

This syllabus belongs to: _____
Contact: _____

Instructor:

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335-4595 (messages)

Office Hours:

Monday 10:00-12:00
Thursday 12:00-2:00
and by appointment

Spring 2017
SOC 101 - Introduction to Sociology
Tues/Thurs 9:10-10:25, Webster Physical Sciences Building 11

This course is an introduction to the topics and concepts in the discipline of sociology. The material we will study will give you an idea of the many different aspects of human interaction that sociologists have researched, from the founding of sociology in the 19th century through the present day. You will learn about important scientists and famous studies, and more general topics such as culture, norms, and social institutions. We will also cover topics that affect social relationships between groups in society, including socioeconomic inequality, racism, and discrimination.

The main goal of this course is to give you a better idea of the invisible social forces that affect your lives, and the lives of others. The topics we will study will help you to understand your own place in the world in relation to others, as well as the impact that social identity markers such as race, class, and gender have on social relationships.

Another goal for this course is to help develop your writing skills. Writing will help you think about and understand ideas from the reading assignments. If some of the material we cover disturbs you or makes you angry, writing will also help you process these more difficult ideas.

A third goal is to develop your ability to think analytically. Sociology is based upon science, not opinion. Sociologists draw conclusions from facts, and often these facts are inconvenient to a “common sense” understanding of the world. Expect some of your preconceived notions to be challenged. By the end of the course, you will understand what it means to be a “practical skeptic” – to look past common sense and folk wisdom towards a deeper understanding of the social world.

Required Books – Available at the “Bookie”

The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology, 6th edition, by Lisa J. McIntyre. This book contains the main concepts you will need to learn in order to understand the world from a sociological perspective.

The Practical Skeptic: Readings in Sociology, 6th edition, Lisa J. McIntyre (ed). This book contains the articles you will need to read for the course papers.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Attendance and participation will be worth 15 points. I will have in-class worksheets and projects to accompany several class discussions throughout the year. Sometimes I will randomly take attendance with a sign-in sheet. I will occasionally post something on Blackboard for you to respond to, and occasionally give points for valuable contributions to the class or online discussion. Or you can stop by my office hours to discuss assignments or readings. There are a lot of constructive ways to participate. Each of these activities will be worth 1 point under “participation”. There will be more than 15 of them available, with excess being resolved as extra credit.

Please sign the attendance sheet every class for the first 3 weeks so I can finalize the roster and get people in from the waiting list.

Assessments 45%

There will be two Midterms and a Final exam. The first exam is worth 10%, the second is 15%, and the final is 25% of your course grade. Exams will cover material from lecture, Core Concepts, and the general ideas from the articles.

Papers 40%

There will be four papers written in response to the articles we will be reading throughout the semester in the “Readings in Sociology” book. The assignment specifics will be posted online, and you will turn in all of the papers through electronic submission. The first paper will be worth 6%, the second paper will be worth 8%, the third will be worth 10% and the fourth will be worth 16% of your course grade. I will provide additional direction on the papers in lecture.

Late work: Papers may be turned in for half credit any time after the due date and before the final exam. In-class assignments may only be turned in during the class when they are distributed.

