Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology

Fall 2016, Section 002
Bolton B92
M, W: 4:30-5:45pm
E-mail: dwolover@uwm.edu

D.J. Wolover
Office: BOL 730
Office Hours: M, T: 2-3:30pm; or by appointment

BACKGROUND

Sociology helps us understand why people do what they do by examining the social settings in which people live their lives. The main goal of this course is to help you think sociologically—to think about the social factors that shape people’s actions, beliefs, and behavior—and to show how this thinking can be useful. Through systematic examination, we will see how sociology helps us make sense of people’s behavior and ideas.

The course is organized into four parts:

- In the first section, we examine the basics of the sociological perspective. A fundamental aspect of sociology is the examination of patterns—sometimes called “structures”—of social relations and interaction. We’ll also ask how these patterns influence what people do and think. In the first section we ask the basic question: Who does what? We introduce ideas and concepts that help analyze and explain how behavioral patterns differ between people and groups across time.
- In the second section of the course, we look at structures of inequality by asking, “Who gets what?” How can we explain uneven distributions of resources among individuals, groups, and societies? How are such inequalities maintained?
- In the third section, we’ll examine the great institutions common to all societies—while some differences are present. We’ll begin with some general information on formal organizations, then move on to evaluate education, family, religion, and politics.
- In our final section, we look at sources of social change that shape and challenge inequalities and institutions. Included in this discussion will be social movements, deviance & crime, population, and globalization.

This syllabus, along with additional required readings, lecture notes, quizzes, course grades, and supplementary lecture material will be posted on the Internet via the UWM D2L (Desire to Learn) system at uwm.d2l.edu. If you are unable to gain access to D2L please contact the UWM Help Desk via the information on page 7.

Sociology 101 meets UWM General Education Requirements (GER) 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.
One key UWM GER learning goal for the course:

- 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: A key way that we will address the above-referenced learning goal will be through multiple choice examination questions. One such type of question may provide the student with a scenario or set of facts and ask the student to choose which theory best accounts for or explains that social situation.

Assessment Criteria: Student examination work will be assessed on the basis of whether the student can adjudicate between the response categories to choose the answer which accurately represents the theory in the question

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND READINGS

- Additional required readings are posted on the course D2L site under “Content”

GRADING

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 (of 5) exams</td>
<td>400pts total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance</td>
<td>150pts total</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Online Quizzes</td>
<td>180pts total</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>730 total points</strong></td>
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</table>

Grading Scale (by percent):
A: 93-100       B+: 87-89       C+: 77-79       D+: 67-69       F: 59 or below

All grades are calculated to the first decimal (ex: x.1) and are rounded up at .5. Any value less than .5 is rounded down. I utilize D2L’s “Grades” function and it updates as grades are entered, so I encourage you to get in the habit of checking your grade frequently.

Examinations: 400 points of your grade will be based on your performance on four, 50 question examinations given during the course. All exams (Oct. 3, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, & Dec. 12) test the material covered during those respective sections of the course. The final exam (Monday, Dec 19, 4:30-6:30pm) will be cumulative. If you take the first four exams and are satisfied with the knowledge you have gained and the grade you have earned, you are not required to take the final exam since only your four highest scores will count toward your grade. If you miss any one of the first four exams, you must take the final.

Attendance: This class will consist of two sessions a week and attendance will be taken during each class period where we aren’t taking an exam. At the end of the semester, 2 missed classes (or zeroes) will be dropped from your grade. Any additional absences, or absences falling on major deadlines, are subject to the policy outlined in the “Late Work Policy” section.

Quizzes: 180 points will be dependent on your performance on nine quizzes administered via the course’s D2L site. Each quiz will consist of ten questions (each worth two points) covering the past week’s lecture material. Quizzes will be accessible online for a 2-day period following the conclusion of the preceding class until 5pm on the due date. Once you begin the quiz, you will have 15 minutes to complete the questions and submit your answers to the system. Your score will then be automatically calculated and uploaded to the “grades” section of D2L. You will only have ONE chance to take each quiz during the time they are accessible, so be sure to double
check your answers and save frequently. Finally, feel free to use your notes and text to check your answers prior to submitting your answers.

