
Sociology 101
Introduction to Sociology

Professor: Timothy L. O'Brien, Ph.D.
Location: Engelmann Hall 105
Time: T/H 9:30 - 10:45am
Office: Bolton Hall, Room 744
Office Hours: T/H 2:00 – 4:00pm and by appointment
Phone: (414) 229-5820
My Email: obrien34@uwm.edu

Teaching Assistants: Tenshi Kawashima Dylan Sessler
Office: Bolton Hall 729 Bolton Hall 741
Email: tenshi@uwm.edu sesslerd@uwm.edu
Office hours: M 2:00-4:00pm W 10:00am-12:00pm

Supplemental Instruction (SI): Robert Koerber
Email: rkoerber@uwm.edu
SI location: Northwest Quad, Room 1932
SI times: M 10-11am, M 1:30-2:30; W 11am-12pm
(note: students must arrive within 15 minutes of SI start time)

Course Description

The sociological perspective helps us see past the events of our own, individual lives in order to identify and analyze broader social issues, patterns, and trends. Through this lens, this course provides a survey of topics in sociology, from face-to-face interactions to global processes, from social stability to social change, from the self to society. By relating classical and contemporary social theories and research to everyday life, the course examines how societies are organized, how cultures develop and change, why inequality exists and how it is reproduced. Over the course of the semester, we will critically examine a variety of social institutions including politics, families, education, and the economy and we will consider how each is shaped by and in turn shapes society.

Course Goals

This course aims to accomplish several specific goals. First, students will be able to describe the scope of sociological inquiry and what distinguishes sociology from other disciplines. Second, students will be able to identify and analyze sociological problems. Third, students will better understand the complexity of social life and the relationship between society and the individual. Finally, this course encourages critical thinking and writing skills, which will be necessary to demonstrate mastery of course material.

This course meets UWM General Education Requirements because it involves the:

- Study of intrapersonal, interpersonal, and social-cultural factors associated with individual behavior, collective action, or societal development.
- Study of human collectivities, organization, institutions, and cultures, their infrastructures and interrelationships.
- Study of capacities for and/or techniques of behavior adoption and change.
- Study of methodologies designed for conducting inquiry into human behavior, collective action, societies, or cultures.
- Study of alternative theoretical frameworks which attempt to explain social phenomena.

Two key UWM GER learning goal for the course:

- To analyze the social-cultural factors influencing human behavior and societal development
- To understand and be able to distinguish the concepts and theories of sociology to appreciate alternative accounts of how social forces shape human behavior and belief.

Student work that will address this learning goal: We address these goals in multiple ways, one of which is through essay assignments that ask you to apply sociological concepts and theories to social phenomena. Another way we address these learning goals is through multiple choice examination questions. One such question may provide a scenario or set of facts and ask the student to choose which theory best explains that social situation or which social factors likely affect that behavior or development.

Assessment Criteria: Student essay and examination work will be assessed on the basis of whether the student can properly apply the tools of sociology to explain a social phenomenon and choose an exam response category which accurately represents a theory in the question.

Course Time Commitment

As the UW System assumes “that study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours” (UWS ACPS 4), a 3-credit course such as this one will require a minimum of 144 (3 x 48) hours of your time. You may find it necessary to spend additional time on the course; the numbers below only indicate that the course will not require any less of your time. A traditional, face-to-face course such as this requires that you spend a minimum of:

- 37.5 hours in the classroom
- 75 hours preparing for class, which may include reading, note taking, completing minor exercises and assignments, and discussing course topics with classmates and the professor and teaching assistants in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams

Required Materials and Readings

- (1) Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum, and Carr *Essentials of Sociology* 6th edition (ESOC)
- (2) Additional required readings are posted on the course D2L site under “content”

All readings should read carefully prior to the class for which they are assigned.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Students have the opportunity to earn up to 1000 points throughout the semester. Letter grades will be based on the usual scale:

- A (1000-930), A- (929-900)
- B+ (899-870), B (869-830), B- (829-800)
- C+ (799-770), C (769-730), C- (729-700)
- D+ (699-670), D (669-600)
- F (<600)

Final grades will be calculated based upon the following components:

Attendance (100 points or 10%)

It is critical that students attend all class meetings because lectures and other class activities *will not repeat* what is covered in the readings. Starting in week 2, I will circulate an attendance sheet during each class meeting. It is the student’s responsibility to sign the sheet each class. Students can miss four classes without penalty. Each absence *for any reason* (except for university sanctioned excuses, such as religious holidays) beyond four will result in a deduction of 25 points (or 2.5% of your final grade). A

maximum of 100 points (or 10% of your final grade) may be deducted for absences. Students with four or fewer absences at the end of the semester will earn all 100 points.