Course Calendar

Wk	Day	Date	Reading	Note
1	Tu	1/10/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 1: History of Sociology	Intro and Syllabus
	Th	1/12/2017	Readings Article 1: C. Wright Mills, "The Promise"	
2	Tu	1/17/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 2: The Sociological Eye	
	Th	1/19/2017	Readings Article 3: Lisa J. McIntyre, "Hernando Washington"	
3	Tu	1/24/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 3: Science and Fuzzy Objects	
	Th	1/26/2017	Readings Article 6: Lisa J. McIntyre, "Doing the Right Thing: Ethics in Research"	Video: Unnatural Causes
4	Tu	1/31/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 4: Who's Afraid of Sociology?	
	Th	2/2/2017	Readings Article 7: Philip Meyer, "If Hitler asked you to electrocute a stranger..."	Paper 1 (due midnight Saturday)
5	Tu	2/7/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 5: The Vocabulary of Science	Exam review day
	Th	2/9/2017	Readings Article 10: Cheryl Laz, "Act Your Age"	Midterm Exam 1
6	Tu	2/14/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 6: Sociological Research	
	Th	2/16/2017	Readings Article 14: Erving Goffman, "The presentation of Self in Everyday Life"	
7	Tu	2/21/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 7: Culture	
	Th	2/23/2017	Readings Article 15: Philip Zimbardo, "The Pathology of Imprisonment"	Video: Mickey Mouse Monopoly
8	Tu	2/28/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 8: Social Structure	
	Th	3/2/2017	Readings Article 18: Eric Anderson "Orthodox and Inclusive Masculinity"	Paper 2 (due midnight Saturday)
9	Tu	3/7/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 9: Social Institutions	
	Th	3/9/2017	Readings Article 26: William Chambliss, "The Saints and the Roughnecks"	
SPR	Tu	3/14/2017	Spring Break!	
	Th	3/16/2017		
10	Tu	3/21/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 10: Socialization	Exam review day
	Th	3/23/2017	Readings Article 29: LaBeff et al. "Situational Ethics and College Student Cheating"	Midterm Exam 2
11	Tu	3/28/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 11: Deviance and Social Control	
	Th	3/30/2017	Readings Article 30: Michael Benson, "Denying the Guilty Mind:"	Paper 3 (due midnight Saturday)
12	Tu	4/4/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 12: Stratification and Inequality	
	Th	4/6/2017	Readings Article 32: Barbara Ehrenreich, "Nickel and Dimed"	
13	Tu	4/11/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 13: Inequality and Achievement: Class	Video: Inequality for All
	Th	4/13/2017	Readings Article 33: Newman and Lennon, "The Job Ghetto"	Video: Inequality for All
14	Tu	4/18/2017	Core Concepts Chapter 14: Inequality and Ascription: Gender, Race Class.	
	Th	4/20/2017	Readings Article 34: Joe Feagin, "Racism"	Paper 4 (due midnight Saturday)
15	Tu	4/25/2017	No readings this week	
	Th	4/27/2017	No readings this week	Exam review day
FIN	Mon	5/1/2017	10:10 AM-12:10 PM	Final Exam

Grade Scale

A: 93 - 100
A-: 90 - <93
B+: 87 - <90
B: 83 - <87
B-: 80 - <83
C+: 77 - <80
C: 73 - <77
C-: 70 - <73
D+: 68 - <70
D: 66 - <68

Communication Outside Class

Email: Emails for this course will go to your WSU student email account. University policy requires that instructors only respond to emails sent from student's *WSU email addresses*.

Electronic Writing Assignment Submission: Writing assignments will be posted and submitted **ONLY** on Blackboard (learn.wsu.edu) – no paper copies.

Discussion: The discussion forum on Blackboard will be active. I will use it for participation exercises occasionally, and I will keep a thread open for Ask the Instructor questions.

Peers: Use Blackboard messaging or exchange contact information with other people in the class – I encourage study groups to review for exams and to discuss paper ideas.

Classroom Courtesy Expectations

RESPECT: If you are in this class, I would request that you comply with a few norms of behavior to make the experience positive for everyone. Please do not disrupt others with the following behaviors:

- Late arrival/early departure: Please arrive on time. It is distracting to have people filing in 10 minutes after class started. If you must leave early, please let me know before class and arrange to take a seat nearest the door.
- Quiet while the instructor is talking: Please do not have conversations with others during class. If you would like to ask for clarification, I will allow time for questions.
- Do not distract yourself or others: Please do not use headphones, text, game apps, social media, or videos.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is taken very seriously in this class. Cheating undermines the value of a University degree, and is very disrespectful to both instructors and peers. Cheaters gain an unfair advantage over their peers by getting grades that they did not earn.

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to: turning in a plagiarized paper, copying a neighbor's answers on an exam, and having someone else do your work or exams for you. There are many examples of "Academic misconduct". Take the time to familiarize yourself with the common understanding of this concept. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.academicintegrity.wsu.edu/avoiding-academic-dishonesty/>

If you cheat in this course on any exam or assignment, or help anyone else cheat, you will receive a failing grade in the course and I will forward your name to the Office of Student Conduct.

A final note on cheating: Like most universities, WSU uses artificial intelligence to detect plagiarism. The AI is very, very good. Do not attempt to defeat it.

Students with Disabilities:

I am committed to providing assistance to help you succeed in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. Please go to the Access Center during the first two weeks of the semester to seek information or to qualify for accommodations. All accommodations **MUST** be approved through the DRC, located at 217 Washington Building. To make an appointment with a disability counselor, call 335-3417.

Important!

If you have not done so already, visit your student information page and click on **Pullman Emergency information**. Make sure your contact information is up to date. In an emergency, contact 911.