



SOC 103B: Introduction to Sociology

Glatfelter Hall 302 • Tuesday & Thursday • 10:00-11:15am
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-2:30pm, Wednesday 2:00-3:00pm, and by Appointment

Prof. Standlee reserves the right to alter this syllabus and the assignments at any time. Changes may be made to accommodate the specific needs of this class.

“Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both.”

~C. Wright Mills

Course Description

Sociology is the study of how human beings build, organize, and interact with the institutions, systems, and structures of society. Sociologists look for patterns in society, and analyze such patterns using their “sociological imaginations.” Through the application of their sociological imagination, students will learn to look at the complex ties between the individual experience and the broader social world, between history and biography. New understandings about why and how societies operate are possible through the utilization of sociological methods and theories. Sociology often shows us that what we think we know about how societies function, we really do not.

Required Course Materials

Available at the Campus Bookstore and Online

- *Introduction to Sociology* 2nd edition. This is an Open Access Textbook, available for FREE download at OpenStax.org (<https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-2e>). This link is available on the course Moodle site. A physical copy can be purchased at the Campus Bookstore (special order), Amazon, or the OpenStax website.
- *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*, by Michael Kimmel
- *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*, by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander
- Additional readings will be posted on Moodle

Moodle

You will need to access Moodle for this course. Moodle will offer access to the syllabus, supplemental readings, discussion board resources, and be used to submit assignments.

Learning Objectives

Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate the relationships between social environment, culture and individual behavior.
- Explain the primary methods, theoretical traditions, and subfields of sociology.
- Understand the underlying elements of human society, including but not limited to institutions, social groups, and individual roles.
- Recognize the structural hierarchies and social categories that shape contemporary systems of inequality.
- Evaluate social issues and social problems using empirical data and scientific reasoning, in both written and oral forms.

Gettysburg Curriculum

This course fulfills the Gettysburg Curriculum requirement of *Multiple Inquires: Social Science*.

Course Assignments and Grading**Class Participation and Discussion Leader (10%)**

- Participation is vital in this course and we will frequently utilize group discussions and in-class activities. Students are expected to come to class having completed the daily readings and be ready to engage with the material.
- Each student will act as a discussion leader during the semester. Students will form small groups. After developing discussion questions, student groups will facilitate classroom discussion during a scheduled class period.

Reading Notes (10%)

Beginning Week 2, before the start of class on Tuesday, you are required to turn in a typed 3-page minimum (double-spaced) set of reading notes via Moodle. In the reading notes, you will outline the readings for the given week, and identify main concepts or vocabulary. You may include page numbers from the text for your referral, and use outline or bullet point format. You must address *all* of the readings for the week for full credit. Grading will be 10 points for completed comprehensive notes, 5 points for partial notes, and 0 Points for missing notes.

Essays (30%)*

During the semester, you will submit three 4-6 page essays (double-spaced) on contemporary sociological issues.

- Essay 1 - Select one of the key social issues discussed in the book, *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*, such as gender-based violence, hazing, sexual assault, etc. Conduct research on the current status of that social issue in our society. Provide an overview of the issue, discuss its origins, contemporary impacts, and identify possible solutions.

- Essay 2 - Select one of the key social problems discussed in the book, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*. You may choose to focus on poverty, healthcare, income inequality, etc. Conduct research on the current status of that social issue in our society. Provide an overview of the issue, discuss its origins, contemporary impacts, and identify possible solutions.
- Essay 3 - Select one of the key social problems discussed in the book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. You may select mass incarceration, racism, police violence, etc. Conduct research on the current status of that social issue in our society. Provide an overview of the issue, discuss its origins, contemporary impacts, and identify possible solutions.

Mid-term Exam (25%)

- The mid-term exam will be a take home essay exam, covering readings assigned through Week 6. You will receive a set of essay prompts and have one week to complete the exam. The Mid-term Take Home Essay Exam will be due March 3rd via Moodle. This is a no contact exam, and I will not answer substantive questions about the exam after our class meeting on Tuesday.

