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## INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SOCY 1001, Fall Semester 2015

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*Graduate Teaching Assistants (see course D2L site for office hours and locations):*

- ◆ Dan Simon, [Daniel.H.Simon@colorado.edu](mailto:Daniel.H.Simon@colorado.edu) (lead TA)
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**OVERVIEW:** This course provides an introduction to Sociology as a social science. During the semester, we make use of various sociological perspectives to examine social patterns, processes, institutions, as well as social problems. We will use Sociology to help us make sense of our world and a variety of social issues. The Teaching Assistants and myself especially hope that after this course, you can apply your “Sociological Imagination” to better understand the social forces that shape all of our lives.

**SPECIFIC AIMS:** You should leave this course with:

- ◆ an understanding of several different Sociological perspectives, particularly the *Sociological Imagination*;
- ◆ the ability to apply Sociological perspectives to understand society generally, as well as to understand the causes and consequences of various social problems;
- ◆ insight into the critical link between societal and individual circumstances;
- ◆ appreciation of the myriad components of society and the influence these components have on societal members.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Witt, Jon. 2014 (Edition 4) *SOC*. McGraw-Hill: New York, NY.

- ◆ Please note the ISBN for the book at the CU bookstore is different than you may find online since the publisher gave us a bookstore discount. A different price necessitates a different ISBN. Still, if you buy the book elsewhere, be sure that it's Edition 4.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

A registered clicker is required for this class -- we will use clickers to add your 'voice' to lectures and to give you some credit for lecture attendance. A maximum of 3 points will be added to your course grade at semester's end, based on the proportion of lectures during which you responded to posted clicker questions. Not every lecture will have a clicker question, but most will. You will only receive extra credit clicker points if you respond to at least ½ of the semester's clicker questions.

**FORMAT:**

In a large class of this nature, it is imperative that procedures and expectations be clearly outlined. The information below is designed to clearly specify the structure of this course. In order to be fair to all students, this structure is not flexible except for particularly extenuating circumstances. Unless this is the case, **please do not request “bending” of the rules.** It's just not fair.

The course is composed of lectures and recitation sections. Lectures take place in Math 100, Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-2:50 pm. In addition, you **must** be enrolled in a recitation section, otherwise you are not enrolled in the general course. Recitations meet weekly and are primarily led by one of the course's Teaching Assistants (TAs). For most weeks, you will read one chapter of the textbook (Witt) as well as supplementary material posted on the course website.

Lectures will focus on textbook material, while weekly recitation discussions will center on the supplementary readings as related to textbook material. Most weeks, a short writing assignment is also due in recitations. And in many weeks, you'll do in-class exercises in recitation aimed to bring Sociology to life.

For recitations, **the material due in recitation sessions will be posted on the course D2L site at least 4 days before your recitation session.**

Professor Hunter and the TAs meet weekly to standardize material covered in recitation sections. As such, although each TA has a unique perspective and teaching style, the core material covered within recitations is very similar.

EVALUATION: Many different components, from both lecture and recitation sections, will make up your course grade. This makes the course far more complicated to manage – but offers you a variety of pathways for you to demonstrate your Sociological skills! We trust this is preferable to having most of the class evaluation bundled into one or two exams.

Please note, too, the graduated value for exams --- more weight is placed on exams as the semester progresses – as your Sociological foundation becomes more firm and your familiarity with the exam format increases. Over the years, I have found this to be most fair.

Exam 1 ( <u>Wed, Sept 21</u> , during lecture session)....	10%
Exam 2 ( <u>Mon, Oct 17</u> , during lecture session) .....	15%
Exam 3 ( <u>Wed, Nov 9</u> , during lecture session) .....	15%
Final (Exam 4) ( <u>Thurs, Dec 15, 1:30 pm</u> ).....	20%
Recitation attendance.....	8%
Recitation participation.....	7%
Recitation assignments .....	25%

**Recitation Attendance (8%):** Recitation attendance is an important part of this course. Students are allowed **three excused absences** from recitation. An excused absence requires **prior notification** of your TA (an email sent *prior to start of class* is considered appropriate prior notification; an email after the start of class, even if by 2 minutes, is not prior notification).

For recitation, excused absences authorize a student to turn in class assignments without penalty *within 4 days* of the missed class and these makeup assignments. These are also to be turned in via D2L.

Again, there can be no more than three excused absences from recitation in the semester, so try not to use them up early (unless you must!) This policy is quite generous but requires that you think ahead and plan appropriately.

Other absences will be considered unexcused and will affect your recitation attendance/participation grade. In addition, as mentioned above, **no make-ups** will be allowed for assignments due during a recitation session for which the student has an unexcused absence.

