

SOC 111: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:15pm in Lindquist Hall #326
Spring 2024

Instructor: Dr. Alyssa Lynne-Joseph
(she/her pronouns)
Department: Sociology
Office Location: Lindquist Hall, Room 402

Office Hours: Thursdays, 3-5pm (virtual);
Wednesdays, 1-2pm (in-person)
Preferred Method of Contact: Email
Email: alyssa.lynne-joseph@wichita.edu
Office Phone: (316) 978-7152

Teaching Assistant: Mia Maupin
Email: mxmaupin1@shockers.wichita.edu

How to use this syllabus:

This syllabus provides you with information specific to this course, and it also provides information about important university policies. This document should be viewed as a course overview; it is not a contract and is subject to change as the semester evolves. Any changes will be announced in class and via Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is a field of study that examines how people and groups interact, navigate, and make decisions within the structure and constraints of their social world. Often these social processes go unobserved or unacknowledged, but a “sociological imagination” sheds analytical light on how people experience and participate in society. Sociology is a huge field of study and includes a wide variety of topics and methods. Each lecture will focus on a specific area of sociological study (Culture, Gender, Race, etc.) to give you a general overview of the types of questions sociologists ask and how they answer them. By the end of the quarter, you will be able to think sociologically about your own world. This course is also a foundation for students who intend to take additional courses in sociology. Note: This is a Kansas Systemwide Transfer Course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Critically read and analyze sociological texts
2. Demonstrate an understanding of core sociological concepts and theoretical approaches in the field
3. Develop a sociological imagination that enables you to “make the familiar strange” and “make the strange familiar”
4. Apply your sociological imagination to observe and write about social phenomena that interest you
5. Summarize how social factors contribute to ongoing inequalities and efforts to create social change

REQUIRED TEXT

There is one main textbook that we will use in this course:

1. Conley, Dalton. 2021. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*, 7th Edition. W. W. Norton & Company.

Access to this textbook is provided through Blackboard through the ACCESS NOW program. The cost is \$39.90 and is charged through your student account. In addition to this required textbook, we will occasionally engage with other chapters or articles. These supplementary readings will be listed on the course schedule and PDF versions or links will be posted to the day's module on Blackboard. Occasionally, we will have short podcasts or documentaries assigned, and these are listed under the "Other Media" column on the course schedule. Links to these materials will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Class Attendance and Participation (10%)

Please come to class having completed the assigned readings and having engaged with other assigned media (such as podcasts). Each student is granted three absences with no penalty. After three absences, your participation grade will begin to decrease if you miss class. If you do miss class, you should check Blackboard for any lecture materials, and I also recommend you connect with a peer in the course to request notes from the day. To receive full participation points, you should participate actively in any group discussions or pairs work during class. Please contact me via email if there are extenuating circumstances that require you to miss more than three classes (like extended illness).

2. Reading Summaries on Blackboard (15%)

You are expected to complete three reading summaries throughout the semester, which you will submit through Blackboard. Each reading summary should include three main points from the day's reading (in your own words) and a point of reflection or question that the reading spurred for you. You may choose which days to summarize, and all reading summaries must be completed by **11:59pm on Friday, May 3**, to receive credit. The course schedule includes suggested dates for completing reading summaries to evenly distribute the workload.

3. Blackboard Quizzes (25%)

We will have five short quizzes administered through Blackboard. Each quiz will open at 10:45am on a Wednesday and close at 11:59pm on a Friday. The due dates for each quiz are **Quiz 1 – 2/2, Quiz 2 – 2/16, Quiz 3 – 3/1, Quiz 4 – 3/29, and Quiz 5 – 4/19**. These quizzes are intended to assess your understanding of the sociological concepts and theories that we have studied in the previous 2-3 weeks. You will be allowed to retake each quiz once for a higher score.

4. Midterm Exam (15%)

We will have a closed book, in-class midterm on **Wednesday, March 6**, that covers content from the first eight weeks of the course. The midterm will contain a mix of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions as well as one longer essay question.

5. Inductive Observational Exercise (15%)

This assignment asks you to apply your new sociological imagination by observing and writing about social interactions in the world around you. Complete instructions and guiding questions will be distributed in class. Your write-up should be 3-4 pages double-spaced and will be due on **Friday, April 5**.