Final Comprehensive Exam (25%)

- The final exam will be a take home essay exam. The exam will cover readings assigned throughout the *entire* semester. You will receive a set of essay prompts. The Final Comprehensive Take Home Essay Exam will be due by May 9th at 11:30am via Moodle. This is a no contact exam, and I will not answer substantive questions about the exam after our final class meeting.

***Essay Assignments are designed to meet the 4th hour requirement for this course.**

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F	59% and below

Course Policies

Gettysburg College Honor Code

All students of Gettysburg College are required to adhere to the College's Honor Code. Academic dishonesty, including (but not limited to) cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. If you have any questions or concerns regarding whether or not something is plagiarism, please contact me. Further information and the complete Honor Code can be found at <https://www.gettysburg.edu/offices/academic-advising/honor-code/>

- **All submitted work must include a signed copy of the Honor Code pledge:**
I affirm that I have upheld the highest principles of honesty and integrity in my academic work and have not witnessed a violation of the Honor Code.

Academic Resources

This is a writing intensive course. If you feel that writing is not your strongest ability, I encourage you to contact the Writing Center, located on the ground floor of Breidenbaugh Hall. The Writing Center's peer tutors can help you develop and organize ideas, revise and edit drafts, and share writing strategies for this and other classes. The center is open Sunday through Thursday from 4:00-10:00pm for drop-in visits and appointments. Visit the Writing Center at <https://www.gettysburg.edu/academic-programs/english/student-opportunities/the-writing-center.dot> for more information.

Citation Format

Students in this course are required to follow ASA (American Sociological Association) guidelines for citation and style format. The Department of Sociology's Style Guide and other resources are available at <https://www.gettysburg.edu/academic-programs/sociology/current-students/writing-guides.dot>

Attendance

Attendance is vital for this course. You may have **2 unexcused absences** during the semester. Your final grade will be reduced by one letter grade for each unexcused absence beyond the two. Students with extraordinary circumstances are required to meet with me.

Late Work

Assignments are due by the beginning of the scheduled class. Late papers will be accepted within 3 days of due date, with a 10% late penalty. **No papers will be accepted after 3 days.** Students may request an extension before the due date to avoid a late penalty, but an extension will only be granted in the case of extreme and documented circumstances.

Technology Use

Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off before class. **Do not text or use your phone during class.** Please come to class prepared to take notes.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and need special accommodations for any aspect of this course, contact me by the end of the second week of class so that we can make arrangements.

Religious Holidays

Gettysburg College is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Students have the right to engage in essential practices of their faith while minimizing conflict with the course requirements. Contact me to make accommodations for your Religious Observances.

Classroom Conduct

A core tenant of Gettysburg College's mission is "the worth and dignity of all people." I consider this one of the most important things that you will learn in this class. The nature of the material we are going to cover may include difficult discussions and challenging ideas. Throughout this course, students are expected to treat one another and the professor thoughtfully and with respect. Above all, it is your responsibility to acknowledge the worth and dignity of all your classmates, yourself, and your professor. To help everyone accomplish this, **hate speech is unacceptable, and racist, sexist, homophobic, Islamophobic, transphobic, classist or other pejorative or discriminatory language will not be tolerated.** I know that we are in a time of great social tension and emotions can run high. We will discuss concepts that make you uncomfortable, make you question your values, and even sometimes make you angry. This is part of developing your intellectual and ethical identities. It is your responsibility to manage your emotions and behavior properly at all times. If you cannot, you will be asked to leave.

