

SOC 101-01: Introduction to Sociology

MWF 11-11:50

Admin 300

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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 organize themselves, and how we build 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 an application of the 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, we really don’t.

Textbooks (Available at the Campus Bookstore and Online)

Conley, Dalton (2015) *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*, 4th edition

Massey, Garth (2015) *Readings for Sociology*, 8th edition

Course Goals (General Education Goals)

- Student will be able to define and explain the basic goals and subfields of sociology. (CU Goals Skill 1)
- Students will identify stereotypes and misinformation about social issues. (CU Goals Skill 2)
- Students will write using proper academic writing styles and citations. (CU Goals Skill 4)
- Students will evaluate social issues using scientifically grounded reasoning. (CU Goals Attitude 1)
- Students will engage in dialogue about social issues while remaining respectful of different perspectives. (CU Goals Attitude 3)
- Students will articulate the relationships between social environment, culture and individual behavior using sociological theory. (CU Goals Knowledge 1)

Course Assignments and Grading

- **Attendance and Participation (10%):** You may have three absences throughout the semester. No excuse is required. More than three absences will result in a loss of points for course participation. Students with extraordinary circumstances are required to meet with me.
- **Reading Quizzes (10%):** At various points throughout the semester, we will have brief quizzes on the reading assignments. Each quiz will be worth 5 pts. You may NOT make up missed quizzes, but I will drop the lowest score before calculating the final grade.
- **Two In-Class Exams (25% each):** Exams will include multiple choice and essay questions.
- **Midterm Project - Visual Essay (30%):** Using presentation software (such as PowerPoint) or other form of presentation, incorporate your own photos and text to create a visual essay expressing the way power, privilege and social inequalities are visible in the world around you. Your slideshow should contain at least 20-25 images and several sets of text. You should begin working on the project early in the semester and gather material throughout the term.

Classroom Policies

The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus and assignments. Changes may be made to accommodate the specific needs of the class.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, including the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying records, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of ideas of another) is not tolerated at Concord University. These behaviors can result in failure of the course or expulsion from the university. Please refer to page 39 of the university academic catalog for the consequences of academic dishonesty.

Academic Resources

Free Drop-In Tutoring is available in the Library, Student Center Study Lounge (2nd floor), and the Rahall Atrium. For specific information, contact the Academic Success Center (asc@concord.edu; 304-384-6074). The schedule will be posted online: <http://www.concord.edu/ssss/node/4>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform me at the beginning of the semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. Students should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry L. Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone number is 304-384-6036 or you can email the Director Nancy Ellison at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Course Readings

Readings listed for each day of class in the course schedule are to have been read **prior** to coming to that day's class. Additional reading maybe assigned and will be distributed in class or on the course Blackboard website.

Student Athletes

Student athletes are required to notify me in advance to be excused from class and are responsible for making up all missing assignments and readings.

Classroom Conduct

This course is heavily reliant on discussion, which includes difficult dialogue at times. **This is an inclusive and safe classroom.** All discussion points and questions are valued; as such students are expected to treat one another and the professor thoughtfully and with respect. Racist, sexist, homophobic or other pejorative or discriminatory language will not be tolerated and students who insist on such behavior will be asked to leave the classroom.

Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off before coming to class.

DO NOT text message or use your phone during class!

Course Schedule

Aug 15 - Introductions and Syllabus
Aug 17 - Lecture: Introducing Sociology
Aug 19 - Read: Massey, "Personal Experience and Public Issues" p. 13-18

Aug 22 - Read: Conley Chapter 1, "Sociological Imagination"
Aug 24 - Read: Conley Chapter 1, "Sociological Imagination"
Aug 26 - Research Activity and Discussion

Society and Culture

Aug 29 - Film: Killing Us Softly 4
Aug 31 - Film: Killing Us Softly 4 (continued)
Sept 2 - Film Discussion

Sept 5 - No Class, Labor Day

Sept 7 - Read: Conley Chapter 3, "Culture and Media"
Sept 9 - Read: Conley Chapter 3, "Culture and Media"

Sept 12 - Read: Conley Chapter 4, "Socialization and the Construction of Reality"
Sept 14 - Read: Conley Chapter 4, "Socialization and the Construction of Reality"
Sept 16 - Read: Massey, "The Saints and the Roughnecks" p. 241-254

Sept 19 - Review
Sept 21 - **Society and Culture Section Exam**
Sept 23 - TBA

Identity and Stratification

Sept 26 - Read: Conley Chapter 9, "Race"
Sept 28 - Read: Conley Chapter 9, "Race"
Sept 30 - Read: Massey, "Optional Ethnicities: For Whites Only?" p. 228-240

Oct 3 - Film: Tough Guise 2
Oct 5 - Film: Tough Guise 2 (continued)
Oct 7 - **No Class, Fall Break**

Oct 10 - Read: Conley Chapter 8, "Gender"
Oct 12 - Read: Conley Chapter 8, "Gender"
Oct 14 - Massey, "Boys, Organized Sports and the Construction of Masculinities" p. 121-136

Oct 17 - Read: Conley Chapter 10, "Poverty"
Activity Introduction: *Being Poor in America*
Oct 19 - Activity: *Being Poor in America*
Oct 21 - Activity Wrap Up: *Being Poor in America*

Mid-Term Project Due

Oct 24 - Read: Conley Chapter 6, "Social Control and Deviance"

Oct 26 - Read: Conley Chapter 6, "Social Control and Deviance"

Oct 28 - Read: Massey, "Code of the Street" p. 101-113

Social Institutions

Oct 31 - Read: Conley Chapter 12, "Family"

Nov 2 - Read: Conley Chapter 12, "Family"

Nov 4 - Read: Massey, "Concerned Cultivation and the Accomplishment of Natural Growth"
p. 137-146

Nov 7 - Read: Conley Chapter 14, "Capitalism and the Economy"

Nov 9 - Read: Conley Chapter 14, "Capitalism and the Economy"

Nov 11 - Read: Massey, "The McDonalds System" p. 337-344

Nov 14 - Film: Mardi Gras: Made In China

Nov 16 - Film: Mardi Gras: Made In China (continued)

Nov 18 - Film Discussion

Nov 21-25 - **No Class, Thanksgiving Break**

Nov 28 - Review

Nov 30 - **Identity and Stratification Section Exam**

Dec 2 - Make Up Exam Day