

A new way of seeing the world . . .



Professor Wade Cole

Fall 2013

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

— Steven Brint

**SOCIOLOGY 1010-002:
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

Fall 2014

SW 134

MWF 9:40 – 10:30 a.m.

***** NOTE: This is a draft syllabus and subject to change. *****

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Sociology is the systematic study of human societies, with a focus on the social patterns and problems we usually take for granted in our daily lives. Sociologists study small-scale phenomena such as face-to-face interactions, large-scale processes such as globalization, and virtually everything in between. Using a sociological perspective, we will survey an array of topics: culture and the media, crime and deviance, the family, education, religion, the economy, politics, race, gender, inequality, and poverty, among others. By examining these issues sociologically, you will learn how our lives are shaped by social forces—institutions, norms, values, and assumptions that structure our thoughts, our behaviors, and our interactions with others.

Fair warning: After taking sociology, you may never be able to watch TV, see a movie, ride an elevator, read the newspaper, or use a public restroom the same way again. Sociology makes the familiar strange, and it will give you a new way to look at the social world around you.

REQUIRED TEXT

The following book is available in the bookstore:

- Conley, Dalton. 2013. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*. **Third edition**. New York: W.W. Norton.

There is a StudySpace site for this textbook, which is designed to help you study for exams:

- <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/soc/you-may-ask-yourself2/>

Keep in mind that exam questions will also test your knowledge of content covered in lectures and in-class films, in addition to the textbook.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

3 exams (best of 4)	300 points (3 @ 100 points each)	A	376–400	C	293–307
4 assignments	40 points (4 @ 10 points each)	A–	360–375	C–	280–292
Attendance/Participation	60 points	B+	348–359	D+	268–279
Total	400 points	B	333–347	D	253–267
		B–	320–332	D–	240–252
		C+	308–319	F	0–239

Exams: There are four multiple-choice exams, worth 100 points each, that will cover material from the textbook, lectures, and films shown in class. 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, however, there are **absolutely no make-ups for missed exams** (except in cases of documented emergencies or for participation in university-sponsored events).

Exams will be administered in class on the following dates: **Friday, September 19**, covering chapters 1 through 4; **Friday, October 10**, covering chapters 5 through 8; **Friday, November 14**, covering chapters 9 through 13; and **Thursday, December 18 at 8:00 a.m.** (the scheduled final exam period for this course), covering chapters 14 through 18.

Assignments: There are four 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’s 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 or plagiarized

Assignment #1: Pick 3 of the topics covered in the textbook (look at the chapter titles) and describe for each of these topics 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 **Wednesday, September 3.**

Assignment #2: 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 **Monday, September 29.**

Assignment #3: Select 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, November 3.**

Assignment #4: 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 8.**

Attendance/Participation: Throughout the semester, I will randomly take attendance on seven 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 seven occasions without it adversely impacting your final grade. However, if you are present for all seven 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 a lecture-based course. However, active participation still matters. I expect that everyone in class will be ready to participate and engage in the subject matter. This means that you should complete assigned readings before 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 simple rule, don't come to class.
- **Don't be disruptive:** Don't talk with other students during lectures or films, don't surf the Web, don't update Facebook or Google Plus or any other social networking sites, don't text, don't use your phone, etc. While you're at it, please silence your cell phone ringers before coming to class, unless (a) you have a groovy and/or funky ring tone or (b) you allow me to engage the person who called in an extended conversation about all things sociological. In all seriousness, 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** (for example—a death in the family, an extended hospital stay, etc.), 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: Paper's preferred; bytes bite.
- If you wish to dispute a grade you must do so in writing, explaining why you believe it should be adjusted. All such disputes must be submitted within **ONE WEEK** of grades being posted to Canvas for the assignment, quiz, or exam in question. No exceptions.
- While in class, please refrain from placing tacks on chairs, blowing spit wads, manufacturing and flying paper airplanes, throwing rotten tomatoes at the instructor, starting spontaneous waves, and so on. In other words, **be a good classroom citizen.**

And now for some important legalese: 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. **I TAKE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST PLAGIARISM VERY SERIOUSLY AND WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL ANY ASSIGNMENT THAT HAS COPIED FROM THE WORK OF OTHERS WITHOUT PROPER ATTRIBUTION.**

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. I will also make every effort to post lecture slides to Canvas before each class, to facilitate note taking. Please be aware, however, that posted slides are subject to changes and revisions before class.