LATE WORK POLICY

BECAUSE YOU ARE ALLOWED TO DROP YOUR LOWEST EXAM SCORE, NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN EXCEPT: 1) IN THE CASE OF A STUDENT WITH TWO OR MORE DOCUMENTED EMERGENCIES OR 2) A STUDENT IN THE U.S. MILITARY OR UWM ATHLETICS WHO CAN DOCUMENT A SCHEDULING CONFLICT. Mark the dates of the five exams on your calendar now; beware that if you skip one of the early exams that could cause a problem if an emergency comes up at one of the later exam dates. If you have an existing schedule conflict with our exam dates or you do not like this policy, then you should take another course. Incompletes will be given only in the most extreme and well-documented circumstances. Further, no make-up quizzes will be offered without proper documentation

AVAILABILITY

Please come to my office hours or e-mail me if you have any questions or problems with any of the assignments or material presented in class. I am here to help you. Please do not wait until the end of the session to see if me if you are having difficulties. I check my e-mail regularly and will make every effort to respond in a timely fashion. In addition, the First Year Center (Bolton 120)—for mentoring and tutoring—is available if more help is needed. The websites for this service, and others, can be found on the last page of this syllabus.

EXPECTATIONS

Some of the concepts we discuss may be foreign to you and many of your classmates. Your active participation in class will make the time we have together more interesting and will result in your increased competence with the new information. Please arrive to class on time. Cell phones and other electronic devices shall remain off during class (unless otherwise approved by me).

Mark the due dates of the quizzes and exams on your calendar now. No extra credit work will be assigned, so make sure that you are keeping up with your grades on D2L and ask for assistance early if you are having difficulty with the material.

CREDIT HOURS STATEMENT

The university has asked departments to break down for students how much time they will spend working on various aspects of their classes.

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 a course; the numbers below only indicate that the course will not require any less of your time.

For a traditional/face-to-face course, you will 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 instructor in structured settings
- 31.5 hours preparing for and writing major papers and/or exams.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

### SECTION I. THE BASICS: BUILDING TOWARD A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
<th>DUE DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>Introduction: What is Sociology?</td>
<td>+ Chap. 1: pp. 2-21</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>*The Promise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>What is sociology (cont’d)?</td>
<td>+ Chap. 1: pp. 21-37</td>
<td>Quiz 1 Due by Sept 16, 5PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>*Telling the Truth about Damned Lies and Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 14</td>
<td>Sociological Methods</td>
<td>+ Chap. 3: all</td>
<td>Quiz 2 due by Sept 23, 5PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Culture and Society</td>
<td>+ Chap. 2: all</td>
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<td>*The Code of the Street</td>
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<td>Sept 21</td>
<td>Socialization, the Life Course, and Aging</td>
<td>+ Chap. 3: all</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Groups, Categories, Networks, and Identities</td>
<td>+ Chap. 5: pp. 128-140</td>
<td>Quiz 3 due by Sept 30, 5PM</td>
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<td>*Social Networks</td>
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<td>Sept 28</td>
<td>Networks and Identities (cont’d)</td>
<td>*The Body and Bathing: Help with Personal Care at Home</td>
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<td>*Are Your Friends Making You Fat?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
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<td><strong>TEST 1</strong></td>
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### SECTION II. STRUCTURES OF INEQUALITY AND POWER

