

Introduction to Sociology

WEDNESDAY 6-8 PM KTCH 234

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Office Hours: M/W 5-6 PM or by appointment

Hello friends!

Thanks for deciding to be a part of this class! I'm glad you're here and hope your experience is meaningful.

"It can be said that the first wisdom of sociology is this – things are not what they seem" – Peter Berger

Have you ever wondered why some people live in mobile homes while others own four or five luxury homes? Can you explain how it is that women are often asked to choose between career and family, while men are not? Or why guys usually don't wear makeup? Why does religion so often seem to breed intolerance? Why can we watch thousands of violent acts on prime time network television, but nudity is strictly taboo? Why have tattoos become somewhat more acceptable to mainstream society? Why do people continue to drive SUVs even with the threat of global warming? Sociology can help us answer these kinds of questions, and many, many more. If you've ever been curious about people - their habits, lifestyles, and values – this class is for you.

About This Class:

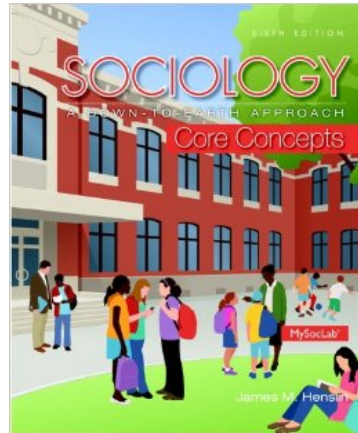
- You will develop a "sociological imagination," an exciting way of understanding social life that helps you grasp how people relate to one another and how society "works" (and *doesn't* work!).
- You will sharpen your critical thinking skills. We will learn to analyze, and think differently about, things that are important to us: families, television/media, gender, fashion, food, race, religion, money, and much more.
- You will be able to *apply* sociology to your own life. If you choose, this class can actually transform you, helping you to live a more thoughtful, purposeful, fulfilling, and engaged life.
- This is a **hybrid** course, which means we will only meet **once** per week. You will have additional work to complete online every week without exception. It is your responsibility to keep up with the schedule and submit all assignments on time..
- When e-mailing me, **make sure you put your full course name and section # in the subject line** as well as **your full name in the body of the e-mail**. I teach a LOT of classes, and I don't always know which name is in which section. Also make sure you use proper spelling/grammar. I will respond to ALL e-mails within 24 hours as long as they are sent by 5 PM Friday. *Weekend e-mails will be answered by Monday morning.*



This space respects all people regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, age, social class, religion, ethnicity, or ability.

Class Texts:

- Henslin. *Sociology: A Down-To-Earth Approach, Core Concept 6th ed.* Allyn & Bacon



- Various articles/texts as assigned by instructor and posted on D2L

Computers:

Laptops, netbooks, tablets, and e-readers are not allowed in the classroom unless the student has a documented medical condition which necessitates the use of a computer. This is **nonnegotiable**. The slides for each class session will be available on D2L.

Late Work:

Unexcused late work is **not** accepted except in the most serious circumstances. If you are going to miss an assignment, please make arrangements ahead of time and notify me. If you happen to miss an assignment, contact me as soon as possible. If you wait weeks to contact me, you will **not** be allowed to make it up.

Assignments and Grades:

Attendance/Participation	14 X 5 pts each = 70 pts
Quizzes:	14 x 10 pts each = 140 pts
Reading Notes:	13 x 5 pts each = 65 pts
Discussion Board Assignments (4):	4 x 20 pts each = 80 pts
Written Assignments (2):	2x 100 pts each = 200 pts
Unit Tests:	4x 100 pts each = 400 pts

TOTAL = 955 pts

A (888-955) ; A- (860-887) ;
 B+ (831-859) ; B (793-830) ; B- (764-792);
 C+ (735-763) ; C (697-734) ; C- (669-696);
 D (573-668); F= **Below 573**



- Attendance/Participation:** In this class, attendance is mandatory. We only meet once per week, so even one absence puts you at a severe disadvantage. If you must miss a class for a legitimate reason, I need an e-mail from you prior to the beginning of class; if you cannot send one before class, I will need outside documentation to support your absence. **Two unexcused absences will cause you to automatically fail the course.** If you come to class each week, though, then that is 70 free points!

