

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
SOCI 2201; CRN 10278
SPRING SEMESTER, 2014
TUESDAY/THURSDAY, 5-6:15
SOCIAL SCIENCE BUILDING (SSB) 2038

Instructor: Bobby Jo Otto

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**The best way to contact me is through e-mail; however, if you need to contact me by phone, feel free (please do not call after 10 p.m.)

**When you e-mail me, please be specific in the subject.

Course Description

This class will give you an introduction to the study of sociology. We will explore various theories of the field as well as the types of methods that sociologists use in order to do research. To better understand how society influences individuals and individuals influence society, we will discuss various topics such as social inequality, race, gender, sexuality, education, and the family. The course objectives below have been designed to help give you a foundation in sociology that is expected to benefit you both in future sociology courses as well as in courses outside of the discipline. It is my goal that you will learn to apply sociology to your everyday life by learning to view issues through a sociological lens.

Course Objectives:

- Develop an awareness of sociological issues, theory, and research methods
- Have an understanding of the role socialization plays in society, as well as how norms, values, and behaviors are socially constructed and vary across cultures
- Develop an increased awareness of social inequality and social structures that reinforce inequality
- Be able to identify and apply sociological concepts to the outside world

Required Reading: Conley, Dalton. 2013. *You May Ask Yourself 3rd Edition*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

** ISBN: 978-0-393-91299-9

**Additional articles will be on Desire2Learn concerning the substantive topics we will cover. We will discuss them in class and you will be tested on them, so it is in your best interest to read all the assigned reading for each class period.

Grading System:

- 4 Exams—65%
- Informal writing assignments—20%
- Pop quizzes—15%

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR OWN GRADE

- Exam One: (your grade x 16.25) = a
- Exam Two: (your grade x 16.25) = b
- Exam Three: (your grade x 16.25) = c
- Final Exam: (your grade x 16.25) = d
 - Or (average four grades x .65)
- Informal Writing Assignments: (avg. all grades after dropping lowest x .20) = e
- Pop quizzes: (avg. all grades after dropping lowest x .15) = f

Total Grade: a + b + c + d + e + f (out of 100)

Grading Scale

90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
59 and below = F

Exams

There will be four exams throughout the semester, and each will comprise 16.25% of your final grade (65% total). Exam questions will be drawn from the textbook, assigned readings, class discussion, lecture, and videos. Each exam will consist of 50 questions (multiple choice, true/false, and matching). I will provide a study guide before each exam and we will review at the end of class prior to examination day. Please be on time for the exam.

- **Make-up Policy:** I understand that emergencies happen; however, you need to contact me **BEFORE** the scheduled exam if something arises. In case an **emergency** does happen, you need to take your exam **within one week** of when the exam was scheduled. If you do not contact me (either through phone or e-mail) before your exam, you will receive a zero. If you schedule a make-up and do not come, you will also receive a zero. Make-up exams will either be taken in the testing center on campus, the small conference room in the sociology department, or in my office.
- Examples of extreme emergency: death in the family, car accident, serious illness, arrest, court date/jury duty, University-sponsored activity (athletic events, etc.). You must provide documentation pertaining to your absence.
- Examples of non-extreme “emergencies”: routine doctor or dentist visit, forgetfulness, oversleeping.

- As the instructor, I reserve the right to determine what “counts” as an emergency and what “counts” as appropriate documentation so you should ask me before missing an exam.

Informal Writing (in-class)

I will be giving ten random, in-class writing assignments throughout the semester. The purpose of these assignments is to encourage you to think about the material (readings, lectures, videos, activities, etc.) and then express your thoughts in writing. Each assignment is graded on a 3-point scale (0=Did not complete; 1=Poor; 2=Average; 3=Excellent). If you show up late, leave early, or do not attend class (and your absence is unexcused) and miss the opportunity, you cannot make up this assignment. You are allowed to drop one of your informal writing assignments.