Essays (300 points or 30%)

To help students engage with the concepts we read about and discuss, there will be six essay assignments throughout the semester. Each essay will count for 50 points (or 5%) each toward final grades. These assignments will be based on class readings, and are designed to encourage students to complete readings on time and to think critically about class materials. Specific questions to be addressed by each essay will be provided on the class D2L site.

Essays should be double-spaced and use an 11 or 12 point standard font such as Times New Roman or Calibri. Essays must include your name, the course name (Sociology 101), and the date. Although you will be graded primarily on content, essays must be written in paragraph form using complete sentences and correct punctuation (i.e., no bullet points). Failure to do so will result in a grade deduction. Each essay should be between 400 and 500 words (1.5-2 pages, double-spaced), excluding the student's name, course name, and date. **Students must turn in a paper copy at the beginning of class on or before the due date.** If essays are longer than one double-sided page, they must be stapled or they will not be accepted. Late essays will not be accepted unless due to a university approved absence.

Exams (200 or 20% each)

The largest component of your final grades will be based on your performance on three out of four exams. Exams will be taken during regularly scheduled class meetings and will cover lecture material and assigned readings. Exams may be comprised of multiple choice and open-ended essay questions. The first three exams will cover only the material since the last exam. The final exam is cumulative and will cover material from the entire semester. Students who are satisfied with their performance on the first three exams are not required to take the final exam. However, because you are only required to take three out of four exams, make up exams will not be given unless students (a) can document two or more emergencies on exam days or (b) are members of the US military or UWM athletics who can document a scheduling conflict. Mark the exam dates on your calendar now. Beware that if you skip one of the early exams that could cause a problem if an emergency comes up on a later exam date.

Extra-credit (30 points or 3%)

Students will have the opportunity to earn extra-credit by attending Supplemental Instruction (SI). For each SI period attended *excluding exam reviews* students will earn 10 points up to a maximum of 30 points. In other words, attending 3 SI periods (excluding exam reviews) could potentially improve your final grade by one third of a letter grade (e.g., from A- to A). I strongly recommend regular SI attendance throughout the semester, and this extra-credit opportunity is meant to help students succeed by encouraging engagement with the course material outside of our usual class meetings.

Classroom Expectations

Regular, enthusiastic participation in discussions and class activities is required of all students. Furthermore, I encourage students to ask questions at any point during lectures, discussions, and other activities. One of the best parts of university life is our ability to discuss important, albeit sometimes sensitive topics from a range of perspectives. Keeping in mind that students come from diverse backgrounds, it is necessary to frame contributions to class respectfully; disagreeing with another perspective does not mean it cannot be learned from. Also, as a matter of courtesy to your classmates I ask that cell phones and other electronic devices be turned off or set to silent during class meetings.

Laptops, Tablets, Mobile Devices

Class meetings will demand your full attention. Deep learning requires sustained focus on a single task. Using a computer to take notes or refer to readings in class is acceptable, but if you use your laptop or

mobile device to chat, update social media, play games, watch television, etc., it distracts me and your classmates. If I notice a student who is off task, I will invite them to get back on task. I encourage students to do the same. Feel free to step outside of class to make or take important calls or texts.

Incompletes

I will not provide students with “incompletes” except under the most unusual circumstances.

Disability Policy

It is the policy and practice of the University to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students are to provide a copy of their Verified Individual Services and Accommodations (VISA) to me to indicate the accommodations needed for class. Students requesting, but who do not have a VISA, should contact the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC). More information can be found at <http://uwm.edu/arc/>.

Academic Integrity

This course is part of the University’s academic community and students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of integrity. **Cases of academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated under any circumstance.** Instances of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to University policy. Academically dishonest behavior includes but is not limited to cheating on tests and quizzes, stealing test materials, colluding with classmates or others on assignments, submitting the intellectual work of another as one’s own, or falsely represented oneself or another for attendance or participation grades. Student academic misconduct procedures are specified in Chapter UWS 14 and Faculty Document No. 1686 and can be found at http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm.

