

SOCIAL ISSUES: PERSPECTIVES OF SOCIOLOGY (SOCI 2105-01)

Fall 2014 Kennesaw State University
Monday & Wednesday 11:00 a.m – 12:30 p.m.
Social Science Building 1021

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🕒 Office Hours: Mon. & Wed: before & after class; 2:00 – 3:00; & by appointment			

REQUIRED TEXT:

- ☑ Witt, Jon. 2013. SOC. NY: McGraw-Hill. (available as eBook or regular textbook)
- ☑ Additional readings will be posted on D2L.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, students will be introduced to the discipline of sociology. The purpose of this course is to increase students' awareness of their social world with an emphasis on the social nature of human behavior, culture, social structure, and socialization. We will explore such topics as deviance, stratification, family, gender, and race/ethnicity.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- ◆ Differentiate between individualistic (non-sociological) & sociological (external) explanations for social facts
- ◆ Explain & critically analyze social facts based on the development of one's "sociological imagination"
- ◆ Apply various sociological concepts & theoretical perspectives to the understanding of society
- ◆ To understand the reciprocal relationship between individual & society
- ◆ To understand the diversity of American society

STATEMENT ON GENERAL EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENT:

THIS COURSE IS A KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT AND ADDRESSES THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOME(S) LISTED BELOW:

CRITICAL THINKING: Students articulate a position on an issue and support it by evaluating evidence relevant to the position, considering opposing positions or evidence, and documenting sources according to convention. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT KSU'S GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM, PLEASE VISIT

[HTTP://CATALOG.KENNESAW.EDU/PREVIEW_PROGRAM.PHP?CATOID=10&POIID=704](http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poiid=704)

Sociology is one of the few academic disciplines that many students enter into with strong and established beliefs concerning the subject matter. This is especially true when controversial topics such as the ones that we will be discussing are challenged and critiqued. With this said, there are a few classroom rules that will be established:

- Acknowledging that racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, and other forms of institutionalized forms of oppression exist, we agree not to blame others or ourselves for the misinformation we have learned but accept responsibility not to repeat misinformation and to use our sociological knowledge to change perceptions.^{1*}
- We agree not to "blame the victim(s)" for the conditions of her/his life because this type of explanation ignores the institutionalized social structures that block progress and perpetuates social inequality*
- Never demean, devalue, or ridicule someone for ideas expressed, personal experiences shared, or dissenting opinions. *
- Create a safe atmosphere for open discussion. If personal experiences are shared with the class, it should be agreed upon that these comments are not repeated outside of the classroom and the rules of confidentiality apply. ^{*1}

¹Ideas based in part on: Cannon, Lynn Weber. 1990. "Fostering Positive Race, Class, and Gender Dynamics in the Classroom." *Women's Studies Quarterly* 18 (2): 126-134.

CLASS POLICIES

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

Do not talk during class. Unless you are having a conversation with the entire class, you should not talk. If you do not hear or understand something I say and need clarification, instead of asking the person beside you, raise your hand and ask me. I will ask students who talk during class to leave. It is disrespectful and disruptive to me, as well as your classmates when you talk during class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

All class meetings are important. It is your responsibility to come to class. I will not take attendance in a class this large (250 students), but it is highly recommended that you come to each class. Class meetings are impossible to duplicate. Furthermore, everything that is discussed in class is potential material for exams. Do not email me and ask me for notes, information about what we discussed, etc.

TARDINESS:

Class begins at the time published in the official university class schedule, and you are expected to be in our room, in your seat, and ready to learn at this time. I am well aware that traffic is a nightmare, parking is horrible, and many times work schedules conflict with life. However, **DO NOT COME INTO CLASS LATE. IT'S DISRESPECTFUL AND DISRUPTIVE. I WILL CLOSE THE OUTSIDE DOORS AT 11:00 EVERY CLASS. DO NOT BE LATE.**

USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY DURING CLASS:

Because this class is highly interactive and your participation is important to its success, the use of personal laptops, iPads, and cell phones during class is prohibited. Please either set your phones to silent or turn them off. Do not text during class. I prefer that students DO NOT use laptops because the majority of students are not actually taking notes. It is disruptive to the people around you when you are on Facebook, Twitter, or doing something other than taking notes. Talk to me if you would like to use a laptop so we can discuss the rules for classroom use.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Please be advised of the Student Code of Conduct as published in the KSU Undergraduate Catalog. Section III addresses issues on academic honesty, including cheating and plagiarism, among other violations. If you are unsure of how *plagiarism* is defined or if you are not clear on what "academic honesty" means, go to the catalog and familiarize yourself. Ignorance of the policy is not an acceptable excuse! Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be investigated and if confirmed, will receive a zero on the assignment and potentially fail the course.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

If you are a student with a documented disability, come & talk to me as soon as possible (either after class or during my office hours) to discuss accommodations.

MY ROLE AS A PROFESSOR

As the professor, I am responsible for creating a safe, creative, and (maybe) fun environment for you to learn in. As a professor I am not responsible for telling you "what to study for the test." I will not go over every piece of information that you will need to know for the exams or quizzes. If you hoped that I, as the professor, would be a resource for you to find how you can put out the least amount of energy while still earning a good grade, I am probably not the professor you are looking for. I respect you and your other time commitments enough to share this with you up front.

