Sociology 1010-002
Introduction to Sociology
Fall 2012
SW 134
MWF 9:40–10:30 a.m.

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Course Description and Objectives

“Sociology offers nothing less than a new way of seeing the world and our places in it.”

— Steven Brint

Sociology is the systematic study of society, with a focus on the social patterns and problems that most people take for granted in their daily lives. Studying sociology gives people a better understanding of the ways in which their lives are shaped by social forces—the institutions, norms, values, and cultural assumptions that influence our thoughts and our actions. Sociologists of various stripes study face-to-face interactions, globalization, and virtually everything in between. In this course we will survey an array of topics, including culture, crime and deviance, the family, education, religion, the economy, politics, race, gender, and inequality. Through our examination of these issues, you will learn about some of today’s most important social processes and their role in shaping human behavior. Fair warning: After taking sociology, you may never be able to watch TV or movies the same way again.

Required Text

The following book is available in the bookstore:


This text is also available for purchase as an ebook:

**Assignments and Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 exams (best of 4)</td>
<td>300 points</td>
<td>A 376–400, A– 360–375</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3 @ 100 points each)</td>
<td>C 293–307, B+ 348–359, B 333–347, B– 320–332, C+ 308–319</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 assignments</td>
<td>50 points (5 @ 10 points each)</td>
<td>D 253–267, D– 240–252, F 0–239</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400 points</td>
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**Exams:** There are four multiple-choice exams, worth 100 points each, that will cover material from the textbook and lectures. Of the four exams, I will keep your three best scores. This means that you can miss one exam without adversely affecting your final grade. Because of this, there are absolutely no make-ups for missed exams (except in cases of documented emergencies).

The exams will be administered in class on the following dates: **Wednesday, September 12**, covering chapters 1 through 4; **Friday, October 5**, covering chapters 5 through 8; **Friday, November 9**, covering chapters 9 through 13; and **Tuesday, December 11 at 8:00 a.m.** (the scheduled final exam period for this course), covering chapters 14 through 18.

**Assignments:** There are five brief written assignments designed to let you “do” sociology by applying sociological concepts discussed in class. The addition of these exercises in all sections of Introduction to Sociology reflects the University of Utah requirements for increasing the course from 3 to 4 credit hours. Assignments must be **1.5 to 2 double-spaced pages in length with 12-point font and one-inch margins**. They are worth 10 points each and are due on the dates indicated below. Late papers will not be accepted. Assignments will be graded on the following scale:

- 10 points: Excellent
- 7-8 points: Acceptable
- 4-5 points: Inadequate
- 0 points: Not turned in on time

**Assignment #1:** Pick 3 of the topics covered in the textbook (look at the chapter titles) and describe for each of these areas what you think are the biggest or most important issues facing people at the local (Salt Lake City or Utah), national (United States), and global levels. You don’t need to study the chapters; just think through what you consider to be important. **Due Friday, August 31.**

**Assignment #2:** Conduct a brief participant observation or ethnographic study in which you study and/or participate in a group event or social organization. Examples of events or organizations include a city council meeting, an Indian powwow, a religious service other than the one you usually attend, a “greasy-spoon” diner or fast food restaurant, a coffee shop, a sporting event, or any volunteer organization. To complete the assignment, write down your observations, highlight any patterns you observe, and point out any observations or patterns that surprise you. **Due Monday, September 10.**
Assignment #3: Conduct a non-invasive breaching experiment in which you attempt to validate the existence of a particular norm by violating it. This may include singing on the bus, singing or facing the wrong direction in the elevator, not talking to anyone for a day, or any other unusual activity. In writing your assignment you should describe your experiment and report peoples’ reactions to your behavior. Due Friday, September 28.

Assignment #4: Pick an issue of a magazine or newspaper or watch a TV program and discuss how gender, race, and/or class are represented in the advertisements or commercials. The assignment should include a brief description of the advertisement or commercial: What was the product being advertised, and what was the main “plot” or theme of the advertisement? Due Monday, October 29.

Assignment #5: Write a short autobiography highlighting the sociological factors that have influenced your life (for example, you might consider the factors that prompted you to attend college). These factors could include social class, family, religion, race or ethnicity, or any other sociologically relevant topics. Due Monday, December 3.

Attendance: Throughout the semester, I will randomly take attendance on six occasions. Each time you are in class on one of these occasions, you will earn 10 points. You may be absent for one of these six occasions without it adversely impacting your final grade. However, if you are present for all six class periods in which I take roll, you will receive 10 bonus points. (If you must miss class for university-sanctioned travel AND you notify me in writing in advance you will not be penalized. Likewise, if you must miss class for a documented emergency, you will also be excused.)

PROCEDURAL ISSUES

Student Responsibilities

Due to the size of the class, this is primarily a lecture-based course. However, active participation does matter. I expect everyone to come to class ready to participate and engage in the subject matter. This means that you should complete the assigned readings prior to class. Other expectations are as follows:

• Arrive to class on time and do not leave before class has ended (unless, of course, you have to use the restroom—we don’t want to see that). If you cannot follow this rule, don’t come to class.

• Do not be disruptive: Don’t talk with other students during lectures or films, don’t surf the Web or update Facebook, don’t use your cell phone, etc. While you’re at it, please silence your cell phone ringers before coming to class, unless (a) you have a groovy ring tone or (b) you allow me to engage the person who called you in an extended conversation about all things sociological. I reserve the right to deduct points from your final grade for class disruptions.

