



University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Introduction to Sociology (SOC 110)

Spring, 2020

Course Syllabus

Professor:	DaShanne Stokes, Ph.D.	
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Meets:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.	
Office Hours:	2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Tues and Thurs or by appointment.	
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WELCOME TO INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY!

Course Description

This course will introduce you to sociology, its theories, research methods, and perspectives. In this class, you will learn how to think sociologically with different theoretical lenses about world events and major social problems around topics like class, gender, race, sexuality, and inequality. Due to time constraints and the impressive breadth of topics we will explore together, content coverage will necessarily be incomplete. This is no worry, however, as our goal is not to be exhaustive, but rather to develop your ability to think sociologically about the world around you. With a sociological perspective, we can find new ways to critically analyze world events and find solutions to many of today's most pressing social problems. I anticipate having a great time in class together, so I welcome you to the class!

Course Goals

In addition to exposing you to a broad assortment of concepts, theories, and issues, this course is designed to sharpen your critical thinking and analytical abilities. Upon completing this course you will have strengthened your skills to:

- *Understand* sociological concepts and theories as well as the social origins of human behavior.
- *Apply* sociological principles and theories to make sense of current world events, public policies, and contribute to social debates and social change.
- *Analyze* different sociological theories and discover the hidden workings of social institutions, social change, human choice, and human behavior.
- *Evaluate* the strengths and weaknesses of sociological theories.
- *Communicate* about world events using a sociological perspective.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required:

Course Syllabus: This is REQUIRED reading from beginning to end.

Additional course policies will be posted on Moodle. These also are REQUIRED reading from beginning to end.

Thirty Readings in Introductory Sociology, Second Edition, by Kenneth A. Gould Sutherland and Tammy Lewis. 2016. Available online. (called TRIS below)

Optional, but recommended because it is very helpful regardless of course topic and level:

Adler, Mortimer J. and Charles Van Doren. 1972. *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*. New York, NY: Touchstone.

Books can be obtained through sites like www.amazon.com, www.ebay.com, or www.barnesandnoble.com. Please be sure when ordering online to allow for shipping times, which may vary and may pose unexpected delays (e.g., a shipping time of “standard” usually means it will be shipped “book rate,” which may take three to four weeks or more). Readings will likely be posted on Moodle.

CLASS POLICIES

The following course policies are presented as a brief snapshot of policies in effect for this course. Additional policies that are a part of and extension to the syllabus are required reading and are posted on Moodle. Failure to read these additional policies does not excuse you from responsibility for knowing these policies or from their being enforced as part of this syllabus.

Our Class is a Safe Space

Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of disability, age, race, culture, gender, sex, social class, religion, politics, and sexual orientation. There will be “zero tolerance” for any form of prejudice, discrimination, or bigotry. Please respect each other accordingly.

Attendance

Following proven best practices, your lectures are not meant to provide exhaustive or complete coverage of every topic and concept we explore together, but instead to provide a wider context in which to deepen your understanding and develop your ability to think more deeply, critically, and sociologically about the world around you. You are expected and required to attend all lectures. Please show others courtesy by arriving on time so as to not be disruptive. As students taking this course are adults, I do not expect attendance to be a problem. Failure to attend class does not excuse students from their responsibilities for in-class quizzes, announcements or any changes to materials, readings, assignments, exams, schedules, etc. announced in class. Just like working at a job, please do not skip attendance and expect a good result.

Participation

Different cultures participate differently, and this course is meant to provide a safe, fun, and engaging atmosphere in which everyone is invited to participate regardless of their opinions, backgrounds, or how well they know the material. This means you are not required to speak and ask questions in every class so long as you actively pay attention, actively participate with your colleagues, and do not use your cell

phone unless explicitly invited to do so. It is expected that you will show the utmost respect to your colleagues and will come to class prepared with questions, comments, and observations ready for classroom discussion. You will only get out of this class as much as you put in; I therefore encourage you to participate because active participation is one of the best ways to help you learn the material and generate the kind of grades you may desire.

Readings

You are expected to read the week's lecture readings before coming to lecture that week. I strongly recommend you take notes on the readings. All content from readings may appear on your quizzes and exams even they are not lectured about during lectures. As with most courses, the majority of your learning will take place *outside* the classroom as you study, complete assignments, work with your peers, and critically engage the activities, assigned readings, and lecture materials.

Open-Door Policy

My goal as is to help you; therefore I maintain an open door policy. I encourage and welcome you to email me or stop by my office to say hello, to ask questions, to make comments or suggestions, learn about research opportunities, or to discuss your work, general direction, or plan of study. I enjoy getting to know students of all backgrounds and look at visits as an opportunity to learn, have fun, and be of service. If you are unable to attend my regular office hours, please contact me to make arrangements.