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
<th>DUE DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Stratification, Class, and Inequality</td>
<td>+ Chap. 7: all</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Stratification (cont’d)</td>
<td>*As American as Apple Pie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>+ Chap. 9: all</td>
<td>Quiz 4 Due by Oct. 14, 5PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Gender (cont’d)</td>
<td>*Doing Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>Race &amp; Ethnicity</td>
<td>+ Chap. 10: all</td>
<td>Quiz 5 due by Oct 21, 5PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Race &amp; Ethnicity (cont’d)</td>
<td>* On Race and the Census: Struggling with Categories that No Longer Apply</td>
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<td>Oct 26</td>
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<td><strong>TEST 2</strong></td>
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### SECTION III. SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Organizations</td>
<td>+Chap. 5: pp. 140-155</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>*Bureaucracy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Bureaucracy: Resistance to Change and Adaptation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>+Chap. 12: pp. 356-372</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>*How Schools Really Matter</td>
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<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Families and Intimate Relationships;</td>
<td>+Chap. 11: all</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>+Chap. 12: pp. 373-391</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>+Chap. 13: pp. 392-409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td><strong>TEST 3</strong></td>
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### SECTION IV. SOCIAL CHANGE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Social Movements &amp; Terrorism</td>
<td>+Chap. 16: pp. 509-516</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+Chap. 13: pp. 409-411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>Crime &amp; Deviance</td>
<td>+Chap. 6: all</td>
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<td>*Crime Decline in Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>Urbanization</td>
<td>+Chap. 15: 464-483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Population Change</td>
<td>+Chap. 15: 483-499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Social Change &amp; Globalization</td>
<td>+Chap. 16: pp. 500-509 &amp; pp. 516-535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td><strong>TEST 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Discuss Test 4 and Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 19</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM: 4:30-6:30PM</strong></td>
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BASIC SUGGESTIONS TO HELP YOU LEARN MORE IN SOC. 101 (and do your best on exams)
--adapted from K. Redding 2011

1. Keep up with the readings, doing them before the class for which they are due
   - For the chapters, read the brief summary on the first page and then the “conclusion” and “study outline” at the end of the chapter BEFORE you read the chapter as a whole
   - The important thing is not to understand every detail, but to have a basic understanding of the main topics BEFORE you come in to lecture and discussion. This will help you understand the lectures better and help you remember more of what you hear there
   - A good general rule of thumb is that for each hour you spend in class, you should spend two hours studying outside of class. Think of it this way: a 15 hour course load is equivalent to a full time job of 45 hours

2. On note taking
   - I strongly encourage you to print out (in “handout” form, with 3 slides per page) the power point lecture outlines before class, read them over, and bring them to class
   - Once the lecture begins, add notes to these outlines, including but not limited to writing down the key questions
   - Remember that writing is thinking and aids memory; just taking some notes will help you remember the material well after the class
   - Keep your notes organized together by date in a folder or binder

3. Regularly review your notes
   - As soon as you leave class, your memory of what went on there begins to fade; if you don’t keep it fresh, it will disappear altogether and you’ll have to re-remember the material later (which takes more time) to complete exams and course assignments
   - You can keep the material fresh by taking 15-30 minutes 3-4 times/week to reread the lecture outlines and the notes you added to them. That’s not a lot of time but it will pay big dividends later. Give the notes a quick review while on the bus, waiting for a friend, etc.
   - Regular reviews mean that when you need to access that information, much of it will already be in your head (and it will be better organized there). And you won’t have to do so much work right before the exam
   - Cramming wastes time by putting information into big, unorganized piles in your brain; studying more regularly not only helps you retain more but helps you better organize the material so that you can more easily remember and find what you want when you need it (like in an exam)

4. Some suggested strategies during exam time itself
   - Read the entire question before answering and choose the BEST answer (some may look good on the surface but be flawed in some way)
   - Eliminate as many possibilities as possible; mark these off on the exam itself
   - Manage your time so that you can take two looks at each question or, at least two looks at every difficult question. That is, take an initial quick pass at each exam question, but leave time to take a second look in the last 20 minutes of the exam
   - Leave no questions blank; guesses have a 20% chance of being correct
   - Do NOT get stuck on particular questions; even if you are not sure, eliminate as many possibilities as possible and move on to the next question. Sometimes, later questions provide information that may be useful to help you answer an earlier question
Getting access to & getting help for a course that uses Desire2Learn (D2L) for its Web site

Materials for this course are available on a Desire2Learn (D2L) course Web site. You may see these materials there anytime you wish, using a standard Web browser as described in the paragraph below.

