

'Introduction to Sociology' Syllabus

Basic Course Information

Location: 132 Atrium Bldg. (Marietta)
Meeting day/time: M/W 9:30—10:45 a.m.
Course: SOCI 1101 10260
Credit hours: 3

Instructor Information

Instructor: Desmond F. Goss
Office location: J327 Atrium Bldg. (Marietta)
Office hours: M/W 12:30—1:30 p.m. (or by appointment)
Email address: Dgoss14@kennesaw.edu (or through D2L)

Course Description

This course is a survey of the discipline of sociology. We will discuss sociological theory, methods, and selected substantive areas, with an emphasis on social inequality.

Course Goals

Upon completing this course, you should be able to...

- Illustrate the significance of structural factors in social life.
- Appreciate the role of human agency in fostering social change.
- Elicit a perspective on social life that is based on social-scientific explanations.
- Describe the process of how humans become social beings.
- Appreciate how the social location of individuals influences their lives, behaviors, and mentalities.
- Exhibit improvement in the quality and sophistication of your writing, reading comprehension, and critical thinking skill.

Disability Accommodations

If you would like to request disability accommodations you may do so by registering with [Student Disability Services](#). After registering, you must provide the appropriate documentation to the instructors of all the classes in which you seek accommodations.

Academic Honesty

Violations of academic honesty (for example, forging excuses for absences, using unauthorized cheat sheets during exams, copying the work of other students, or plagiarizing from internet sources without citing) will result in a '0' on the associated assignment, an 'F' in the course, and/or further disciplinary actions, depending on the severity of the case (see KSU's [Codes of Conduct](#) for more information).

Attendance

Research has demonstrated a strong link between class attendance and final grades.¹ Therefore, regular and punctual class attendance is required. Attendance will be tabulated at any time over the class period – therefore, you should attend each class meeting through its entirety. **You are allowed four unexcused absences before receiving a three-point deduction in final grade for every additional absence.** Jury duty, military orders, religious observances/weddings (with written request during the first week of class), contagious or severe illness affecting you or your dependents (with dated doctor's note), and university-sponsored events (with prior approval from the Office of the Provost) constitute acceptable excuses for absences and are thus exempt from penalties. However, excuses for other compulsory absences (e.g., funerals) are considered acceptable only when you submit notification prior to your absence.

Excessive tardiness and frequent early departures are disruptive, rude, and disrespectful to your classmates and instructors. **Therefore, if your tardiness or early departures become excessive, you may be withdrawn from the class.**

In-class Technology: Cell phones, Laptops, Tablets, and Cameras

Research has demonstrated that students who use their phones, laptops, and tablets in class generally fare worse in those classes than students who don't.² Moreover, students in the vicinity of other students using these devices earn lower grades than students who sit further away. **Therefore, phones, laptops, and tablets should be powered-down or silenced and put away before class begins.** If you have an exceptional need to use such technology during class, you may submit a written request to me one week before the class during which you intend to use it. Similarly, taking pictures or video of board-work or slide presentations during class is also prohibited.

Discussion Etiquette

We will discuss topics that some find controversial or taboo. During contentious discussion, you should remain calm, allow others to speak, and base all claims in scientific rationale. Students who are intentionally offensive will be removed from the discussion or from the course, and may also incur further disciplinary actions, depending upon the severity of the incident.

Make-up and Late Assignments

Late assignments may be turned in for feedback but will receive a grade of '0.'

Make-up assignments are permitted only with one of the aforementioned acceptable excuses. **Approved make-up assignments must be submitted within seven days of the associated absence.**

¹ Crede et al. 2012. "Class Attendance in College: A Meta-Analytic Review of the Relationship of Class Attendance with Grades and Student Characteristics."

² Freid. 2008. "In-Class Laptop Use and Its Effects on Student Learning."

Required Readings

We will use **You May Ask Yourself (3rd Edition)** by Dalton Conley as our primary text. Readings should be completed before the class during which we will discuss the associated material as to facilitate your comprehension and engagement.

