
Sociology 101
Introduction to Sociology

Professor:	Timothy L. O'Brien, Ph.D.		
Classroom:	Online		
Time:	Asynchronous		
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Office hours:	Wednesday, 2-4pm and by appointment		
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Course Description

The sociological perspective helps us see past the events of our own lives in order to understand 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. This 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 social 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.

Course Structure & Organization

The course is online and asynchronous, meaning that everything we do will be done on Canvas and you never need to log in to attend class at a specific time. The material is organized according to a weekly schedule (included below). Each week includes a combination of readings, lectures, quizzes, exams, and essay assignments. The schedule below provides an overview of the material and outline what needs to be done each week. Always do the readings before you before you listen to the lectures. Proceed through the topics and assignments in the order they are listed because the material builds on itself. Lectures for the week will be posted on Mondays and Wednesdays.

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 based on 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 typical student may expect a minimum of:

- 37.5 hours in the online 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 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 as pdf files.

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

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Students can earn up to 1000 points. 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:

Quizzes (100 points or 10%)

There will be 12 quizzes worth 10 points each. Your lowest two quiz scores will be dropped and won't count toward final grades. Quizzes will cover material from the textbook and will be completed using the InQuizitive tool that comes with our textbook. **To complete the quizzes, you must login through Canvas. If you login to InQuizitive through the textbook publisher's site, your grades will not be linked to the gradebook and your scores will not be recorded.** Quizzes are designed to focus and improve your comprehension of important ideas and concepts from the reading. Due dates for the InQuizitive assignment are in the weekly schedule below. There are no make-up quizzes so you must

complete them by the due dates to receive credit. The points you earn from InQuizitive assignments are worth 10% of your final grade for the class.

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 research articles and book excerpts posted on Canvas. Essay assignments are designed to encourage students to understand how the concepts we read about in the textbook are developed and deployed by social scientists. Specific questions to be addressed by each essay will be provided in Canvas. To complete the essays, first complete the reading, then answer each *question in your own words*. Quotations from the readings are acceptable but should be used sparingly, if at all. Instead, respond to the questions in a way that demonstrates your own understanding of the material. A separate references page is not required unless you draw on material other than the assigned reading.

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 as Canvas assignments before midnight 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 cover lecture material and assigned readings. Exams will be available on Canvas for 48 hours before the due date and must be completed before midnight on the due date. 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.

Office hours

Office hours for the instructor and TAs will be held virtually using Canvas's Collaborate Ultra. You can attend office hours by clicking on Collaborate Ultra in the course navigation menu and choosing the session you wish to join.

Contacting us

Email is the best way to communicate with the instructor and TAs. You can expect a reply within 1-2 business days.

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 Schedule

*Notes: Readings must be completed **before** class; ESOC=Essentials of Sociology, 7th Edition; Assignments due before midnight on due date.*

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments due
1	W	9/2	Course Introduction	Sociology 101 Syllabus	Syllabus quiz
2	M	9/7	LABOR DAY	No class	
	W	9/9	The Sociological Imagination	Chapter 1, pp 1-21 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: How to use InQuizitive (optional) InQuizitive: How to read charts and graphs (optional)
3	M	9/14	Social Theory I	Davis and Moore (Canvas)	
	W	9/16	Social Theory II	Collins (Canvas)	Essay 1: C. Wright Mills, <i>The Sociological Imagination</i>
4	M	9/21	Research Methods	Chapter 1, pp 21 -37 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: Chapter 1
	W	9/23	Micro-sociology	Chapter 4 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: Chapter 4
5	M	9/28	Socialization	Chapter 3 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: Chapter 3
	W	9/30	EXAM 1 REVIEW		Essay 2: Annette Lareau, <i>Unequal Childhoods</i>
6	M	10/5	EXAM 1		Exam 1
	W	10/7	Gender I	Chapter 9 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: Chapter 9
7	M	10/12	Gender II	England (Canvas)	
	W	10/14	Race and Ethnicity I	Chapter 10 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: Chapter 10
8	M	10/19	Race and Ethnicity II	Bonilla-Silva (Canvas)	Essay 3: Tukufu Zuberi, <i>The Evolution of Racial Classification</i>
	W	10/21	Social Class	Chapter 7 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: Chapter 7
9	M	10/26	Social Class	Chambliss (Canvas)	
	W	10/28	Inequality	Fischer et al. (Canvas)	
10	M	11/2	Education	Chapter 12, pp 354-370	InQuizitive: Chapter 12
	W	11/4	Politics	Chapter 13, pp 391-409 (ESOC)	Essay 4: William Domhoff, <i>The Power Elite</i>
11	M	11/9	EXAM 2 REVIEW	No reading	
	W	11/11	EXAM 2	No reading	Exam 2

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12	M	11/16	Culture	Chapter 2 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: Chapter 2
	W	11/18	Deviance	Pager (Canvas)	Essay 5: Michelle Alexander, <i>The New Jim Crow</i>
13	M	11/23	Families	Chapter 11 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: Chapter 11
	W	11/25	THANKSGIVING BREAK	No class	
14	M	11/30	Organizations	Chapter 5 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: Chapter 5
	W		Social Networks	McPherson et al. (Canvas)	
15	M	12/7	Global Inequality	Chapter 8 (ESOC)	InQuizitive: Chapter 8
	W	12/9	EXAM 3 REVIEW		Essay 6: Daina Stuklus Eglitis: <i>The Uses of Global Poverty</i>
16	M	12/14	EXAM 3		Exam 3
FINAL EXAM: Friday December 18, due by 11:59pm					

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: <https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

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. To learn more, please visit: <http://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. Students called to active military duty. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty should be noted.

Students: <http://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/>

Employees: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/download/policies/ops/bn9.pdf>

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. <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-13.%20Incomplete%20Grades.pdf>

Discriminatory Conduct. 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://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%205-1.%20Discriminatory%20Conduct%20Policy.pdf>

Title IX/Sexual Violence. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education program or activities, and UWM policy prohibits such conduct (see Discriminatory Conduct, above). This includes sexual violence, which may include sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking in all educational programs and education-related areas. UWM strongly encourages its students to report any instance of sex discrimination to UWM's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@uwm.edu). Whether or not a student wishes to report an incident of sexual violence, the Title IX Coordinator can connect students to resources at UWM and/or in the community including, but not limited to, victim advocacy, medical and counseling services, and/or law enforcement. For more information, please visit: <https://uwm.edu/sexual-assault/>

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.

<http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/>

Complaint procedures. Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%205-1.%20Discriminatory%20Conduct%20Policy.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 respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-10.%20Grade%20Appeals%20by%20Students.pdf>

LGBT+ resources. Faculty and staff can find resources to support inclusivity of students who identify as LGBT+ in the learning environment. <https://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/>

Smoke and Tobacco-Free campus. UWM prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco on all campus property.

<https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%2010-8.%20Smoke%20and%20Tobacco-Free%20Campus%20Policy.pdf>

Final Examinations. Information about the final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, and make-up examinations. <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-9.%20Final%20Examinations.pdf>

Book Royalties. In accord with department policy, the royalties from the sale of UWM sociology faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities of UWM sociology students.