Sociology 101
Introduction to Sociology

Professor: Timothy L. O’Brien, Ph.D.
Classroom: Merrill Hall 131
Class time: T/R 11:00am-12:15pm
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Office hours: T/R 3:30-4:30pm
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Teaching Assistants: Alex Habeck
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Office hours: T 12:30-3:00pm

Bruce Meng
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Email: bocimeng@uwm.edu
Office hours: T 12:30-2:30pm

Supplemental Instruction (SI): Megan Betts
Email: mbbetts@uwm.edu
SI location: Northwest Quad, Room 1932
SI times: M 2-3pm; T 3-4pm, W 11am-12pm, R 12:30-1:30pm
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 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 good writing, 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 goals 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 that 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 7th edition (ESOC)
(2) Additional required readings are posted on Canvas in the “Readings” module

All readings should read carefully prior to the class 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 from 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. It is the student’s responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. 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%) toward final grades. These assignments will be based on class readings. They 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 Canvas in the “Essays” module.

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), the date, and the essay number. 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). Each essay should be 400 to 500 words in length (i.e., 1.5 to 2 pages, double-spaced), excluding the student’s name, course name, and date.

**Submitting essays**
Essays must be submitted electronically to Canvas in the Assignments section. Essays are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late essays will not be accepted unless due to a university approved absence. When submitting essays, please label the files according to the following convention: “Last name_First name_Soc101 Essay #.” I strongly recommend that you keep back-up files of your essays locally on a hard drive or flash drive, remotely on a cloud service, or both.

**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. 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 students will earn 10 points up to a maximum of 30 points. Attending three SI periods could therefore potentially improve your final grade by one third of a letter grade (e.g., from A- to A). This extra-credit opportunity is meant to help students succeed by encouraging engagement with the course material outside of our usual class meetings. I strongly recommend regular SI attendance throughout the semester.

**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 TV, 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.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
We wish to fully include all students in this class. Students who require assistance should contact the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) (http://uwm.edu/arc/). ARC will assist students with verification of a disability, as well as identification of appropriate accommodations among other supports. If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course you should schedule an appointment with ARC within the first few weeks of class.

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: Readings must be completed before class on the day they are listed on the schedule.
ESOC=Essentials of Sociology, 7th Edition

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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**Summary of Key Dates**

- Essay 1: Feb 4
- Essay 2: Feb 11
- Exam 1: Feb 18
- Essay 3: March 3
- Essay 4: March 24
- Exam 2: April 7
- Essay 5: April 14
- Essay 6: April 28
- Exam 3: May 7
- Final Exam: May 14
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:


**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.** In the pursuit of equal access and in compliance with state and federal laws, the University is required to provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is expected that a statement be placed on your syllabus informing students to contact you to arrange needed accommodations. A sample syllabus statement can be found here: https://uwm.edu/arc/wpcontent/uploads/sites/97/2015/08/Recommended-Syllabus-Statement.pdf.

**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: https://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/

**Incompletes.** 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_Discrimina_duct_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: https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

**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_Discrimina_duct_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: https://uwm.edu/letters-science/advising/answers-forms/policies/appeal-procedure-for-grades

Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/appealing-academic-decisions/

**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.

Update 08/2018