

SOCI 1000: Principles and Concepts of Sociology
Spring 2019 Monday/Wednesday/Friday (9:35-10:40am).
Fontbonne 211

Instructor: Aisha A. Upton

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11am-12:15pm and by appointment

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the discipline of sociology. In this course we will discuss the major concepts, theories, and research in the discipline in order to form a sociological perspective. You will learn how to use what C. Wright Mills calls the “sociological imagination” to understand and explain the world that you live in.

Learning Objectives:

Leaving this course, you will be able to apply major concepts and theories of sociology to issues and events in the world that you live in. You will be able to identify, think critically about, and make sociological arguments. Lastly, you will be able to use an intersectional lens to inform your critical thinking skills when examining issues and events of the past and present.

This course also meets the Department of Sociology’s Goals for student learning:

1. Understanding Sociological Content

- Demonstrate familiarity with the three major paradigms in sociological thought
- Use any of the competing methods of making knowledge claims in sociology
- Identify and describe the major contributions of the leading theorists in the discipline
- Converse at some level about the most central concepts in the discipline:
 - community and alienation
 - deviance, conformity, and social control
 - social stratification by class, race, gender, and other social categories
 - identity and the self
 - social institutions and social change
- Converse in considerable depth about two or more of the above ideas

2. Development of Intellectual And Academic Skills

- effectively read, interpret, and apply concepts from complex theoretical texts
- effectively derive sociological knowledge from non-sociological texts
- use appropriate empirical methods to collect, analyze, and interpret data
- appropriately use and cite research and other published knowledge sources

- acquire habits and methods of study appropriate to the first year of graduate school
3. Development of Transferable Professional Skills
- use information technology effectively
 - use appropriate statistical methods and software
 - write clearly in both technical and persuasive modes
 - use empirical or analytical methods to illuminate a real-world question
4. Self-Awareness And Community Participation
- view social and political activism as an appropriate means of social change
 - develop strategies for impacting social change through personal action, social movements, community organizations, the law and public policy
 - adopt a skeptical posture toward the status quo
 - use sociological concepts and knowledge in understanding her own circumstances (the “sociological imagination”)
 - articulate a coherent concept of social justice

Readings:

Conley, Dalton. 2017. *You May Ask Yourself*. New York. W.W. Norton and Company.

Articles available on D2L will supplement the textbook.

How you will be graded:

Participation (10 points)

Two-Page Weekly Response papers (20 points)

Exam One (20 points)

Exam Two (20 points)

Final Paper (30 points)

Total Points Possible = 100

A: Clearly superior work; obviously beyond a “good job” in some combination of the following respects: creativity, originality, depth, clarity, and critical, independent thinking

B: A good job, meeting all the expectations of the assignment. “B” work goes beyond minimum competence by showing insight, creativity, clarity

C: Adequate work, generally meeting expectations but lacking in some areas

D: Inadequate work, but not failing

F: Incomplete, dishonest, or simply not a serious effort

93%= A

90%= B

87%+= B+

83%+=B
80%+=B-
77%+=C+
73%+=C
70%+=C-
67%+=D+
60%+=D
<60%

Participation and Attendance:

Class Participation: 10% of your final grade:

Because this is a discussion-based class, your participation in class is crucial!

Participation includes, (1) *coming to class*¹. If you are not in class to participate, your grade will suffer. You are allowed to miss three (3) days of class without penalty. Each subsequent absence will cause your grade to go down by one letter grade. In my experience, students who regularly attend classes have a better experience in courses, get the most out of those experiences, and tend to get better grades. I guarantee that you will get out of this course what you put into it. (2) *Reading the required texts*. Again, you will get out of this course what you put into it. It would behoove you to not get behind on the reading. (3) *Regularly contributing to class discussions* (talking in class). Please note that your ability to contribute to class discussions is directly correlated with your class attendance and your complete reading of the assigned texts. Not every comment/question must be brilliant and insightful; questions and “thinking aloud” are important to the learning process. I cannot stress enough how important contributing to class discussions will be to you, other students, and me as the instructor. Speak up!

