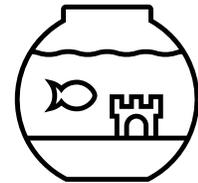


Introduction to Sociology
SOCI 1000-910
The University of Pennsylvania

Summer Session I
May 23-June 29, 2022
MW 5:15-9:05 pm EST
Online, Synchronous

INSTRUCTOR

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology provides a unique way to look at human behavior and social interaction. As humans, we are profoundly influenced by the social forces around us. But, too often, these things are like the water a goldfish swims in—extremely important, but largely invisible or taken for granted. Sociologists are in the business of noticing, measuring, and understanding the social forces that affect our everyday lives. This course will introduce you to some key concepts in the study of sociology, and teach you how to apply them to the world you live in.

This course fulfills the university's Society Sector and Cultural Diversity in the U.S. requirements.

GRADES

Your grade in this course will be calculated based on the following assessments:

Reading Quizzes	25%
Reading Responsibility Days	20%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Project Proposal	10%
Final Project	30%

Reading Quizzes

Reading quizzes will be completed on Canvas. These quizzes have no time limit, and are open until **noon** on the day of our class sessions. You may do your readings with the quiz open and discuss questions with other members of the class, but *you must formulate all answers by yourself*. There will be 7 of these quizzes (one for each class for which we have readings). I will drop your lowest 2 scores when calculating your overall grade for reading quizzes.

Reading Responsibility Days

All students are expected to complete all assigned readings and participate in class activities. However, each student will be assigned two texts during the semester that they are responsible for understanding in depth. On their “Reading Responsibility Days,” students will be responsible for producing a short, written summary of their assigned reading, and for giving a brief informal presentation to the class. Templates for summaries will be provided, and the final summaries can be revised after class. Grades will be based on the student’s preparedness for class, and on the quality of their completed summary.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be administered during class on June 5th on Canvas and Zoom. The exam format will be some combination of multiple choice and short answer questions gauging how well you’ve been engaging with the course content.

Final Project Proposal

Students will be expected to propose a final project for the class by Friday, June 17th. Students will be given a template to help them formulate their projects, as well as individualized feedback on how to implement their ideas into a successful final project.

Final Project

The final project is intended to allow students to engage with concepts they’ve learned in this class on their own terms, through a project of their own design. Options include (but are not limited to) op-eds on current events, research papers, media criticism, original works of art with extended artists’ statements, podcasts, videos, interactive games, etc. More details on this final project will be distributed during class.

TECHNOLOGY

Zoom: Our synchronous class meetings will take place over Zoom. For information on getting set up through Penn’s Zoom license, visit <https://computing.sas.upenn.edu/zoom>. We will be making use of Zoom’s breakout room and polling features.

Canvas: Readings and assignments (including reading quizzes and the midterm exam) will be posted on Canvas. Your grades will also be posted to Canvas.

Padlet: Padlet is an online bulletin board tool that I will be using during our class sessions to mediate and enable student engagement. I will share the link to each class session’s Padlet in the Zoom chat. After each session, I will export the Padlet as a PDF for you to use as a study guide.

Wonder.me: I will be using Wonder for the informal office hours that I hold at the end of each class session. It mimics the feeling of hanging out and chatting after class. You are also welcome to use Wonder to gather with study/accountability groups outside of class time [LINK](#).

COURSE POLICIES

Cameras: Most people dislike looking at a sea of black squares, so I would appreciate if you kept your camera on during class sessions, as a courtesy to your classmates and to me. However, I recognize that there are sometimes bandwidth difficulties, or disruptions in your learning environment that you wish to keep private. If either of these two things will be a regular problem for you, please send me an email to let me know.

Class Notes: I do not provide notes or recordings for missed classes. It is your responsibility to locate notes from one of your classmates if you have to miss class. However, Padlets for completed class sessions will be available for you to review on Canvas (see section on technology).

Attendance: Attendance is not a formal component of your grade. However, you will not get a good grade in this class if you make a habit of missing sessions.

Participation: Similarly, participation is not a formal component of your grade. However, I expect that you will be an active participant in class, especially in your breakout sessions and through the use of Padlet. The quality of your participation on Padlet will be considered in the event that your final grade is on the boundary between letter grades.