WEEK 1	
M, 8/25	First day of class
W, 8/27	Chapter 1, "Sociological Imagination: An Introduction"
F, 8/29	Chapter 1, "Sociological Imagination: An Introduction" (continued) Chapter 2, "Methods"

WEEK 2	
M, 9/1	No class: Labor Day
W, 9/3	Assignment 1 due at the beginning of class Chapter 2, "Methods" (continued)
F, 9/5	Chapter 3, "Culture and Media"

WEEK 3	
M, 9/8	Chapter 3, "Culture and Media" (continued)
W, 9/10	Chapter 4, "Socialization and the Construction of Reality"
F, 9/12	Chapter 4, "Socialization and the Construction of Reality" (continued)

WEEK 4	
M, 9/15	Chapter 4, "Socialization and the Construction of Reality" (continued)
W, 9/17	Catch-up and review
F, 9/19	Exam #1 covering chapters 1 through 4

WEEK 5	
M, 9/22	Chapter 5, "Networks and Groups"
W, 9/24	Chapter 5, "Networks and Groups" (continued) Chapter 6, "Social Control and Deviance"
F, 9/26	Chapter 6, "Social Control and Deviance" (continued)

WEEK 6	
M, 9/29	Assignment 2 due at the beginning of class Chapter 7, "Stratification"
W, 10/1	Chapter 7, "Stratification" (continued)
F, 10/3	Chapter 8, "Gender"

WEEK 7

- M, 10/6** Chapter 8, "Gender" (continued)
W, 10/8 Catch-up and review
F, 10/10 **Exam #2 covering chapters 5 through 8**

WEEK 8

No class: Fall Break

WEEK 9

- M, 10/20** Chapter 9, "Race"
W, 10/22 Chapter 9, "Race" (continued)
F, 10/24 Chapter 9, "Race" (continued)

WEEK 10

- M, 10/27** Chapter 10: "Poverty"
W, 10/29 Chapter 10: "Poverty" (continued)
F, 10/31 Chapter 11: "Health and Society"

WEEK 11

- M, 11/3** **Assignment 3 due at the beginning of class**
Chapter 12: "Family"
W, 11/5 Chapter 12: "Family" (continued)
F, 11/7 Chapter 13, "Education"

WEEK 12

- M, 11/10** Chapter 13, "Education" (continued)
M, 11/12 Catch-up and review
F, 11/14 **Exam #3 covering chapters 9 through 13**

WEEK 13

- M, 11/17** Chapter 14, "Capitalism and the Economy"
W, 11/19 Chapter 14, "Capitalism and the Economy" (continued)
F, 11/21 Chapter 15, "Authority and the State"

WEEK 14

- M, 11/24** Chapter 15, "Authority and the State" (continued)
- W, 11/26** Chapter 15, "Authority and the State" (continued)
- F, 11/28** **No class: Thanksgiving Holiday**

WEEK 15

- M, 12/1** Chapter 16: "Religion"
- W, 12/3** Chapter 16: "Religion" (continued)
- F, 12/5** Chapter 17, "Science, the Environment, and Society"

WEEK 16

- M, 12/8** **Assignment 4 due at the beginning of class**
Chapter 18, "Collective Action and Social Change"
- W, 12/10** Chapter 18, "Collective Action and Social Change"
- F, 12/12** **Last day of class**

FINAL EXAM PERIOD

- Th, 12/18** **8:00–10:00 a.m. Exam #4 covering chapters 14 through 18**