Pronoun and Name Usage

This course affirms people of diverse identities, including all gender expressions and gender identities. If I refer to you by an incorrect pronoun ("s/he"), please notify me of your correct pronoun (she, he, they, ze, etc.). Additionally, if you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, let me know. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

SOC 103B: Introduction to Sociology – Course Schedule

Introduction

Week 1

Tuesday, January 21

- Course Introduction and Syllabus Review

Thursday, January 23

- *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 1 “An Introduction to Sociology”
- Moodle: *The Sociological Imagination*, “The Promise”
- **No Reading Notes Due**

Week 2

Tuesday, January 28

- Reading Notes Due: *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 2 “Sociological Research”
- Activity: 30-minute Participant Observation Fieldnotes

Thursday, January 30

- Participant Observation Fieldnotes Due

Gender, Culture and Media

Week 3

Tuesday, February 4

- Reading Notes Due: *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 5 “Socialization” & *Guyland*, Chapters 1, 3 and 4

Thursday, February 6

- Group 1 Student Discussion Leader Presentation

Week 4

Tuesday, February 11

- Reading Notes Due: *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 3 “Culture” & *Guyland*, Chapters 5, 6 and 7

Thursday, February 13

- Group 2 Student Discussion Leader Presentation

Week 5

Tuesday, February 18

- *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 12 “Gender, Sex, and Sexuality” & *Guyland*, Chapters 8, 9 and 10
- **No Reading Notes Due**

Thursday, February 20

- Group 3 Student Discussion Leader Presentation
- **Essay #1 Due: *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men***

Week 6*Tuesday, February 25*

- **Mid-term Take Home Essay Exam Passed Out**
- In class discussion and review

Thursday, February 27

- **NO CLASS**

Week 7*Tuesday, March 3*

- **Mid-term Take Home Essay Exam Due**
- *Guyland*, Chapters 11 and 12 & Moodle: “Doing Gender” by West and Zimmerman
- **No Reading Notes Due**
- In-Class Video and Discussion: *Codes of Gender*

Thursday, March 5

- In-Class Video and Discussion: *Codes of Gender* (continued)

Week 8*March 10 & 12*

- **NO CLASS - Spring Break**

Institutions**Week 9***Tuesday, March 17*

- Reading Notes Due: *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 18 “Work and the Economy” & *Nickel and Dimed*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Thursday, March 19

- Group 4 Student Discussion Leader Presentation

Week 10*Tuesday, March 24*

- Reading Notes Due: *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 19 “Health and Medicine” & *Nickel and Dimed*, Chapter 2

Thursday, March 26

- Group 5 Student Discussion Leader Presentation

Week 11*Tuesday, March 31*

- *Nickel and Dimed*, Chapter 3 and Evaluation
- **No Reading Notes Due**

Thursday, April 2

- In-Class Activity: Being Poor in America
- **Essay #2 Due: *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America***

Week 12

Tuesday, April 7

- Reading Notes Due: *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 11 “Race and Ethnicity” & *The New Jim Crow*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Thursday, April 9

- Group 6 Student Discussion Leader Presentation

Week 13

Tuesday, April 14

- Reading Notes Due: *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 7 “Deviance, Crime, and Social Control” & *The New Jim Crow*, Chapters 2 and 3

Thursday, April 16

- Group 7 Student Discussion Leader Presentation

Week 14

Tuesday, April 21

- *The New Jim Crow*, Chapters 4,5 and 6
- **No Reading Notes Due**
- In-Class Video and Discussion: *13th*

Thursday, April 23

- In-Class Video and Discussion: *13th* (continued)
- **Essay #3 Due: *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness***

Week 15

Tuesday, April 28

- Reading Notes Due: *Introduction to Sociology*, Chapter 18 “Social Movements and Social Change”
- Student Course Evaluations

Thursday, April 30

- In-Class Activity: What social movement do you consider most important in the contemporary world? Discuss.
- **Final Comprehensive Take Home Essay Exam Passed Out**

Final Comprehensive Exam

- **Final Comprehensive Take Home Essay Exam Due on Saturday, May 9 via Moodle by 11:30am. NO LATE FINAL EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**