**Recitation participation (7%):** In addition to simply being present in recitation, your TA will keep track of, and evaluate, your contribution to recitation discussion. This is also worth 7% of your overall course grade – these are easy points so speak up, participate and stretch that *Sociological Imagination!*

**Recitation assignments (20%):** During 8 weeks in the semester, a typed, printed assignment is due at the beginning of your recitation session. These are to be double-spaced, no less than 0.75” margins and no longer than 1 full page. *Your TA will not read past the first page.*

Weekly recitation assignments are due prior to the **beginning** of your recitation session meeting and are to be submitted via D2L. The deadline for timing is firm, **these assignments must be handed in via D2L prior to the start of your recitation.**

All required information for these assignments can be found on the D2L site 4 days before recitation sessions in which they are due.

For recitation, excused absences authorize a student to turn in class assignments without penalty within 4 days of the missed class and these makeup assignments. These are also to be turned in via D2L. **No make-ups will be allowed for assignments due during a recitation session for which the student has an unexcused absence.**

EXPECTATIONS: You are responsible for the material and announcements presented during all lectures, therefore it is your responsibility to get missed notes and announcements from fellow students.

Also, Professor Hunter makes “housekeeping” announcements detailing administrative information at the **beginning** of each lecture. It is your responsibility to get this information if missed.

Finally, please try to not disrupt the ability of other students to learn from the lectures; **try not to** arrive late, leave early, read the paper, talk during class, or forget to turn your cell phone off. These behaviors are distracting and disrespectful.

MAKE-UPS: On missed recitation sessions, again, there can be no more than three excused absences from recitations, so try not to use them up early (unless you must!). This policy is quite generous but requires that you think ahead and plan appropriately. Other absences will be considered unexcused and will affect your recitation attendance/participation grade. In addition, as mentioned above, **no make-ups** will be allowed for assignments due during a recitation session for which the student has an unexcused absence.

On missed exams, the exam dates are provided above in the list of grading percentages and also below in the class calendar. This calendar is provided early in order that you can identify any potential conflicts as soon as possible. Excused absences from exams are **rarely granted**, must be a result of **extenuating circumstances**, and must be coordinated with Professor Hunter **at least one week in advance** of the absence.

There are no make-ups for the final exam, and anyone **NOT** taking the final (Exam 4) will fail the course, no exceptions. This is a comprehensive exam and is, therefore, important in bringing together the entire semester’s material. **Be sure to communicate with family and friends as they make plans for the beginning of winter break ~ no early plane tickets!**

University policy explains that if you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time *for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day*. To

qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and arrangements must be made with Dr. Hunter no later than the end of the sixth week of the semester.

MISC: There are no extra credit points for this class, except as earned through clicker questions in lecture.

Laptop computers are **NOT** allowed in either the lecture hall nor recitation sections. To assist with note-taking in lecture, Dr. Hunter will post a **draft** of the lecture slides the day of class.

On weekly writing assignments, it is fine to discuss the material and explore shared ideas with fellow students. However, **it is imperative that the written work submitted represents your individual effort.** To do otherwise constitutes **plagiarism** which is defined as “the use of another’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgment.” (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/acadinteg.html>; Dec 2005). Plagiarism of any nature (including from the internet) will result in a Violation Report being filed with the University’s Honor Code office. We take this very seriously.

Students are responsible for keeping copies of all returned, graded work in the event there is a grade dispute at semester’s end. For example, if our course records show an exam score of “85” but you claim you received a “91” but don’t have the returned exam, your grade will remain “85.”

If you qualify for accommodations because of a **disability**, please submit to Professor Hunter a letter from Disability Services (DS) early in the semester (**by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week**) so that your needs may be addressed. DS determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard 322, [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)).

Please review the course schedule ASAP. If you have conflicts between **religious observance** dates and course examinations or assignments, let Professor Hunter or your TA know **by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the semester.**

The University has a **classroom behavior** policy. Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in the Rights and Responsibilities Regarding Standards of Conduct and to refrain from disrupting classes and other academic settings. The specific policy may be found at: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>.

Finally, the University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises that create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>

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## GENERAL TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

- ◆ A calendar reflecting lecture and recitation topics for specific days can be found following this list.

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### UNDERSTANDING SOCIOLOGY

*Examples of topics we will cover:*

- ◆ So, what is Sociology?
- ◆ What is the “Sociological Imagination”?
- ◆ How do you practice Sociology as a science?
- ◆ What is Sociological Theory?