Weekly Two Page Informal Writing Responses:

Each Friday class meeting, you will turn in a two page informal writing response. These writing responses are not formal papers. The purpose of the weekly two page responses is for you to reflect on the readings/discussions. Do you still have any burning questions? Is there anything that you adamantly disagree with? Is there something that you really like? Do you see a connection to someone we’ve covered in class to your own life or a cultural artifact? This is your space to put it out into the world. On the Friday that these are due, bring some of your thoughts to class to add to our discussion. These must be turned in on D2L before our class meeting on Friday.

Exams:

You will have two exams for this course. The exam format will be take-home and short answer/essay. The exams will not be cumulative and are designed to help you wrap your mind around concepts for the final paper. Because the exams are take-home, barring any unforeseen emergencies, there will be no make-up exams. Your exams must be turned in, in before class on D2L on the days that they are due.

¹ Please contact me if you experience a personal or family emergency. I am strict about late assignments,

Final Paper:

You will be expected to write an 8-10 page paper on a topic of your choosing. You are expected to use concepts from our course. The details/rubric for this paper will be discussed in class. The paper is due before class on the day of our last class meeting.

Concerned about your grade? Want to dispute your grade?

If you are concerned about your performance in the class, the best course of action is to talk to me immediately so we can discuss strategies for improvement. Do not wait until the end of the term!

Also, if you would like to dispute a grade, please wait 24 hours before contacting me about it. From there we can meet and discuss the grade.

Other Important Things You Should Know

Technology policy:

I do not mind if you use technology in the classroom with the exception of cell phones. Again, I will not permit the use of cell phones. Texting, GroupMe, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Facebook, Tumblr, Instagram, and any other app/site that exist to talk to people outside of the classroom have no place in the classroom unless specifically directed. Other technology such as laptops and tablets for note-taking are allowed. Please refrain from using your technology for social media, as this is a distraction for you and for other students. In class discussions we need to be respectful of other people while they are talking. To that end, it's important that we pay attention to each other rather than our screens.

In-Class Discussion Policy:

Due to the topic of the course, in this class we will cover difficult and controversial topics (race, class, gender, sexuality, etc.) to which we may not all agree. You are welcome to share your own opinions/ask questions about these topics and are expected to listen to others when they share their opinions/ask questions – even if you do not agree. Everyone in class is expected to be respectful of others. With this in mind, personal or group-based attacks will not be tolerated.

E-mail policy:

Please make sure to consult the course syllabus, other handouts, or D2L before submitting inquiries via email. I will respond to your email as soon as I can, but please allow 48 hours after you initially email to email me again.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Writing Assistance at the O'Neill Center

If necessary, we will refer students to the O'Neill Center for writing assistance. Please do not get offended if you are referred. Instead, please view it as an opportunity to improve your writing skills. The center offers a service designed to

meet the needs of students, and the staff members are competent, friendly, and non-threatening. We, at St. Kate's, attempt to do our best to accommodate students to help them achieve a successful outcome. When the instructor and the student work together, a successful outcome is usually met.

Academic Dishonestly

Absolutely no incidents of academic dishonestly or academic misconduct will be tolerated. The best way to avoid being academically dishonest is to properly cite any ideas/words that are not originally your own.

Special Accommodations

Saint Catherine University is committed to equal access for all and recognizes that disability is an aspect of diversity. The University's goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to the learning environment, accurate assessment or your achievement, please contact the Resources for Disabilities office as soon as possible. Access Consultants can be reached in the O'Neill Center at **651-690-6563** to discuss academic adjustments or accommodations. If you need accommodations for a disability, please inform us immediately at the beginning of the semester to work out appropriate arrangements. We cannot grant any accommodations without notice from Disability Services. This information will be kept confidential. Please note that notifying us at the end of the semester or thereafter will not be useful to your situation.