YOUR ROLE AS A STUDENT

As a student in this class your primary responsibility is to come to class prepared. That includes doing the assigned reading and taking the time to think about how it relates to your experiences and the world around you. In class you are expected to give all of us your attention and participate in class and group activities and discussion. To put it simply, if you hope to do well in this class you have to be an *active* participant in your education.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CLASS TIME

In class we will talk about the main ideas discussed in the assigned readings and then apply them with activities, discussions, etc. We may also extend the discussions beyond what the readings covered by watching a video or

having a guest speaker. Our class time is a supplement to the readings not a replacement for doing the readings.

EXAMINATIONS:

- ☐ There will be 3 exams during the semester. **Exams are not cumulative.**
 - Exams will consist of multiple choice.
 - Each exam is worth 33.3% of your final grade.



BE ON TIME FOR EXAMS! Students who are late for class on exam day **will not** be allowed to take the exam if they arrive after the *first* student has already turned in her/his exam. This policy is to put in place to ensure academic honesty.

- ☐ **THERE ARE NO MAKE UP EXAMS.** IF A STUDENT MISSES AN EXAM, THE STUDENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A cumulative FINAL EXAM ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 3 TO REPLACE THE MISSING TEST GRADE.
 - THIS INCLUDES STUDENTS WHO COME INTO CLASS AFTER THE FIRST EXAM HAS BEEN SUBMITTED AND STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT DUE TO ILLNESS, DEATH IN THE FAMILY, "EXCUSED" ABSENCES, AND ALL OTHER EMERGENCIES.
 - IN THE PAST, I HAVE LET STUDENTS TAKE THE FINAL TO REPLACE THEIR LOWEST EXAM GRADE. WE CAN DISCUSS THIS IN CLASS WHEN THE TIME COMES.

☐ **IMPORTANT EXAM INFORMATION:**

- Due to the large size of the class, there will be multiple versions of each exam. Exams will be identified by a letter (A, B, C, or D). It is imperative that students bubble in their scantron sheets to identify which version of the test they have. If not, the machine will not grade the exam (i.e., you earn a zero for the exam). If a student fails to mark the appropriate test ID on the exam and I have to grade the exam (again), I will deduct 10 points from the exam grade.
 - Once an exam has been completed, you have until the next exam to view the scantron. For instance, if you wish to review your scantron of Exam 1, the time limit ends when the class takes Exam 2; therefore, it is your responsibility to keep track of dates, exams, and your progress in the course.
- ☐ **DURING EXAMS:** turn off phones and all other electronic gadgets. Go to the restroom before the test begins because if you leave the room—you must turn in your exam and I will consider it completed.
- ☐ **EXTRA CREDIT:** Extra credit is not guaranteed. However, if I decide to give extra credit, it will be for the entire class—not on an individual basis. For example, a student should not email me and ask if extra credit is available for them. If I offer extra credit to one student, I must extend that privilege to all students.

D2L CLASS AGREEMENT: Everyone is required to visit D2L before Exam 1 and complete the "I understand and agree to..." quiz. This is not a graded assignment; however, students will not receive any grades until this agreement is completed.

Grading:

Exam 1 = 33.3%
Exam 2 = 33.3%
Exam 3 = 33.3%

Keep Track of Your Own Grade!!

Exam 1: (your grade x .33) = a
Exam 2: (your grade x .33) = b
Exam 3: (your grade x .33) = c

Your Final Course Grade= a + b + c (out of 100)

Final Grade:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 59 & below

Course Outline

★ I reserve the right to change the syllabus; however, students will be notified in advance either in class or on D2L

Date:	Topic:	Required Reading:
M 8.18	Introduction to course	D2L quiz
W 8.20	The Sociological Imagination	Chapter 1
M 8.25	Culture	Chapter 3
W 8.27	Socialization	Chapter 4
M 9.1	No Class: Labor Day	
W 9.3	Socialization/Gender and racial socialization Article: "Night to His Day: The Social Construction of Gender" and "Pink Brain, Blue Brain" and "How Children Learn Race and Racism"	Articles on D2L
M 9.8	EXAM 1	
W 9.15	Social Structure and Social Interaction	Chapter 5
M 9.22	Social Class	Chapter 10
W 9.24	↳ Article: "The Costs of Poverty" and "Imagine a Country"	Article on D2L
M 9.29	Race and Ethnicity Article: "Inequities that Endure?" and "White Privilege"	Chapter 13 Articles on D2L
W 10.1	↳ In class documentary	
M 10.6	EXAM 2	
W 10.8	Gender and Sexuality	Chapter 12
M 10.13	↳ Article: "The Hearts of Boys" and "Heterosexual Questionnaire"	Article on D2L
W 10.15	Education and Religion	Chapter 8
M 10.20	↳ Article: "Bad Boys" and "Beyond a One-Size-Fits-All College Degree"	Articles on D2L
W 10.22	Deviance	Chapter 6
M 10.27	↳ Article: "The Color of Justice" and "Juvenile in Justice"	Articles on D2L
W 10.29	EXAM 3	
M 11.3	CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM*	

*The cumulative final exam is for students who missed either exam 1, 2, or 3; or, those who wish to take the final exam to replace their lowest exam grade.

*Last Day to Withdraw with grade of "W" is October 8