Pop Quizzes

There will be seven “pop” quizzes throughout the semester, which will be based on class readings for that week. Each quiz will consist of 5 questions (worth one point a piece) and they will pertain to sociological concepts from the particular chapter(s) and readings we are discussing that week. If you show up late, leave early, or do not attend class (and your absence is unexcused) and miss the quiz, you cannot make it up. However, you are allowed to drop your lowest quiz grade.

How do I Succeed in this Course?

- 1) Read the syllabus! It outlines the whole course as well as what is expected of you.
- 2) Attend class and be on time. Being late disrupts your learning, as well as those around you. Punctuality is a good quality to have!
- 3) Do the reading! It will help you to participate in class as well as succeed on the exams.
- 4) Notes, notes, notes. Take notes on each of the readings. Trust me, it will help!
- 5) Study in groups—others may pick up on material that you overlooked, and vice-versa. However, don’t rely on those groups to teach you the material in lieu of attending class or doing the readings yourself.
- 6) The reading load varies for each class. Anticipate days with heavier reading and **START EARLY**

**Don’t e-mail me at the end of the semester asking what you can do to get the grade you want. You get the grade you earn, and you have the whole semester to do so.

Course Policies and Conduct

Academic Dishonesty

According to KSU's academic policy in the student handbook "No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior [that] a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s)". (http://www.kennesaw.edu/student_life/forms/shb/ksushp14.pdf)

**Plagiarism is only one example of academic dishonesty. Familiarize yourself with the above website concerning all aspects of academic dishonesty. Violation of the Academic Honesty policy will result in an F in the course and possible disciplinary action. All violations will be formally reported. Do not cheat, plagiarize, or violate any of the rules concerning this policy! Again, do not cheat, plagiarize, or violate any of these rules!

Disabilities and Accommodation

Students who wish to request accommodations for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services, of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to me in which an accommodation is sought.

- If you are a student with a documented disability, please contact me at the beginning of the semester to discuss accommodations.

Withdrawals

Last day to withdrawal from the course is March 3rd—the midpoint of the semester. If you withdraw by this point, you will not receive an academic penalty.

Extra Credit

I do not offer any extra credit so please do not ask. Yet, there will be two bonus questions on each exam, which will give you a chance to improve each exam grade.

Desire2Learn

Check D2L frequently as important announcements and content will be continuously posted.

Classroom Behavior

- We will be talking about a number of controversial topics throughout the semester and while I encourage class discussion, be respectful of your peers. Do not interrupt your classmates or say derogatory comments towards each other; it will not be tolerated. Do not talk when others are speaking; that also includes me! If you intentionally offend someone or myself, I reserve the right to ask you to leave class on that particular day. If you are respectful, there should be no problems.
- Technology is a fundamental aspect of the classroom; however, it can often interfere with the learning environment if it is used inappropriately. Therefore, laptops are NOT ALLOWED to be used INAPPROPRIATELY in my classroom. You may take notes, but do not surf the Internet, login to Facebook, etc. Also, DO NOT use your cell phones (or other electronic devices—iPods, MP-3 players, etc... I shouldn't have to explain myself) while you are in my class; please turn them off or on silent! If you choose to utilize technology in a manner that I deem inappropriate or your use of technology is a distraction to me or others, I reserve the right to confiscate your technological device for that day.

Phone Numbers That May be Useful

- **Teaching Support Numbers**
 - Writing Center: 770-423-6380
 - Disability Services: 770-423-6443
- **Health and Medical Services**
 - Student Health Service Clinic: 770-423-6644
 - KSU Counseling and Psychological Services: 770-423-6600

Important Dates to Remember

- **1/30th—Exam One**
- **2/25th—Exam Two**
- **3/3rd—Midpoint of the Semester**
- **3/27th—Exam Three**
- **3/29th-4/4th—Spring Break**
- **5/1st—Final Exam (6:00-8:00)**

Course Schedule

****The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations will likely occur****

****Reading schedule: For each class period, please read the assigned material (textbook and additional readings on Desire2Learn). Since quizzes and writing assignments are given out randomly, it is in your best interest to be prepared for class. Furthermore, reading the assigned material will enhance your participation and the class discussion****