- That said, I realize that we all have struggles and priorities beyond this class. **This policy is not meant to punish you for having to deal with a serious situation; it's to give you that extra push on those days that you have no excuse but just don't feel like showing up, despite your good intentions.**

I encourage you to participate in class discussions as much as you can. We all have important and interesting ideas to share. I think participation is too difficult to grade directly. However, I will use it to 'bump you up' if you're on the borderline (one point away or less) of a higher grade. Participation means speaking out in class, taking risks, engaging your classmates, being open to new ideas, sharing your own ideas and enthusiastically engaging the processes I take you through.

- **Quizzes** will be taken online each week, and will cover all of the week's assigned readings. Quizzes are to be submitted online before our meeting, and cannot be made up.
- **Reading Notes** will be submitted each week in D2L prior to our class meeting. You will be expected to define all the terms and important people from the assigned textbook chapter (a list is provided at the end of each chapter), provide a brief (2-3 sentences) summary of **each** non-textbook reading, and **three** questions about the readings and how they connect to the larger scope of the class. These will also assist you on discussion assignments, papers, and in preparing for exams.
- **Discussion Board Assignments:** Students are required to complete **four** content-based discussion board assignments. Details of these assignments will come as the semester progresses.
- **Written Assignments:** All students will be expected to complete **two, and ONLY two**, papers in this course. These will all be submitted to D2L through the TurnItIn plagiarism checker **Any papers e-mailed to me or submitted in hard copy form will not be accepted.**
- **Exams:** Students will complete **four** unit exams over the course of the semester. These exams will primarily focus on the material since the previous exam; however, the exams are cumulative in a *thematic* sense. You will need to work to understand how each section fits into the larger project of the course. Your weekly reading notes will be used to prepare for these exams.
- **A Note on Grades:** Students often get so caught up in getting "good grades" that they lose sight of why we're all here – to learn. That may sound cheesy, but it's true. It pains me when I hear students refer to a semester's worth of classes in terms of their final letter grade(s) as opposed to the things they learned. That said, you are all students at a research university and you will be held to a high standard. If you attend most classes, understand most of the material, and complete all of the assignments, you will be in the high 'C' to low 'B' range. If you go **above and beyond** the requirements, push yourself, and exceed my expectations, you will be able to earn an 'A.' **Remember, your grade reflects neither what I think of you nor your potential as a human being.**

Classroom Etiquette:

The idealist in me says you should already know all about classroom etiquette; the realist in me knows we all can use a refresher. You attend a major research institution and should conduct yourself in a responsible and professional manner. There are several simple ways to give a professor the impression that you are bored, ill-mannered, arrogant, or simply have no attention span. During class:

- Read a newspaper or work on a crossword or Sudoku puzzle.
- Sleep.
- Check your voice mail or text messages.
- Pass notes ("Do you like me? Check one – Yes No").
- Leave class unannounced and come back fifteen minutes later.
- Stare off into space for minutes on end.
- Ask a question I've just answered, because you weren't paying attention.
- Consistently come to class late.
- Let others do all the work during a group process.
- Pack your bags when there are three minutes of class left.

CU Honesty Policy:

Cheating and plagiarism are both violations of the student code and will be treated with **utmost seriousness**. Evidence of either of these behaviors will result in an automatic failure in the course and the matter will be turned over to university officials. To be clear, plagiarism refers to using the work, ideas, or knowledge of other people as your own. It includes all forms of exam or quiz cheating, using other people's work, copying all or sections of papers from the web, and "borrowing" (without citing) from published sources. Please do not give me ANY reason to suspect this type of behavior. If you are unclear about the rules regarding plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, please ask for further clarification. You are also required to adhere to the University Honor Code which you can find at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>


Special Needs Accommodations:


If you qualify for accommodations due to disability please let me know during the first two weeks of the semester. It is your responsibility to contact Disability Services and obtain documentation. The Disability Services Office is in Willard 322 and can be contacted at (303) 492-8671 or through <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

Course Calendar:


This is a tentative calendar. As with all else in life, it is subject to change. Any significant changes will be announced in class. Students are responsible for these announcements whether they are in class or not. All readings and assignments should be completed before coming to class, unless otherwise noted.