If you have a PC-compatible computer, it is recommended that you use either Internet Explorer or Firefox as your D2L Web browser. If you have a Mac, it is recommended that you use Safari or Firefox. You should also make sure that your browser has “Sun Java Runtime Environment” (Java-scripting) enabled for a recent version of Java. (If you have any questions about these requirements, contact Help as described at the bottom of this page.)

In order to find and browse the course Web site:
1. Call up your Web browser and go to the UWM home page: http://www.uwm.edu OR http://D2L.uwm.edu
2. From the UWM home page, select D2L from the options on the main menu.
3. This will automatically bring up the Desire2Learn welcome screen. You will see a location to enter your Username and Password.
4. Your Username is your ePanther username (the same username as your ePanther campus email), without the “@uwm.edu” part. Do not hit Enter after you have typed in your username! Either hit the Tab key on your keyboard, or use the mouse to click in the box next to Password.
5. Your Password is your ePanther password. After you have typed in your ePanther password, then please hit Login.
6. You should then see a My Home screen. You will see in mid-screen an area called My UW-Milwaukee Courses. If you click on Search with the textbox empty, you will see all the courses you are enrolled in. You can click on the word Semester at the top of the appropriate column (usually click a couple of times) to organize your courses by semester, displaying the current semester first. Alternatively, you can put in a search string (for instance, “psych 101” but without the quotes) and click on Search. If you’re enrolled in a D2L site with that search string, it will be displayed for you.
7. Once you are on the My Home screen, you will see links on the left side of your screen that allow you to change your ePanther password or forward your ePanther email to your preferred private email address.
8. If you have any difficulty getting on the course Web site, please close down your Web browser completely and open it up again, then try logging on again using the instructions above. If you do not know your ePanther username or password, please get help as indicated below.
9. When you are finished looking around the course Web site, always click on Logout if you are in a computer lab, or at least shut down your Web browser. Otherwise, the next person who uses the machine will be using your course account!

What to do if you have problems with Desire2Learn (D2L)
If you have problems with your login (e.g., you forgot your password, or if you just can’t get on) or if you run into any other typical Desire2Learn difficulties, help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may do one of the following:

- Send an email to help@uwm.edu
- Pick up a phone and call 414.229.4040 if you are in Metro Milwaukee (or just 4040 on a UWM campus phone)
- Go to Bolton 225 (this lab is not open all day or on weekends – check for specific hours)
- Go to EMS E173A (this is a 24/7 lab)
- If you are calling from off campus but within Wisconsin or within the USA, call 1.877.381.3459.
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:  

**Students with Disabilities.** Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following:  
http://www4.uwm.edu/arc

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following:  
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm

**Students called to active Military Duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following:  
http://www4.uwm.edu/academics/military.cfm

**Incomplete.** You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following:  
https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf

**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. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at:  
https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.pdf

**Academic Misconduct.** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following:  
http://www4.uwm.edu/dos/conduct/

**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. Policies may be found at:  
https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.pdf

**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 department, college, or school in which the course resides 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://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/upload/grievance_procedure.pdf  
Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at  
http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/academic-appeals-procedure/

**Final Examination Policy.** Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following:  
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

**Book Royalties.** In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology.
The following are some helpful resources available to you on the UWM campus:

First Year Center  
http://www4.uwm.edu/access_success/first_year_center/index.cfm
Volunteer Center  
http://www4.uwm.edu//cvsl/
Norris Health Center  
http://www4.uwm.edu//norris/
LGBT Resource Center  
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT/
Career Development Center  
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CDC/
Advising Center  
http://www4.uwm.edu/academics/academic_resources/advising.cfm
Multicultural Student Center  
http://www4.uwm.edu//msc/
Tutoring and Academic Resource Center and the Writing Center  
http://www4.uwm.edu/access_success/tutoring_services/
Military Education Benefits Office  
http://www4.uwm.edu/mebo/