****AR: Additional reading on D2L****

DATE	SUBJECT	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS DUE
January 9 th	Introduction to Class: Syllabus	None
January 14 th	Chapter One—The Sociological Imagination: An Introduction	Pp. 3-15 AR: “Thinking Sociology and Doing Sociology” AR: “The Promise” by C. Wright Mills
January 16 th	Chapter One—The Sociological Imagination: An Introduction	Pp. 16-39 AR: “Factals, Theories, and Patterns” by Raskoff
January 21 st	Chapter Two—Methods	Pp. 43-71 AR: “Matching Research Methods to Research Questions” by Inniss AR: “Where to Sit” by Wright
January 23 rd	Chapter Two—Methods Chapter Three—Culture and Media	AR: “Scary Numbers” by Best Pp. 75-94
January 28 th	Chapter Three—Culture and Media	Pp. 95-113 AR: “The American Symbols of Status” by Schor
January 30th	Exam One—Chapters 1-3 and additional readings	NO CLASS READINGS
February 4 th	Chapter Four—Socialization and the Construction of Reality	Pp. 117-135
February 6 th	Chapter Four—Socialization and the Construction of Reality	Pp. 136-149 AR: “Stand by our Man” by Raskoff
February 11 th	Chapter Five—Groups and Networks	Pp. 153-183

February 13 th	Chapter Six—Social Control and Deviance	Pp. 187-213
February 18 th	Chapter Six—Social Control and Deviance	Pp. 214-228 AR: “Murder and Statistics” by Sternheimer <i>The House I Live In (Video)</i>
February 20 th	Chapter Six—Social Control and Deviance	Pp. 229-233 AR: “Rehab, Labeling, and Deviance” by Raskoff <i>The House I Live In (Video)</i>
February 25th	Exam Two—Chapters 4-6	NO CLASS READINGS
February 27 th	Chapter Seven—Stratification	Pp. 239-259
March 3 rd	Chapter Seven—Stratification	Pp. 260-275 AR: “Class Consciousness” by Sternheimer
March 4 th	Chapter Ten—Poverty	Pp. 375-392
March 6 th	Chapter Ten—Poverty	Pp. 393-405
March 11 th	Chapter Nine--Race	Pp. 325-350 AR: “Celebrating St. Patrick’s Day” by Inniss
March 13 th	Chapter Nine—Race	Pp. 351-371 AR: “Racial Tensions and Living in a Color Blind Society” by LE
March 18 th	Chapter Eight--Gender	Pp. 279-300 AR: “Doing Gender” by West and Zimmerman
March 20 th	Chapter Eight—Gender	Pp. 309-321
March 25 th	Chapter Eight--Gender	Pp. 300-309 AR: “ Backstage out in Front” by Inniss AR: “Does Finger Size Reveal Sexual Orientation” by Raskoff
March 27th	Exam Three—Chapters 7-10	NO CLASS READINGS
March 29th-April 4th	SPRING BREAK—ENJOY	NO CLAS READINGS
April 8 th	Chapter Eleven—Health and Society	Pp. 409-416 Guest Speaker
April 10 th	Chapter Eleven—Health and Society	Pp. 416-445
April 15 th	Chapter Twelve—Family	Pp. 451-474
April 17 th	Chapter Twelve—Family	Pp. 474-491 AR: “The Overextended Family” by Hochschild
April 22 nd	Chapter Thirteen—Education	Pp. 495-519
April 24 th	Chapter Thirteen—Education	Pp. 519-533 AR: “Hitting Them Hardest When They are Small” by Kozol
April 29 th	Chapter Seventeen—Science, the Environment and Society and	Pp. 670-680 Pp. 706-725

	Chapter 18—Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change	AR: “Generation X, Y, and Z” by Alwin
May 1st	Final Exam—Chapters 11, 12, 13, 17, and 18	NO CLASS READINGS; Change in time: 6:00-8:00