*Readings:*

- ◆ Chapter 1, “The Sociological Imagination” (in Witt, *SOC*)

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### SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

- ◆ What types of research designs, data and analytical techniques are used by Sociologists?

*Readings and Assignments:*

- ◆ Chapter 2, “Sociological Research” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material and writing assignment (as noted on course website)

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### CULTURE

- ◆ What is culture and what influence does culture have upon social life?

*Readings and Assignments:*

- ◆ Chapter 3, “Culture” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material and writing assignment (as noted on course website)

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### SOCIALIZATION

*Examples of topics we will cover:*

- ◆ What is socialization and how does it happen?
- ◆ Why is socialization an important social process? What are some specific agents of socialization?
- ◆ What is the debate over “nature” vs. “nurture”?

*Readings and Assignments:*

- ◆ Chapter 4, “Socialization” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material and writing assignment (as noted on course website)

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### SOCIAL STRUCTURE & INTERACTION

*Examples of topics we will cover:*

- ◆ What role does social interaction play in defining reality?
- ◆ What are the elements of social structure? What are the implications of social structure?
- ◆ What is a social status? role? network?

*Readings and Assignment:*

- ◆ Chapter 5, “Social Structure & Interaction” (in Witt, *SOC*)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material and writing assignment (as noted on course website)

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## **GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

*Examples of topics we will cover:*

- ◆ What is the difference between sex and gender?
- ◆ What is the “social construction” of gender?
- ◆ How is gender related to social stratification? What are the implications of this association?

*Readings and Assignment:*

- ◆ Chapter 12, “Gender and Sexuality” (in Witt, SOC)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material and writing assignment (as noted on course website)

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## **RACE AND ETHNICITY**

*Examples of topics we will cover:*

- ◆ What is the difference between race and ethnicity?
- ◆ What is the difference between prejudice and discrimination? What are their implications?
- ◆ How do Sociologists study race and ethnicity?

*Readings and Assignment:*

- ◆ Chapter 13, “Race and Ethnicity” (in Witt, SOC)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material and writing assignment (as noted on course website)

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## **DEVIANCE**

*Examples of topics we will cover:*

- ◆ How do Sociologists define deviance?
- ◆ What different perspectives are used to understand deviance?
- ◆ What are some forms of social control? In Sociological terms, what is conformity? Obedience?

*Readings and Assignment:*

- ◆ Chapter 6, “Deviance” (in Witt, SOC)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material and writing assignment (as noted on course website)

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## **GLOBAL INEQUALITY**

*Examples of topics we will cover:*

- ◆ What is “The Global Divide?” How did it develop?
- ◆ What is the global movement for human rights? How did it develop?
- ◆ How significant is global stratification? What forces lead to stratification and what are its implications?

*Readings and Assignment:*

- ◆ Chapter 11 “Global Inequality” (in Witt, SOC)
- ◆ Assigned additional reading material and writing assignment (as noted on course website)

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## **SOCIAL CHANGE**

- ◆ What are social movements and how do they develop?
- ◆ What are some of the major contemporary forces of social change?
- ◆ What forces resist social change? What are the consequences of social change?

*Readings:*

- ◆ No reading or writing assignment for this week.

NOTES:

\* Use this calendar in combination with the prior weekly reading list to clarify assignments for lecture days and YOUR recitation days.

\* Each recitation has 2 days off through the course of the semester.