Workload

Many universities view 2-3 hours of study time for every hour spent inside class as a good rule of thumb in determining how much time to invest in studying. As this is a four hour course, you should plan to spend about 8-12 hours each week completing readings, quizzes, assignments, etc. It is your responsibility to work in advance of designated test dates and assignment due dates and to contact me for assistance if you are having difficulties. I am happy to arrange for office hours and discussions in advance of deadlines and test dates. Last-minute requests are harder to meet and will find me less sympathetic.

Academic Integrity

Cheating, plagiarism, etc. will not be tolerated and infractions will be coordinated with the Academic Honesty Office. Students are expected to comply with the policy on Academic Honesty (https://www.umass.edu/honesty/sites/default/files/academic_honesty_guide_for_students.pdf).

Academic Assistance

People learn in many different ways. If there are ways I can support your learning, please contact me, the sooner the better. Disability Services also offers additional resources. If you have a disability and would be helped with certain accommodations, please register with Disability Services (161 Whitmore Administration building, 413-545-0892, or www.umass.edu/disability). The Writing Center, found at the WEB DuBois Library, is also a useful resource (<https://www.umass.edu/writingcenter>).

Email

Each student is issued a University e-mail address. This e-mail address may be used by your instructors and the University for official communication. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a timely and regular basis. Failure to read and react to these University communications does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of communications. It is your responsibility to set up e-mail forwarding to access your email via other services if you choose, though forwarding is at your own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

I will do my very best to reply to emails as quickly as possible. Please understand, however, that there is only one of me to respond to the emails of hundreds of students and I am unable to work twenty-four hours a day or seven days a week. Quality instruction and giving you my very best requires a reasonable work-life balance; therefore my response to emails will be very limited and sporadic on evenings, weekends, breaks, and holidays. Please be sure to take this into consideration when planning your schedule and activities (e.g., start early and work to finish ahead of time to manage unforeseeable delays life may throw at you). Please also contact me with any questions you have well before due dates, exams, quizzes, etc. (especially not the night before) so that I can best help you.

Please be sure to add my email address to your “safe” list so that it is not lost. Please also be sure to regularly check your “junk” folder as emails can sometimes get routed to such folders and students are not exempt from the content of emails due to their being routed to junk folders.

Audio and Video Recording and Photography Policy

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas and opinions, students MAY NOT PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD classroom lectures and/or activities in whole or in part without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student’s own private use and cannot be published, stored, copied, repurposed, transmitted, or shared in any way. Violators will be dismissed from class.

Cell Phones, Laptop, Tablet, and Mobile Device Policy

The ringing or use of cell phones for talking or texting in class is highly disruptive. Each student is expected to turn off the volume and notifications (e.g., buzzing or vibrating) of his or her cell phone prior to the beginning of each class and to not use the device for texting or talking during class. Except for times when I explicitly invite students to use their phones in class, such as for research or activity purposes, your cell phone should be turned off, with audio and vibration notifications also turned off, and be stored out of sight. Laptop and tablet computers may be used, but only with volume turned off. Ipods, cd players, walkmans, and other devices not required for medical or learning purposes should also be turned off and put away prior to the beginning of class.

Make-up Policy

Tests and written assignments typically cannot be made up except under verifiable extenuating circumstances. Regardless of absences for weddings, vacations/trips, doctor’s visits, interviews, business/work, etc., work and exams are due on their designated days. As you would for a regular job, you should schedule your extra-curricular activities around your course work.

****Special note for athletes:** You need to notify me of any schedule conflicts well in advance so we can sort out alternative dates when needed. In the case of written assignments, athletes will need to submit these in advance of any scheduled time away from campus.

Communication

This is a large class, but you shouldn’t feel nameless or anonymous. Please communicate with me and your TA. We are here to help you any way we can. If I am unable to speak with you before or after class, please stop by my office hours or contact me to schedule an appointment. I will send class announcements via email. Please email your TA if you have a question about readings, lectures, activities, or assignments. We will do our best to respond to emails in a timely fashion, but please do not expect immediate response as we receive emailed from hundreds of students. This is especially true on weekends and holidays, so please do not wait until the last minute to email or ask a question. Please feel free to email me about questions your TAs are unable to answer, if you have an idea in response to lecture materials, activities,

or readings, if you have ideas about how to make the course more useful and enjoyable, or if you'd like to learn about research opportunities. I'm here to help you.

Additional Class Policies

Additional class policies are posted on Moodle. These additional policies are required reading and are an equal part and extension of this syllabus.

CLASS CONTACTS

The space below is provided for you to write down the contact information of two fellow classmates. If you are unsure whom to ask, simply check with those around you. These are people to whom you may turn for help, such as to ask questions about textbook materials, to obtain lecture notes or announcements, to form study groups, etc. The names you place below do not have to be friends or people you already know (though you may well find in the person seated next to you a new friend or study partner). Please obtain names and e-mail addresses for *at least two* fellow classmates before you leave class today.