Class Meetings and Assigned Readings

*Note: All readings are to be completed **before** the class for which they are assigned.*

ESOC=Essentials of Sociology 6th Edition

D2L= Desire 2 Learn

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading
1	T	9/5	Course Introduction	No reading
	R	9/7	The Sociological Imagination	Chapter 1, pp 1-21 (ESOC); Mills (D2L)
2	T	9/12	Theoretical Foundations	Davis and Moore (D2L)
	R	9/14	Theoretical Foundations	Marx and Engels (D2L)
3	T	9/19	Research Methods *ESSAY 1 DUE	Chapter 1, pp 22-37 (ESOC); Best (D2L); Emerson et al. (D2L)
	R	9/21	Micro-sociology and Interaction	Chapter 4 (ESOC)
4	T	9/26	The Self & Socialization	Chapter 3 (ESOC)
	R	9/28	The Self & Socialization *ESSAY 2 DUE	Lareau (D2L)
5	T	10/3	EXAM 1	No reading
	R	10/5	Gender	Chapter 9 (ESOC)
6	T	10/10	Gender *ESSAY 3 DUE	Grazian (D2L)
	R	10/12	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 10 (ESOC)
7	T	10/17	Race and Ethnicity	Bonilla-Silva (D2L)
	R	10/19	Social Class	Chapter 7 (ESOC)

8	T	10/24	Social Class	Chambliss (D2L)
	R	10/26	Education	Kozol (D2L)
9	T	10/31	Inequality	Fischer et al. (D2L)
	R	11/2	The Power Elite *ESSAY 4 DUE	Domhoff (D2L)
10	T	11/7	EXAM 2	No reading
	R	11/9	Religion	Chapter 12, pp 368-383 (ESOC)
11	T	11/14	Deviance and Crime *ESSAY 5 DUE	Pager (D2L)
	R	11/16	Culture	Chapter 2 (ESOC); Miner (D2L)
12	T	11/21	Culture	Ritzer (D2L)
	R	11/23	THANKSGIVING	No reading
13	T	11/28	Work	Ehrenreich (D2L)
	R	11/30	Families	Hochschild (D2L)
14	T	12/5	Organizations	Chapter 5 (ESOC)
	R	12/7	Social Networks *ESSAY 6 DUE	McPhearson et al. (D2L)
15	T	12/12	Globalization	Chapter 8 (ESOC)
	R	12/14	EXAM 3	No reading
FINAL EXAM; Tuesday, December 19, 10:00am-12:00pm, Engelmann Hall 105				

Summary of Key Dates	
Essay 1	9/19
Essay 2	9/28
Exam 1	10/3
Essay 3	10/10
Essay 4	11/2
Exam 2	11/7
Essay 5	11/14
Essay 6	12/7
Exam 3	12/14
Final Exam	12/19

UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that page is: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf

1. **Students with disabilities.** Notice to students with disabilities that special services and accommodations are provided. Information is available from the Accessibility Resource Center at <http://uwm.edu/arc/>
2. **Religious observances.** Information concerning accommodations for absences due to religious observance is available at: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>
3. **Students called to active military duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty is available at <http://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/>
4. **Incompletes.** A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. The policy outlining incomplete grades is available at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf
5. **Discriminatory conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policy regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf
6. **Academic misconduct.** Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. The policy and procedures concerning academic misconduct is available at <http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/>
7. **Complaint procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policy may be found at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf
8. **Grade appeal procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the College of Letters & Science or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the sociology department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at <http://uwm.edu/letters-science/advising/answers-forms/policies/appeal-procedure-for-grades> Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at <http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/academic-appeals-procedure/>
9. **LGBT+ resources.** Resources to support inclusivity of students who identify as LGBT+ in the learning environment are available at <http://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/>
10. **Final examination policy.** Policies regarding final examination requirement can be found at: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm>
11. **Publication royalties.** Royalties from the sale of faculty-authored publications to students in their classes are donated to the UWM Foundation–Sociology account to support activities and awards for UWM Sociology students.