AUG/SEPT	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lectures:	22 Review syllabus Ch. 1 (Witt) Soc Imagination	23	24 Ch. 1 (Witt) Soc Imagination	25	26
	Recitations:	Introductions, overview	Introductions, overview	Introductions, overview	Introductions, overview
Lectures:	29 Ch. 1 (Witt) Soc Imagination Start Ch 2 Soc Research	30	31 Ch 2 (Witt) Soc Research	1	2
	Recitations:	Ch 1 Soc Imag D2L material/assignmt	Ch 1 Soc Imag D2L material/assignmt	Ch 1 Soc Imag D2L material/assignmt	Ch 1 Soc Imag D2L material/assignmt
Lectures:	5 Labor Day Holiday	6	7 Ch 2 (Witt) Soc Research	8	9
	Recitations:	Ch 2 Soc Research D2L material/assignmt	Ch 2 Soc Research D2L material/assignmt	Ch 2 Soc Research D2L material/assignmt	Ch 2 Soc Research D2L material/assignmt
Lectures:	12 Ch 3 (Witt) Culture	13	14 Ch 3 (Witt) Culture	15	16
	Recitations:	Ch 3 Culture D2L material/assignmt	Ch 3 Culture D2L material/assignmt	Ch 3 Culture D2L material/assignmt	Ch 3 Culture D2L material/assignmt
Lectures:	19 Ch 3 (Witt) Culture & REVIEW	20	21 TEST #1 Covering Lecture & Recitation Material Thus Far	22	23
	Recitations:	No recitations today!	No recitations today!	Exam review, in-class exercise, introduce Ch 4	Exam review, in-class exercise, introduce Ch 4
Lectures:	26 Ch 4 (Witt) Socialization	27	28 Ch 4 (Witt) Socialization	29	30
	Recitations:	Exam review, in-class exercise, discuss Ch 4	Exam review, in-class exercise, discuss Ch 4	Ch 4 Socialization D2L material/assignmt	Ch 4 Socialization D2L material/assignmt
OCT	3 Ch 4 (Witt) Socialization	4	5 Ch 5 (Witt) Structure & Interaction	6	7
	Recitations:	Ch 4 Socialization D2L material/assignmt	Ch 4 Socialization D2L material/assignmt	Ch 5 Structure/Interaction D2L material/assignmt	Ch 5 Structure/Interaction D2L material/assignmt
Lectures:	10 Ch 5 (Witt) Structure & Interaction	11	12 Ch 5 (Witt) Structure & Interaction	13	14
	Recitations:	Ch 5 Structure/Interaction D2L material/assignmt	Ch 5 Structure/Interaction D2L material/assignmt	No recitation today!	No recitation today!
Lectures:	17 TEST #2 Lectures & Recitation Since Test #1	18	19 Ch 12 (Witt) Gender & Sexuality	20	21
	Recitations:	Exam review, in-class exercise, introduce Ch 12	Exam review, in-class exercise, introduce Ch 12	Exam review, in-class exercise, discuss Ch 12	Exam review, in-class exercise, discuss Ch 12

<b>Lectures:</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Ch 12 (Witt)</b> <b>Gender &amp; Sexuality</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Ch 12 (Witt)</b> <b>Gender &amp; Sexuality</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Recitations:</b>		<i>Ch 12 Gender/Sexuality D2L material/assignmt</i>	<i>Ch 12 Gender/Sexuality D2L material/assignmt</i>	<i>Ch 12 Gender/Sexuality D2L material/assignmt</i>	<i>Ch 12 Gender/Sexuality D2L material/assignmt</i>

<b>NOV</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Ch 13 (Witt)</b> <b>Race &amp; Ethnicity</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Ch 13 (Witt)</b> <b>Race &amp; Ethnicity</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Lectures:</b>		<i>Ch 13 Race/Ethnicity D2L material/assignmt</i>	<i>Ch 13 Race/Ethnicity D2L material/assignmt</i>	<i>Ch 13 Race/Ethnicity D2L material/assignmt</i>	<i>Ch 13 Race/Ethnicity D2L material/assignmt</i>
<b>Recitations:</b>					

<b>Lectures:</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Ch 13 (Witt)</b> <b>Race &amp; Ethnicity</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>TEST #3</b> <b>Lectures &amp;</b> <b>Recitations since Test #2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Recitations:</b>		<i>No recitations today!</i>	<i>No recitations today!</i>	<i>Exam review, in-class exercise, introduce Ch 6</i>	<i>Exam review, in-class exercise, introduce Ch 6</i>

<b>Lectures:</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Ch 6 (Witt)</b> <b>Deviance</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Ch 6 (Witt)</b> <b>Deviance</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Recitations:</b>		<i>Exam review, in-class exercise, discuss Ch 6</i>	<i>Exam review, in-class exercise, discuss Ch 6</i>	<i>Ch 6 Deviance D2L material/assignmt</i>	<i>Ch 6 Deviance D2L material/assignmt</i>

\*\*\*\*\* NOV 21-25 THANKSGIVING BREAK

<b>DEC</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Ch 6 (Witt)</b> <b>Deviance</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Ch 11 (Witt)</b> <b>Global Inequality</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Lectures:</b>		<i>Ch 6 Deviance D2L material/assignmt</i>	<i>Ch 6 Deviance D2L material/assignmt</i>	<i>Discuss Ch 11 &amp; Semester Review</i>	<i>Discuss Ch 11 &amp; Semester Review</i>
<b>Recitations:</b>					

<b>Lectures:</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Ch 11 (Witt)</b> <b>Global Inequality</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Social Change</b> <b>(no reading)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Recitations:</b>		<i>Discuss Ch 11 &amp; Semester Review</i>	<i>Discuss Ch 11 &amp; Semester Review</i>	<i>No recitations today!</i>	<i>No recitations today!</i>

**COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM: Thurs. Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m., MATH 100**