• There are no extra credit opportunities for the course, except as outlined in this syllabus. So don’t even ask.

• Make-up exams are given only under exceptional and DOCUMENTED circumstances, or for participation in relevant university-sanctioned activities. Both cases require a written explanation and, whenever possible, advanced notice.
• Any use of electronic devices, including cell phones, during an exam may result in a failing grade for that exam. So, too, may chatting it up with other students during an exam. Such cases may also be referred to the Student Behavioral Committee.

• Assignments must be submitted IN HARD COPY—yes, on paper—on the scheduled due date, without exceptions. DO NOT E-MAIL ME PAPERS, as I will delete them and you will earn a big fat zero. Just remember this simple rule: Bytes bite.

• While in class, please refrain from placing tacks on chairs, blowing spit wads, manufacturing and flying paper airplanes, throwing tomatoes, starting spontaneous waves, etc.

But seriously, folks: In addition to these requirements, students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom as stipulated in the Student Code, which can be found here: http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code and know that they are responsible for its content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is faculty members’ responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

Accommodations Policy

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and me to make arrangements for accommodations.

Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience.

Weekly Schedule

I reserve the right to modify the weekly schedule over the course of the semester.

**WEEK 1**

M, 8/20  First day of class.

W, 8/22  Chapter 1, “Sociological Imagination: An Introduction”

F, 8/24  Chapter 1, “Sociological Imagination: An Introduction” (continued)
        Chapter 2, “Methods”

**WEEK 2**

M, 8/27  Chapter 2, “Methods”

W, 8/29  Chapter 3, “Culture and Media”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F, 8/31</td>
<td>Assignment 1 due at the beginning of class</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chapter 3, “Culture and Media” (continued)</td>
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<td>M, 9/3</td>
<td><strong>WEEK 3</strong></td>
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<td>W, 9/5</td>
<td>No class: Labor Day</td>
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<td>F, 9/7</td>
<td>Chapter 4, “Socialization and the Construction of Reality” (continued)</td>
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<td>M, 9/10</td>
<td><strong>WEEK 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>W, 9/12</td>
<td>Assignment 2 due at the beginning of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>F, 9/14</td>
<td>Catch-up and review</td>
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<tr>
<td>W, 9/12</td>
<td><strong>Exam #1 covering chapters 1 through 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>F, 9/14</td>
<td>Chapter 5, “Groups and Networks”</td>
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<td>M, 9/17</td>
<td><strong>WEEK 5</strong></td>
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<td>W, 9/19</td>
<td>Chapter 5, “Networks and Organizations” (continued)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F, 9/21</td>
<td>Chapter 6, “Social Control and Deviance”</td>
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<td>M, 9/24</td>
<td><strong>WEEK 6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>W, 9/26</td>
<td>Chapter 7, “Stratification”</td>
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<td>F, 9/28</td>
<td>Assignment 3 due at the beginning of class</td>
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<td>M, 10/1</td>
<td><strong>WEEK 7</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>W, 10/3</td>
<td>Chapter 8, “Gender” (continued)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F, 10/5</td>
<td>Catch-up and review</td>
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<tr>
<td>W, 10/5</td>
<td><strong>Exam #2 covering chapters 5 through 8</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>M, 10/15</td>
<td><strong>WEEK 8</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>W, 10/3</td>
<td>No class: Fall Break.</td>
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<td>M, 10/15</td>
<td><strong>WEEK 9</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>F, 10/5</td>
<td>Chapter 9, “Race”</td>
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</table>
W, 10/17  Chapter 9, “Race”
F, 10/19  Chapter 9, “Race”

**WEEK 10**
M, 10/22  Chapter 10: “Poverty”
W, 10/24  Chapter 10: “Poverty” (continued)
F, 10/26  Chapter 11: “Health and Society”

**WEEK 11**
M, 10/29  **Assignment 4 due at the beginning of class**
Chapter 12: “Family”
W, 10/31  Chapter 12: “Family” (continued)
Th, 11/2  Chapter 13, “Education”

**WEEK 12**
M, 11/5  Chapter 13, “Education” (continued)
M, 11/7  Catch-up day and review
F, 11/9  **Exam #3 covering chapters 9 through 13**

**WEEK 13**
M, 11/12  Chapter 14, “Capitalism and the Economy”
W, 11/14  Chapter 14, “Capitalism and the Economy” (continued)
F, 11/16  Chapter 15, “Authority and the State”

**WEEK 14**
M, 11/19  Chapter 15, “Authority and the State” (continued)
W, 11/21  Chapter 15, “Authority and the State” (continued)
F, 11/23  **No class: Thanksgiving Holiday**

**WEEK 15**
M, 11/26  Chapter 16: “Religion”
W, 11/28  Chapter 16: “Religion” (continued)
F, 11/30  Chapter 17, “Science, the Environment, and Society”

**WEEK 16**
M, 12/3  Assignment 5 due at the beginning of class
       Chapter 18, “Collective Action and Social Change”
W, 12/5   Chapter 18, “Collective Action and Social Change”
F, 12/7   Last day of class

**FINAL EXAM PERIOD**

Tu, 12/11  8:00 a.m.
          Exam #4 covering chapters 14 through 18