6. Final Exam (20%)

Our final assessment in this course will be a closed book, in-class exam on **Monday, May 6**, from **11:00am-12:50pm**. The final exam will contain a mix of multiple choice, short answer questions, and one longer essay question.

Late Assignments

Unless alternate arrangements have been made with the instructor, one third of a letter grade will be deducted from a late assignment's score for each 24-hour period it is late (i.e., A → A-, A- → B+, etc.).

Missed Assignments/Exams

You must complete the in-class midterm, inductive observational exercise, and final exam to receive credit for the course. If you cannot attend the midterm or final exam on the dates that they are scheduled due to an illness or emergency, please contact me as soon as possible to schedule a time to make-up the exam.

GRADING**Final grades will be determined in the following way:**

Class Attendance and Participation	10%
Reading Summaries	15%
Blackboard Quizzes	25%
Midterm Exam	15%
Inductive Observational Exercise	15%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

WSU uses a +/- grading scale for final grades and to calculate grade point averages. In this class, grades are assigned according to the following chart. (Other classes might assign grades differently: Be sure to understand the grading scale in each class.)

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Points	Interpretation
100-93	A	4.00	A range denotes excellent performance
92-90	A-	3.70	
89-87	B+	3.30	
86-83	B	3.00	B range denotes good performance

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Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Points	Interpretation
82-80	B-	2.70	
79-77	C+	2.30	
76-73	C	2.00	C range denotes satisfactory performance
72-70	C-	1.70	
69-67	D+	1.30	
66-63	D	1.00	D range denotes unsatisfactory performance
62-60	D-	0.70	
59-0	F	0.00	

COURSE POLICIES

Accessibility

- As the instructor of this course, I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. I want every student to succeed.
- If you have registered a documented disability with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), please notify me of necessary accommodations within the first two weeks of class. This information will remain confidential. You can contact ODS by phone at (316) 978-3309 or email at disability.services@wichita.edu for more information.
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Wichita State University's mental health service, provides a variety of clinical services and educational workshops. Students can call (316) 978-4792 to consult with a counselor or schedule online at <https://www.wichita.edu/services/counseling/>.
- Students who are food insecure can visit the Shocker Food Pantry on campus, which provides groceries for students, faculty, and staff who experience hunger due to financial constraints.

A Note on Names and Pronouns

- Everyone has the right to be addressed as and referred to by the name and pronouns that they choose. Class rosters have a student's legal name and do not include pronouns; therefore, all students will be provided with the opportunity to indicate the names and pronouns they use for themselves. A student's chosen name and pronouns should always be respected.
- For information about how legal and chosen names appear in WSU systems, students should visit www.wichita.edu/name. To provide preferred pronouns, click on "View and Update Personal Information" link in the Student Tools channel on the myWSU Home tab and click "Edit" to update information.

Academic Integrity

- Students are responsible for knowing and following the Student Code of Conduct, located at http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch8_05.htm.
- This course follows WSU's academic integrity policy, which can be found at https://www.wichita.edu/about/policy/ch_02/ch2_17.php. Plagiarism and cheating

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are considered academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated in this class. Any incident of academic dishonesty will result in no credit for the assignment or activity. Extreme cases, such as an entirely plagiarized paper, will result in an automatic F for the course.

- Please contact me if you have questions about how to properly cite others' ideas in your own work, and I will direct you to resources. Two useful online resources:
 - The Writing Center at WSU
(https://www.wichita.edu/academics/fairmount_college_of_liberal_arts_and_sciences/english/compositionweb/writing_center.php).
 - Purdue Online Writing Lab. This site catalogues various citation styles. The following is a link to ASA, which is commonly used in sociology:
(https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/asa_style/in_text_citation_references.html).

The Other AI: Artificial Intelligence

- In this course, you are welcome to use AI like ChatGPT ONLY for pre-writing, brainstorming, or locating sources. You should not use AI, for instance, to write your inductive observational exercise. Any student suspected of unauthorized use of generative AI may be asked to demonstrate their mastery of the assignment learning outcomes in an alternate format, such as a verbal interview, before a determination is made as to whether an academic integrity violation report is warranted.

Inclement Weather Policy

- When university offices or facilities close due to inclement weather or an emergency event, course delivery will move to online delivery. Students who may experience difficulty in accessing courses remotely should consult with me.

