into the Photo Essay Project. The actual project will ask you to expound in writing on your original posts and perform some critical reflection on the project/semester. More details about this assignment will be available on Cobra.

Course Communication

We will be using several means of class communication. I have set up a group text on Remind. You will be asked to join the group so that you can receive important class messages. Remind allows me to send group messages by text without knowing your phone numbers. I will use it sparingly to send reminders or timely changes to the schedule, like weather emergencies. You can also communicate with me this way if you have a quick question. I will try to reply ASAP. Of course sometimes I might be available to respond right away.

If you have an important question, emergency, or other issue the best way to contact me is through email. If you email me you must include **SOC 101 Hybrid – SP19** in the subject line. This allows me to sort messages and respond in a timely manner. I aim to respond to email within 24 hours.

Grade Breakdown & Scale

Assessment	Quantity	% of Final Grade
Attendance/Discussion	28	12.5%
Pre-Assessments	10	12.5%
Module Assignments	5	30%
Midterm Exam	1	15%
Class Tumblr	10 (2 per module)	10%
Photo Essay Project	1	20%

A	90%-100%
B	80%-90%
C	70%-80%
D	60%-70%
F	60% -- Below

You can always check your course grades in Cobra. I recommend that you make sure the data entered in the grade book is correct. I aim to have the pre-assessments graded within one week. The Module Assignments and Mid-Term will take a bit longer – approximately 2 weeks. Always if you have any questions about grades please ask!



COBRA
Learning

Course Content and Organization

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION			1 – Introduction & Syllabus Quiz
WEEKS 1-9 SOCIAL THEORY	MODULE 1	Ch1 – Sociological Theory Ch2 – Culture	2 – Pre-Assessments 1 – Discussion Packet 2 – Tumblr Posts 1 – Module Assignment
	MODULE 2	Ch3 – Socialization Ch4 – Social Structure	2 – Pre-Assessments 1 – Discussion Packet 2 – Tumblr Posts 1 – Module Assignment
	MODULE 3	Ch5 – Social Const of Reality Ch6 – Deviance	2 – Pre-Assessments 1 – Discussion Packet 2 – Tumblr Posts 1 – Module Assignment
WEEK 9 MIDTERM EXAM			1 – Exam
WEEKS 9-12 INEQUALITY	MODULE 4	Ch7 – Social Inequality Ch8 – Gender & Sexuality Ch9 – Race & Ethnicity	3 – Pre-Assessments 1 – Discussion Packet 2 – Tumblr Posts 1 – Module Assignment
WEEKS 13-15 INSTITUTIONS	MODULE 5	Ch10 – Economics & Politics Ch11 – Family Ch12 – Education & Religion	3 – Pre-Assessments 1 – Discussion Packet 2 – Tumblr Posts 1 – Module Assignment
WEEK 16 WRAP-UP	Ch13 – Social Change Course Wrap-up		Course Evaluations Extra Credit Opportunities
WEEK 17 FINALS WEEK			1 – Photo Essay Project

Global Awareness

This course has been redesigned as part of Parkland’s Global Studies Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to improve the pedagogical materials offered in core courses regarding global issues, drawing from scholarship on the European Union, as well as Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Although global awareness is woven throughout our textbook, the Module 5 Assignment will be more explicitly focused on examining social institutions outside the US. This assignment will be designed to foster an appreciation of the complexity and diversity of social institutions across the globe and an understanding of how they are both similar and different from our own.



Learning Assistance

Students with Disabilities

If you have not yet registered with Accessibility Services, but believe you have a disability for which you may need an academic accommodation (e.g. an alternate testing environment, use of assistive technology or other classroom assistance), please contact the office at 217-353-2338 or accessibilityservices@parkland.edu.

If you are a student that is already registered with Accessibility Services and you have questions or concerns, please contact

Kristen Stephens, Coordinator, Accessibility Services (U263) at 217-353-2337 or kstephens@parkland.edu

Laura Wright, Coordinator, Accessibility Services (U265) at 217-351-2588 or lwright@parkland.edu

Title IX Protections against Sexual Harassment, Violence and Misconduct and Accommodations for Pregnant Students

Parkland College is committed to assuring a safe and productive environment for all students. The General College Syllabus (available on Cobra Learning) contains information regarding protections against sexual harassment, violence, and misconduct and accommodations for pregnant students.

I am here to help. If you have any questions regarding your grade, how to study, prepare, please ask as soon as possible so I can be of help or direct you to the appropriate resource. In addition to my help, Parkland provides assistance with reading assignments, note taking, studying for tests, essay preparation, and other academic skills. Please be sure to read through the Syllabus Addendum provided by the Vice President for Academic Services. The Addendum can be found right below the syllabus on Cobra.

I am looking forward to a great semester. I promise to always come to class prepared, if you do the same, I guarantee we will learn some new things, have good class discussions, and have a some fun along the way.