Grading Scale

97-100= A+	83-86= B	70-72= C-
93-96= A	80-82= B-	60-69= D
90-92= A-	77-79= C+	59 and below= F
87-89= B+	73-76= C	

Assignments

Assignments due in class cannot be submitted electronically and should be submitted hardcopy, to the instructor, at the beginning of the class in which the assignment is due. All submissions must be typed in a 12-point professional font (such as Times New Roman) and double-spaced in a document with one-inch margins. Submissions that are more than one page long must be stapled and numbered. Grammatical errors that seriously impact the readability of the assignment will be penalized (I recommend you use a spelling and grammar checking program before submitting assignments). Always provide an in-text citation and a separate "Reference" section when including information from any source other than your original thought – failing to do so will constitute plagiarism, which is a violation of academic honesty. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in point deductions.

Graded assignments include:

- Three exams worth 60% (or 20% each) of the final grade.
- A photographic autoethnography worth 20% of the final grade.
- Three "pop" reading quizzes worth 15% (or 5% each) of the final grade.
- A roundtable presentation worth 5% of the final grade.

Exams

The exams will use a multiple choice format to assess your knowledge and application of class material. Questions will pull from in-class media and activities, required readings, and/or any other material presented during lecture. Study guides will be available on D2L the week preceding exams.

Photographic Autoethnography

This assignment is designed to assess your acumen in applying sociological concepts and theory, and to provide practice for writing manuscripts in academic and professional settings. You will collect and analyze data (i.e., photographs) and literature pertaining to three different sociological topics of significance to your life. (See D2L for more information).

“Pop” Reading Quizzes

To underscore the importance of reading for class and prompt attendance, four timed “pop” reading quizzes will be distributed in-class before lecture begins. The lowest reading quiz grade will be dropped. No extra time will be provided to students who arrive late.

Roundtable Presentation

The goal of roundtable presentations is to provide you with practice presenting projects in a professional setting. During roundtables, you will present your photographic autoethnography to other students in small groups, using a handout to facilitate your presentation. Each group member will evaluate the presentation of each other member. (See D2L for more information).

Disclaimers

All parts of this syllabus are alterable. If alterations are necessary, you will be immediately notified of changes.

Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Today's topic is...</u>	<u>You should have read...</u>
M 11-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Overview • Introduction to Sociology 	
W 13-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sociological Imagination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 (pp.3-15)
M 18-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class in observance of Dr. MLK Jr. Day 	
W 20-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sociological Imagination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Sociology of Sociology" (pp.15-32) • "Divisions within Sociology" (pp.38-39)
M 25-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 (pp.43-58)
W 27-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 (pp.58-71) • Ellis, "Autoethnography: An Overview" (D2L)
M 1-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture and Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 (pp.75-94)
W 3-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture and Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 (pp.94-113)
M 8-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialization and the Construction of Reality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 (pp.117-136)
W 10-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialization and the Construction of Reality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 (pp.136-152)
M 15-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 1 	
W 17-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 (pp.239-259)
M 22-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 (pp. 259-275)
W 24-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalism and the Economy • Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Recent Changes in Capitalism" (pp.549-560) • "The Reign of the Corporation" (pp.560-569) • "Poverty Amid Plenty" (pp.393-399) • "Why is the United States So Different?" (pp.399-405)
M 29-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender (and Sexuality) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8 (pp.279-300)
W 2- Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender (and Sexuality) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8 (pp.300-321)
M 7-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 (pp.325-347)

W 9-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 (pp.348-371)
M 14-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersectionality • Embodiment and Performativity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill Collins, "Toward a New Vision: Race, Class, and Gender as Categories of Analysis and Connection" (D2L) • Lane-Steele, "Studs and Protest-Hypermasculinity: The Tomboyism within Black Lesbian Female Masculinity" (D2L)
W 16-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 2 	
M 21-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Control and Deviance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 (pp.187-214)
W 23-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Control and Deviance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 (pp. 214-233)
M 28-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority and the State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15 (pp.573-591)
W 30-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority and the State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15 (pp.591-607)
4-8 Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class in observance of Spring Break 	
M 11-Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 16 (pp.611-632)
W 13-Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 16 (pp.632-655)
M 18-Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 18 (pp.699-717)
W 20-Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 18 (pp.717-735)
M 25-Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class 	
W 27-Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 3 	
M 2-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable Presentations • Handouts due • Photographic Autoethnography due 	