Incompletes: I give incompletes for the course only in the case of a documented medical or family emergencies. In these cases, an incomplete is only available if you have completed at least 2/3 of the course assignments. The decision to request an incomplete should be made in conversation with the academic advising office.

Academic Integrity: The online course format requires instructors to trust their students more than ever before. I expect that you will complete your work independently without communicating with your peers, unless instructed otherwise. The University's policy on plagiarism can be found here: <https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>. If a situation arises where you feel you must cheat or else fail the class, please talk to me before you make a mistake that will follow you through your college career.

Communication: I prefer more communication over less communication! If something is preventing you from taking full advantage of the course, please let me know! I also worry about my students when they fall off my radar, so I'd appreciate you keeping me in the loop.

Difficult Topics: In taking society as a serious object of inquiry, this course deals with several difficult subjects, including (but not limited to): racism, sexism, classism, ableism, violence, and mental illness. *In our class discussions, please keep in mind that these things may not be simple academic exercises for your peers!* Good science does not have to be callous or impersonal. I will step in if I feel that a discussion has lost sight of this. If you feel strongly that you do not want to be part of a class discussions that makes you feel vulnerable, you can opt out—turn off your camera, go get a cup of tea, or take a walk. You can shoot me a text or an email if you'd like me to follow up with you later.

CLASS SESSIONS

Class	Date	Readings
1	Monday, May 23	What is Sociology? Mills, “The Promise” Durkheim, “What is a Social Fact?” Berger, “Sociology as an Individual Pastime” Becker, “Becoming a Marihuana User,” with Preface to 2015 Edition
2	Wednesday, May 25	Theoretical Orientations Durkheim, excerpts TBD Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , excerpts TBD Marx, excerpts TBD
	Monday, May 30	Memorial Day Observed – No Classes
3	Wednesday, June 1	Race and Intersectionality Desmond and Emirbayer, “What is Racial Domination?” Iceland, <i>Race and Ethnicity in America</i> , Chapters 1 and 2 DuBois, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> , Chapter 1 Wingfield, “Racializing the Glass Escalator”
4	Monday, June 6	Class I: Income, Wealth, and Mobility Shapiro, “Race, Homeownership, and Wealth” Chetty, “Is the U.S. Still the Land of Opportunity?” (<i>Skim the text and try to understand figures 1-4</i>) Grusky and Weeden, “Is Market Failure Behind the Takeoff in Inequality?” Edin and Schaefer, excerpts from “\$2.00 a Day”
5	Wednesday, June 8	Class II: Class Culture Calarco, “I Need Help!” Rivera, “Hiring as Cultural Matching” Khan, <i>Privilege</i> , excerpts TBD
6	Monday, June 13	Gender and the Family Westbrook and Schilt, “Doing Gender, Determining Gender” England, “The Gender Revolution: Uneven and Stalled” Charles and Bradley, “Indulging our Gendered Selves” Hochschild, <i>The Second Shift</i> , excerpts Cherlin, “The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage” <i>Midterm Review Session, 8-9 PM</i>

[DRAFT VERSION]

7	Wednesday, June 15	Midterm Exam No readings <i>Midterm proctored over Zoom</i> <i>Project Proposal Due by Friday, June 17th!</i> <i>Midterm Survey Distributed</i>
8	Monday, June 20	Deviance and Social Control Goffman, <i>Stigma</i> , excerpts Rosenhan, “On Being Sane in Insane Places” Twining et al., “Managing the Stigma of Outlaw Breeds” Anderson, “The Black Male in Public” <i>Also, please visit PostSecret [the website or its social media pages] and select a secret you find interesting. Download it as an image and send it to me in an email. We will discuss them in class.</i> <i>Office Hours for Project Proposal Feedback</i>
9	Wednesday, June 22	Health and Medicine Conrad and Schneider, “Medicine as an Institution of Social Control” Kessler, “The Medical Construction of Gender” Glenton, “Chronic Back Pain Sufferers” Podcast: “ Why the coronavirus is so deadly for Black America ”
10	Monday, June 27	Wild Card Session: TBD <i>The topic for this session will be chosen by the students, with readings supplied by the instructor</i>
11	Wednesday, June 29	Final Presentations <i>Final project due before class</i>

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