	Name	E-mail address
Classmate One:	_____	_____
Classmate Two:	_____	_____

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes

There will be a total of ten quizzes, administered during lectures. Quizzes may be administered at any time at the beginning, middle, or end of class and cannot be made-up without written approval with verifiable and just cause. Each quiz will have five questions and is worth five points, meaning each question is worth one point towards your final score. The ten quizzes will cumulatively be worth 50 points towards your final grade. All readings, lectures, and activities covered since any previous quiz are fair game for each subsequent quiz.

Short Sociology & Self Papers

You will write two one-page, single-spaced (roughly 500 words) short essay response papers. These will challenge you to apply course materials to make sense of a real world problem in relation to your own personal experiences. Further details will be posted on Moodle.

Exams

There will be a midterm and final exam. The midterm is worth 100 points and the final is worth 150 points towards your final grade. These exams will be multiple-choice or true/false and are closed-book. You may not use notes. You are required to take the exams when they are scheduled. I will not give make-up exams for reasons other than those outlined in the official University policy (see here: <http://www.umass.edu/registrar/students/policies-and-practices/class-absence-policy>). No exceptions. Specific dates are provided for the exams in the schedule below.

GRADING

Each graded item is worth a set number of points that count towards your final grade.

Item	Points Possible
Quizzes	5 points each (10 quizzes total, amounting to 50 points)
Paper One	50 points
Paper Two	50 points
Midterm	100 points
Final Exam	150 points
<i>Total</i>	400 points

Based on the above point system, your grade will be determined by the total points you earn as follows:

<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>
372-391	A	292-311	C
360-371	A-	280-291	C-
352-359	B+	272-279	D+
332-351	B	252-271	D
320-331	B-	240-251	D
312-319	C+	0-239	F

Please be sure to note that grades in the course are not determined by percentages, as is the case in some courses, but rather by total points. This is to add clarity and remove the need for rounding. If you want to know your grade, add up your total points.

Students sometimes inquire about the possibility of earning extra points or credit by taking on additional work, projects, or assignments in order to raise their individual grades. Please note that extra credit will not be permitted because it would not be fair to the rest of the class.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

Your learning is my principal concern, so I may modify the schedule if it will facilitate your learning. We may also discover that we want to spend more time on certain topics and less time on others. I'll consider changing our schedule if it will help most students in the class. Changes will be announced. Please be mindful of the academic calendar as observed holidays will change course meeting days. You can find the academic calendar at: <https://www.umass.edu/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar#spring2020>

Week 1 (1/21 & 1/23)

--1/21: Intro to course, review syllabus. Assignment: Read the syllabus and course policies posted on Moodle carefully and contact me or your TA/grader if you have any questions or if we can be of any help. We are always here to help you!
 --1/23: Film: TBA

Week 2 (1/28 & 1/30)

--TRIS Readings 1 & 3 (Mills, Western)
 --Quiz on 1/30 (over content this week)

Week 3 (2/4 & 2/6)

--TRIS Readings 4 & 10 (Weber, Durkheim)

--Quiz 2 on 2/6

Week 4 (2/11 & 2/13)

--TRIS Readings 5 & 6 (Ragin, Best)

--Quiz 3 on 2/13

Week 5 (2/18 & 2/20)

--No class 2/18 due to Monday schedule held on 2/18 due to holiday

--TRIS Readings 7, 8, & 9 (Becker, Van Ausdale and Feagin, Schor)

--Quiz 4 on 2/20

Week 6 (2/25 & 2/27)

--TRIS Readings 14 (Bonilla-Silva)

--Film: TBA

--**PAPER 1 due in class on 2/27**

--Quiz 5 on 2/27

Week 7 (3/3 & 3/5)

--TRIS Readings 16 & 17 (Marx and Engels, Sherman)

--Quiz 6 on 3/5

Week 8 (3/10 & 3/12)

--3/10 Review for midterm

--**3/12 MIDTERM exam in class**

Week 9 (3/17 & 3/19)

--No class this week due to Spring Break

Week 10 (3/24 & 3/26)

--TRIS Readings 19 & 20 (West and Zimmerman, Collins)

--Quiz 7 on 3/26

Week 11 (3/31 & 4/2)

--TRIS Reading 21 (Moore)

--Quiz 8 on 4/2

--**PAPER 2 due in class on 4/2**

Week 12 (4/7 & 4/9)

--TRIS Readings 22, 23, & 24 (Gamson, Piven and Cloward, McAdam)

--Quiz 9 on 4/9

Week 13 (4/14 & 4/16)

--TRIS Reading 30 (Ngai et al.)

--Quiz 10 on 4/16

Week 14 (4/21 & 4/23)

--Catch up and review

--Film TBA 4/23

Week 15 (4/28)

--Final Exam to be held in class at our normally scheduled time on 4/28