Incompletes

There will be no incompletes given for this course unless you have performed satisfactorily (at least 70%) in most of the requirements, and you have an emergency [i.e., sudden illness/hospitalization of self or immediate family member (medical documentation required), death of immediate family, etc.]. You will be required to write a formal contract for completion of the project. An "I" grade automatically converts to an "F" grade one year after the final exam of the term in which the "I" was given.

S/N Grades:

Students who are taking this course S/N must get a grade of C or better to pass the course.

Course Schedule

Monday February 4: Introductions, syllabus, course overview, and introduction to sociology.

Wednesday February 6: The Sociological Imagination

Reading: *The Sociological Imagination* (on D2L)

Friday February 8: Social Theory

Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* 17-34 and “W.E.B. Dubois and the Sociological Canon (D2L).

Monday February 11: Social Theory

Reading: “Why Intersectionality Can’t Wait,” “Most Millennials Believe in Gender Equity, but Avoid the term ‘feminist’ label” and “Queer Theory: A Rough Introduction.” (D2L)

Wednesday February 13: Methods.

Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 2.

Friday February 15: **No class.**

Monday February 18: Methods.

Reading: No reading.

Wednesday February 20: Methods.

Reading: No reading.

Friday February 22: Culture

Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 3

Monday February 25: Culture

Reading: No reading.

Wednesday February 27: Culture

Reading: “How Media Sexism Demeans Women and Fuels Abuse by Men like Weinstein,” and “Sexist and Body-Shaming Ads Could be Banned Under New Rule” (D2L).

Friday March 1: Socialization

Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* pp. 117-136.

Monday March 4: The Social Construction of Reality

Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* pp. 136-149.

Wednesday March 6: Groups and Networks

Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 5.

Friday March 8: Social Control and Deviance

Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* pp. 189-216.

Monday March 11: Social Control and Deviance

Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* pp. 216-233

Wednesday March 13: Social Control and Deviance

Reading: (D2L)

Friday March 15: Gender

Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 8.

Monday March 18: Gender

Reading: “Doing Gender,” “The Medical Construction of Gender,” (D2L)

Wednesday March 20: Gender

Reading: “Introduction: The Study of Masculinity” and “From Transgender to Trans*” (D2L)

Friday March 22: Sexuality

Reading: “Straight Dude Seeks Same: Mapping the Relationship Between Sexual Identities, Practices, and Cultures,” “Kids Gone Wild: From Rainbow Parties to Sexting.” (D2L)

Take-Home Exam 1 Due

Monday March 25: **Spring Break**

Wednesday March 27: **Spring Break**

Friday March 29: **Spring Break**

Monday April 1: The Social Construction of Race

Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 9

Wednesday April 3: The Social Construction of Race

Reading: articles on D2L

Friday April 5: The History of Race in America

Reading: “The origin of the Idea of Race,” and “Racial Formation” (D2L).

Monday April 8: Racism and Colorblind Racism

Reading: “Racism Without Racists,” “7 Reasons Why ‘Colorblindness’ Contributes to Racism Instead of Solves It” (D2L)

Wednesday April 10: Stratification
Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 7

Friday April 12: Stratification
Reading: No Reading.

Monday April 15: Stratification
Reading: No Reading.

Wednesday April 17: Health and Society
Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 11

Friday April 19: **Easter Break**

Monday April 22: Education
Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 13

Wednesday April 24: Family
Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 12

Friday April 26: Religion
Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 16

Second Take-Home Exam Due

Monday April 29: Capitalism
Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 14

Wednesday May 1: Authority and the State.
Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 15

Friday May 3: Authority and the State
Reading: No Reading

Monday May 7: Authority and the State
Reading: articles on D2L.

Wednesday May 9: Science, the Environment, and Society.
Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 17.

Friday May 11: Science, the Environment, and Society.
Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 17.

Monday May 13: Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change.
Reading: *You May Ask Yourself* Chapter 18.

Wednesday May 15: Collective Action, Social Movements, and Social Change.
Reading: “Is the Women’s March More Inclusive This Year?” “Why this Black Girl Will Not Be Returning to the Women’s March,” and other articles (D2L)

Friday May 17: Last day of class. **Final paper due.**