

Social Issues: Perspectives of Sociology (SOC1 2105-01)
Spring 2016
Kennesaw State University
Mon/Wed 12:30 pm-1:45 pm
Social Science Building 2038
#10116: This is a 10 week course!

Instructor: Kirstin Ralston-Coley, M.A.

Instructor Office: SSB 4005

Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-4:00 or by appt.

E-mail (**best method**): kralsto4@kennesaw.edu - If you have not heard a response from me in 24 hours, assume I have not received your e-mail and resend it!

Course Description:

This course will focus on the study of the social world in the United States. Our first endeavor will be to define what sociology is and explore how to think like a sociologist when examining our social world. Utilizing our sociological perspective we will look at topics such as Culture, Socialization, Social Interactions, Social Groups, Crime and Deviance, Race, Gender, Social Movements, War, and Social Change. It is my hope that we can critically look at the nature of our social world and our place within it.

Statement on general educational requirement: this course is a Kennesaw State University general education requirement. For more information about KSU's general education program, please visit [HTTP://CATALOG.KENNESAW.EDU/PREVIEW_PROGRAM.PHP?CATOID=10&POID=704](http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poiid=704)

Course Objectives

- (1) We will determine what sociology is, specifically addressing what distinguishes sociology from other disciplines like psychology and anthropology.
- (2) We will be challenged to think critically.
- (3) We will explore social groups and social interactions within the social institutions that we live in.
- (4) We will examine and debunk certain stereotypes and/or myths associated with some social problems like deviance, crime, racism, and sexism and how these myths might aid in the perpetuation of social problems.
- (5) We will respect the beliefs and opinions of others, listening and waiting until they are finished to present our side of an argument.
- (6) We will be challenged to remember that everything has a context.

Readings:

Ferris, Kerry and Stein, Jill. The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology. W.W. Norton. 4th edition. 2014. ISBN: 978-0-393-92258-5

DO NOT GET THE 5TH EDITION!

D2L and KSU Email:

Students should check their official KSU and Brightspace (D2L) email daily. This is the electronic way that I will contact the students. I will occasionally send classroom announcements, assignments, and class updates to your KSU or D2L email accounts.

I will also use D2L to periodically post interesting articles for you to read and use for your writing assignments and/or any extra credit assignments.

D2L is where I will post grades.

Components of Evaluation:

Exams (4 total and lowest exam grade is dropped): 30% each for 90% of overall grade

Quizzes (4 total and lowest two dropped): 5% each for 10% of overall grade

Exams: There will be 4 total exams (3 chapter exams and a cumulative final) in the course but only 3 of them will count. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped. If you have taken the first 3 exams and are content with your exam grade at that point, you may opt out of the final exam. However, if you miss any of the first 3 exams, then you must take the final to replace that grade. Additionally, if you have taken the first three exams, you may opt to take the final, too, as it can't hurt your grade. Each exam will consist of multiple choice. **30% each and 90% of total grade.** Make-up exam policy can be found below.

Due to the large class size, we will be using scantrons for our exams.

Quizzes: There will be 4 unannounced quizzes in the course. Only two of them will count towards your final grade. There will be no makeups given on the quizzes. They will consist of multiple choice and fill in the blank. **5% each and 10% of total grade.**

Attendance: Attendance is **NOT** required. Studies show that students who attend class receive higher grades, but this course will not require you to attend class. That being said, the quizzes will be unannounced and there are absolutely no makeups for quizzes. I will take attendance everyday as a way to give potential extra points at the end of the semester. If you miss 2 classes or less during the course of the semester, 3% will be added to your overall test grade.

Grading Scale:

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

Make-up Policy:

Unless you have a significant reason for missing an exam, I will **not allow any** make-ups. Trying to juggle make-ups for exams while continuing future material is too difficult and not fair to those students who are present. In the event that you have an absence for an exam, you must notify me as soon as possible. A make-up for a significant personal reason is entirely at my discretion and will only be offered in the most extreme circumstances. The dates for the exams are posted at the beginning of the semester. If you foresee a conflict, you must take the exam prior to the day the rest of the class takes it.

There will be no makeups allowed for quizzes.

Electronic Devices and Cell Phones:

A true learning environment requires attention and participation from everyone. Please do not text, Facebook, or be otherwise distracted by the electronic devices in your life. Photography and videotaping are not allowed. I understand that there are times when an emergency might require a cell phone to be turned on. Discuss this with me before class to seek special permission. But, for every other situation, please keep your outside conversations outside the classroom.

Accommodations Statement:

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 instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought.

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.

Course Outline

****This material is subject to change. You are responsible for all material, including videos, watched in class. If you miss class, be sure to read lectures online and find out what clips were watched.****

January 11th: Introduction and Syllabus

January 13th: Chapter 1 Sociology and the Real World

January 18th: Continue Chapter 1 and video on historical figures in Sociology

January 20th: Chapter 3 Culture

January 25th: Continue Chapter 3 and video clips on Culture

January 27th: Chapter 4 The Self and Interaction

February 1st: Continue Chapter 4 and videos on Socialization

February 3rd: **Exam 1**

February 8th: Chapter 5 Separate and Together

February 10th: Chapter 6 Deviance/Video Clips on Deviance

February 15th: **No Class**

February 17th: Chapter 7 Social Class/Video Clips on Social Class

February 22nd: Continue Social Class

February 24th: Chapter 8 Race and Ethnicity

February 29th: Video on Race and Ethnicity

March 2nd: **Exam 2 and last day to withdraw without academic penalty**

March 7th: Chapter 9 Constructing Gender and Sexuality

March 9th: Video on Gender and Sexuality

March 14th: Chapter 10 and 11 Social Institutions and Work

March 16th: Chapter 13 Leisure and Media and Propaganda (**NOT IN TEXTBOOK**)

March 21st: War (**NOT IN TEXTBOOK**) and Clips of Propaganda and War

March 23rd: Chapter 16 Social Change and Social Movements

March 28th: **Exam 3**

March 30th: **Cumulative Final Exam in our classroom during regularly scheduled class period!**