Week 1: The Sociological Imagination - September 3

 **What to read:** Course Syllabus, Henslin Chapter 1 pp 1-19, McIntyre "Hernando Washington," Mills "The Promise."


 **Assignments:** Syllabus Quiz **due before Week 2 meeting**

Week 2: How do we Study the Social World?- September 10

 **What to read:** Henslin Chapter 1 pp 20-38, Adler and Adler "Promises and Pitfalls of Going into the Field," Lovaglia "From Summer Camps to Glass Ceilings"

 **Assignments:** Week 2 Quiz, Reading Notes


Week 3: Socialization - September 17


 **What to read:** Henslin Chapter 3, Miner "Body Rituals of the Nacermima," The Onion "College Freshman Cycles Rapidly Through Identities"

 **Assignments:** Week 3 Quiz, Reading Notes, Discussion Board #1


Week 4: Culture - September 24


 **What to read:** Henslin Chapter 2, Sternheimer "Do Video Games Kill?" and "Hollywood Doesn't Threaten Family Values"

 **Assignments:** Week 4 Quiz, Reading Notes


 **Exam 1 TODAY**

Week 5: Macrosociology and Social Structure - October 1

 **What to read:** Henslin Chapter 4 pp 101-114, Durkheim "Anomie and the Modern Division of Labor," Henslin "Eating Your Friends is the Hardest," Zimbardo "You Can't be a Sweet Cucumber in a Vinegar Barrel"


 **Assignments:** Week 5 Quiz, Reading Notes, Written Assignment #1

Week 6: Microsociology/Impression Management - October 8


 **What to read:** Henslin Chapter 4 pp 114-130, Goffman "Presentation of Self in Everyday Life,"

 **Assignments:** Week 6 Quiz, Reading Notes, Discussion Board #2


Week 7: Deviance and Social Control - October 15


 **What to read:** Henslin Chapter 6, Rosenhan "Being Sane in Insane Places," Sampson "Rethinking Immigration and Crime"


 **Assignments:** Week 7 quiz, Reading Notes

 **Exam 2 TODAY**


Week 8: Sex and Gender - October 22

 **What to read:** Henslin Chapter 8, Lorber "The Social Construction of Gender," Messner "Becoming 100% Straight," and "Barbie Girls VS Sea Monsters," West and Zimmerman "Doing Gender"

 **What to watch:** "The Man Box"

 **Assignments:** Week 8 quiz, Reading Notes


Week 9: Sex and Gender cont'd - October 29


 **What to read:** – Boswell and Spade “Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture: Why are Some Fraternities More Dangerous Places for Women?”, Pelka “Raped: A Male Survivor Breaks His Silence”


 **What to watch:** "Beyond Beats and Rhymes"

 **Assignments:** Week 9 quiz, Reading Notes, Written Assignment #2


Week 10: Deconstructing Racism/Understanding Privilege - November 5


 **What to read:** Henslin Chapter 8, Feagin "The Foundation of White Racism," McIntosh "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,"

 **What to watch:** "Race: The Power of an Illusion" (pts 1 and 3) and Tim Wise "On White Privilege"

 **Assignments:** Week 10 Quiz, Reading Notes


Week 11: Poverty and Inequality - November 12


 **What to read:** Henslin Chapter 7, Lowen "Land of Opportunity," "Keeping Up with the Trumps"


 **What to watch:** "People Like Us"


 **Assignments:** Week 11 Quiz, Reading Notes, Discussion Board #3

Week 12: Intersectional Approaches to Inequality - November 19

 **What to read:** Franklin "Legitimizing Inequality," Sternheimer "Class Consciousness," Williams and Lardner "Cold Truths about Class, Race, and Health"


 **What to watch:** Wilkinson "Inequality and Health"


 **Assignments:** Week 12 Quiz, Reading Notes


 **Exam 3 TODAY**

FALL BREAK! November 24-28


Week 13: McDonaldization/Sociology of Religion - December 3


 **What to read:** Charon "Is Organized Religion Necessary for Society?" Ritzer "Introduction to McDonaldization," Schwalbe "Contingency and Cause," SI "Living in a McDonaldized Society," Turner "Would You Like some Fries with that Jesus?"

 **What to watch:** "For the Bible Tells Me So"

 **Assignments:** Week 13 Quiz, Reading Notes

Week 14: Social Change - December 10

 **What to read:** Johnson et al "Creating a More Just and Sustainable World," Schwalbe "Studying and Changing the World"

 **What to watch:** TBA

 **Assignments:** Week 14 Quiz, Reading Notes, Discussion Board #4

EXAM 4 - 7:30-10 PM on December 17, 2014.