Other Syllabus Policies and Student Resources

All students should familiarize themselves with the course-related policies and student resources that can be found at: www.wichita.edu/syllabuspolicies. These include, but may not be limited to:

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| • COVID-19 Conditions | • Student Health Services |
| • Important Academic Dates | • Heskett Center and Campus Recreation |
| • Academic Integrity | • Inclusive Excellence and Respect for Diversity |
| • Definition of a credit hour | • First Generation Students |
| • Video and Audio recording | • Names and Pronouns |
| • Shocker Alert System | • Disability Services |
| • Intellectual Property | • Title IX |
| • CARE Team | • Concealed Carry Policy |
| • Counseling and Prevention Services | |

Course Schedule (Weeks 1-8)

SOC 111 COURSE SCHEDULE - SPRING 2024 <i>(subject to change)</i>						
Week	Dates	Topics	Readings - YMAY	Readings - Supplemental (PDFs on Blackboard)	Other Media (on Blackboard)	Important Due Dates
1	1/15	No class (MLK Jr Day)				
	1/17	Welcome! Syllabus Review	No reading for the first day of class.			
2	1/22	The Sociological Imagination	Chapter 1 - p. 2-19	"The Promise"		
	1/24	The History of Sociology	Chapter 1 - p. 15-37			
3	1/29	Methods in Sociology	Chapter 2 - p. 43-77			
	1/31	Culture	Chapter 3 - p. 82-99	"Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"		Quiz 1 due on 2/2
4	2/5	Media	Chapter 3 - p. 99-118		Podcast: "Social Media as News Media"	
	2/7	Socialization	Chapter 4 - p. 122-146	"Extreme Isolation"		Suggested: Reading Summary 1
5	2/12	Social Construction of Reality	Chapter 4 - p. 146-161			
	2/14	Groups and Networks	Chapter 5 - p. 164-189, 194-199			Quiz 2 due on 2/16
6	2/19	Social Control & Deviance I	Chapter 6 - p. 202-229	"Eating Your Friends is the Hardest"		
	2/21	Social Control & Deviance II	Chapter 6 - p. 230-250			Suggested: Reading Summary 2
7	2/26	Inequality	Chapter 7 - p. 254-267, p. 278-284	"Moving Up from the Working Class"		
	2/28	Sex and Gender	Chapter 8 - p. 300-324			Quiz 3 due on 3/1
8	3/4	Midterm Review	No reading for midterm review.			
	3/6	MIDTERM (In Class)				MIDTERM

Course Schedule (Weeks 9-16)

SOC 111 COURSE SCHEDULE - SPRING 2024 (subject to change)						
Week	Dates	Topics	Readings - YMAY	Readings - Supplemental (PDFs on Blackboard)	Other Media (on Blackboard)	Important Due Dates
9	3/11	SPRING RECESS - NO CLASS				
	3/13	SPRING RECESS - NO CLASS				
10	3/18	Race & Ethnicity I	Chapter 9 - p. 348-374		Code Switch: "A Whiteness That's Skin Deep"	
	3/20	Race & Ethnicity II	Chapter 9 - p. 377-394	"Would You Hire an Ex-Convict?"		
11	3/25	Poverty	Chapter 10 - p. 404-426			
	3/27	Health & Society	Chapter 11 - p. 444-476	"The Opioid Crisis in Rural and Small Town America"		Quiz 4 due on 3/29
12	4/1	Family	Chapter 12 - p. 500-514, p. 535-544			
	4/3	Education	Chapter 13 - p. 548-559, 568-576	"Kindergarten as Academic Boot Camp"		Inductive Exercise due on 4/5
13	4/8	Capitalism & The Economy	Chapter 14 - p. 596-616			
	4/10	Authority & The State	Chapter 15 - p. 636-649			Suggested: Reading Summary 3
14	4/15	Religion	Chapter 16 - p. 680-698			
	4/17	Science & Environment	Chapter 17 - p. 732-741, 755-766			Quiz 5 due on 4/19
15	4/22	Social Change I	Chapter 18 - p. 770-790			
	4/24	Social Change II	Chapter 18 - p. 791-803, 809-814			
16	4/29	Flex Day				
	5/1	Course Wrap-Up & Final Review				3 Reading Summaries due by May 3
FINAL	5/6	**NOTE: Final exam time is 11:00am-12:50pm**				