SURVEY OF SOCIOLOGY

Course Objectives and Overview

Sociology 210 is intended to provide an introductory overview of the discipline of sociology, including (a) some of the main sub-fields and specialized areas of research in sociology; (b) different theoretical approaches to understanding social life; and (c) different research methods used by sociologists, both quantitative and qualitative. Lastly, in addition to learning about sociology, you will learn how to write as a sociologist, conduct some forms of sociological research, present your findings, and analyze what sociologists have written.

Sociology 210 meets the university’s Communications-B requirement and introductory requirements for majors in the departments of Sociology and Community & Environmental Sociology.

The course is organized as follows: two 50-minute lectures and two discussion section meetings every week. Your Teaching Assistants (TAs) for this term are Ms. Yun Cho, Ms. Abigail Letak, Mr. Loren Peabody, Mr. Nathan Shelton, Ms. Lindsey Twin, Ms. Marlie Wilson. You can find their contact information here or through the campus directory.

Course Requirements

Your overall grade for the semester will be calculated on a 100-point scale as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (includes attendance in section)</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two oral presentations</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four short writing assignments (2-3 pages each)</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research project</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic statement (part of participation grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated bibliography (3 percent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outline (4 percent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>First draft (8 percent)</td>
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<td>Peer review (part of participation grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final draft (10 percent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm test</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final test</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
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The grading scale for the course is as follows: A = 93-100, AB = 88-92, B = 83-87, BC = 78-82, C = 70-77, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below.

Participation: Participation includes reading. You are expected to complete all required (not recommended) reading assignments before the lectures and discussion section meetings in which they are discussed. Sociology 210 involves about 60 pages of reading per week on average. To pass the course, you must be prepared to do the reading assignments consistently throughout the semester. If you are unable or unwilling to do this much reading, you should drop the course now. Please bring the assigned readings with you to the lectures and your section meetings.
You are also required to attend the lectures and to attend and participate actively in your section meetings. (See below regarding accommodation for religious observances.) There will be no section meetings before the first lecture (Sep. 3 at 11:00 AM) unless your TA informs you otherwise. When attending the lectures or your section meetings, please do not arrive late or leave early, and please do not act in any way that would distract your instructor or the students around you. (If you must arrive late or leave early, please inform your instructor in advance, explain why, and do so quietly and discretely.) Repeated problems with attendance or participation, including distracting behavior during lectures or discussions, will result in a lower grade.

Writing assignments and research project: In addition to this general course syllabus, your TA will give you another one that is specific to your section; it will contain details about your section meetings and writing assignments, including due dates for writing assignments and assignments related to your research project (topic, bibliography, outline, and draft as well as final product). The TA in charge of your section has jurisdiction over the grading of your written work and participation.

Midterm and final tests: A midterm test, covering weeks 1-8, is scheduled for October 22, and a final test, covering weeks 9-15, is scheduled for December 15. These tests will consist of multiple-choice questions focusing on key concepts and main points from the lectures and required readings. Students are required to take the Oct. 22 midterm test and the Dec. 15 final test in class on the dates scheduled unless circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, family emergency, a university-approved athletic trip, etc.) make it impossible. Students who take both of these two in-class tests do not need to take a final exam during exam week.

Students who miss the Oct. 22 midterm test will not be permitted to take the Dec. 15 final test and must instead take a comprehensive exam which covers the entire semester. The comprehensive exam is scheduled during exam week on Wednesday, December 23, 2014, from 12:25 PM to 2:25 PM, at a location to be announced. No exceptions or alternative arrangements will be made for any reason. The comprehensive exam will be harder than the in-class tests in order to compensate for the additional time students have to prepare for it, and it will count for 30% of their overall grade for the course.

Students who take the Oct. 22 midterm test but miss the Dec. 15 final test must instead take the comprehensive exam on Dec. 23. No exceptions or alternative arrangements will be made. For these students, the comprehensive exam will count for only 15% of their overall grade for the course.

You may not keep any of the tests or the comprehensive exam and must return them with your answer sheet when finished. Failure to return a test or exam before leaving the classroom will be interpreted as academic misconduct and disciplined accordingly.

Accommodations

Please send the instructor an email by the end of the second week of the course if you are eligible for special arrangements or accommodations for testing, assignments, or other aspects of the course. This may be the case if English is your second language or you experience a physical or psychological condition that makes it difficult for you to complete assignments and/or exams without some modification of those tasks. Accommodations are provided for students who qualify for disability services through the McBurney Center. Their website has detailed instructions about how to qualify. Provide a copy of your accommodations request (VISA) to the instructor by the end of the second week of class. We try to reserve rooms and proctors by the third week in class, so we must know of all accommodations by then.
If you wish to request a scheduling accommodation for religious observances, please send an email by the end of the second week of the course stating the specific date(s) for which you request accommodation. Campus policy requires that religious observances be accommodated if you make a timely request early in the term. See the university’s web page for details.

**Academic honesty**
You are expected to follow the university’s rules and regulations pertaining to academic honesty and integrity. The standards are outlined by the Office of the Dean of Students. According to UWS 14, academic misconduct is defined as:

- seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance;
- assists other students in any of these acts.

For a complete description of behaviors that violate the university’s standards as well the disciplinary penalties and procedures, please see the Dean of Students website. Please also consult the UW Writing Center’s handout on “Acknowledging, Paraphrasing, and Quoting Sources” before proceeding in this course. If you have questions about the rules for any of the assignments or exams, please ask the instructor or your TA.

You are expected to be familiar with the University’s rules and regulations pertaining to academic honesty and integrity before you submit any written work. Lack of familiarity with these rules does not constitute an excuse for acts of misconduct.

**Departmental notice of grievance and appeal rights**
The Department of Sociology regularly conducts student evaluations of all professors and teaching assistants. Students who have more immediate concerns about this course should report them to the instructor or to the department chair, 8128 Social Science (Pamela.oliver@wisc.edu).

**Department learning objectives**
Beyond the specific content I will cover in this course, I have designed this course to achieve the following instructional objectives designated as priorities by the Department of Sociology:

- **Conduct Research and Analyze Data (quantitative or qualitative).** Although professional-quality research requires graduate-level training, we expect that all undergraduate majors will be able to conduct small-scale research in which they formulate a research question, collect data, analyze results, and draw conclusions.
- **Communicate Skillfully:** Sociology majors write papers and make oral presentations that build arguments and assess evidence in a clear and effective manner.
- **Critical Thinking about Society and Social Processes:** Sociology graduates can look beyond the surface of issues to discover the "why" and "how" of social order and structure and consider the underlying social mechanisms that may be creating a situation, identify evidence that may adjudicate between alternate explanations for phenomena, and develop proposed policies or action plans in light of theory and data.
## Reading Assignments

Two books are required: Jeffrey C. Alexander, Kenneth Thompson, and Laura D. Edles, *A Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 2d ed. (Paradigm, 2012), and Randall Collins, *Sociological Insight: An Introduction to Non-Obvious Sociology*, 2d. ed. (Oxford University Press, 1992). These books may be purchased at the University Book Store and are on reserve at College Library. All other required reading assignments will be posted on Learn@UW. If there is a problem with any of the reserve readings, please e-mail me as soon as possible to let me know.

### PART I: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

#### WEEK 1

**Sep. 3** Introduction

Alexander et al., *Contemporary Introduction to Sociology*, 3-25.  
Peter L. Berger, “Sociology as a Passion to Understand,” 2-7 (excerpt from *An Invitation to Sociology* [Doubleday, 1963]).  

#### WEEK 2

**Sep. 8** What is sociology?

Alexander et al., “Some Key Research Terms,” “Concepts and Theories,” and “Methodology and Methods” (38-55) in *Contemporary Introduction*.

**Sep. 10** Methods of social inquiry


### PART II: THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

#### WEEK 3

**Sep. 15** Film screening: selections from *Secret of the Wild Child* (1994), 60 min.

**Sep. 17** What is culture and what does it do for us?

Excerpts from Arnold van Gennep, William James, Charles Cooley, George Herbert Mead.  

#### WEEK 4

**Sep. 22** The self and social interaction I: Fraternity hazing

**Sep. 24** The self and social interaction II: Total institutions

Excerpts from Arnold van Gennep, William James, Charles Cooley, George Herbert Mead.

#### WEEK 5

**Sep. 29** Groups and organizations I: Universities as (rational?) organizations

**Oct. 1** Groups and organizations II: Social capital, trust, and solidarity


## WEEK 6

**Oct. 6** Crime and deviance


**Oct. 8** Film screening: *Crime & Deviance* (2004), 30 min.

Recommended:

“At this prison graduation, the focus is on knowing the effects of their crimes,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, May 17, 2010.


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## PART III: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

## WEEK 7

**Oct. 13** Film screening: *Obedience* (1965), 45 min.


Recommended:


**Oct. 15** Power

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## WEEK 8

**Oct. 20** Democracy, or who rules?

Review for midterm test.

**Oct. 22** Midterm test

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## WEEK 9

**Oct. 27** Is God dead? Religion and secularization


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## WEEK 10

**Nov. 3** Society, the sacred, and the cult of the individual

Alexander et al., “Marriage and the Family” (219-248) in *Contemporary Introduction*.

**Nov. 5** Film screening: *Families & Households* (2005)

### WEEK 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Family relations as property relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>The organization of work and control over the labor process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### PART IV: SOCIAL INEQUALITY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Organized labor and its disorganization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Education and the reproduction of class inequality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Recommended:


### WEEK 13

**Nov. 24** Film screening: selections from *People Like Us* (2001), 124 min.

Alexander et al., “Gender” (283-311) in *Contemporary Introduction*.  
Recommended:  

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**Thanksgiving recess Nov. 26-29**

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### WEEK 14

**Dec. 1** Gender inequality and socialization


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### WEEK 15

**Dec. 8** Race as classification struggle: An historical perspective

**Dec. 10** Race-making in Brazil, South Africa, and the United States: A comparative perspective

Review for final test.

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### WEEK 16

**Dec. 15** Final test