

SOC 101 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY **Spring 2024 | Section 1: Asynchronous Online**

Instructor: M. David Chunyu, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology
Lecture: Asynchronous online
My Office: Science Building (SCI) B335, Stevens Point Campus
Office Hours: Tu Wed Th, 2:00PM – 4:00PM
or by appointment for meeting in my office/on Zoom
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COURSE OVERVIEW

Sociology is the scientific study of society and human behavior. This course provides a general introduction to this discipline. It is intended to increase your understanding of social interaction, social organization, social institutions, and social change in a systematic way, i.e., through the sociological perspective. We will learn and engage the sociological perspective by exploring a number of themes. Students will be introduced to major theoretical perspectives, as well as key concepts, such as culture, socialization, social interaction, and social networks. Students will also come to understand the nature of major social institutions, such as marriage and family, politics, criminal justice, and medicine. They will also be introduced to social inequality, which has been historically explored along the dimensions of social class, gender, and race/ethnicity. Understanding sociology helps discover and explain social and behavioral patterns and see how such patterns change over time and across settings. By making vivid the social basis of everyday life, sociology also develops critical thinking by revealing the social structures and processes that shape diverse forms of human life. This course will challenge you to examine, evaluate, analyze, and appreciate the complex and diverse world we live in.

This course fulfills the requirement for “Social Sciences” and “U.S. Diversity” in the General Education Program (GEP).

Prerequisites

None.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize sociology as a social science;
2. Explain the sociological perspective;
3. Apply the major concepts used by sociologists to investigate human behaviors and social phenomena, including socialization, social interaction, social structure, stratification, etc.;
4. Examine how personal life chances and choices are influenced by the larger social context including social, cultural, and/or political institutions;
5. Recognize and appreciate the diversity and stratification of human grouping based on race/ethnicity, gender, class, national origin, religion, family status, etc.;
6. Illustrate how minority groups have responded to the experience of discrimination and inequality in American society;
7. Demonstrate understanding of and empathetic insight about diverse cultural perspectives in the U.S.;
8. Develop critical thinking skills to explain and predict various aspects of social phenomena.

CLASS MATERIALS

Textbook

The following book is required:

James M. Henslin. 2017. *Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach*. 13th Edition. Pearson.

Students can obtain a hard copy of the text rental from the university bookstore. The university bookstore is located in the Dreyfus University Center (DUC). Students can also visit the university bookstore's website <https://uwsp.bncollege.com> or contact the store at (715) 346-3431 / University.Store@uwsp.edu for additional text rental information. The instructor will also make the electronic copy of the textbook chapters available to students (see below).

Additional Course Materials

Additional course materials (the instructor's lecture slides, electronic copy of the textbook chapters, additional reading, videos, chapter-specific review exercises, assignments, exams, website/platform links, etc.) will be made available in the online course management system Canvas canvas.uwsp.edu. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course on Canvas. If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account](#) page to do so.

Course Technology Requirements

View this website to see [minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas](#).

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course will be delivered entirely online and asynchronously through Canvas canvas.uwsp.edu.

This course consists of 13 units of substantive learning, aligned with 13 chapters of our textbook. Basically, students are expected to complete one unit each week throughout the semester. For each unit students are expected to complete various kinds of assessment tasks and earn the respective grade points.

In addition, there will be three exams: two midterm exams and one final exam (see the “Grading” section for details).

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

In this class you will be expected to do the following:

- Read the assigned textbook chapters.
- Watch the instructor’s pre-recorded lecture videos and other online videos.
- Download and read documents from Canvas.
- Conduct internet searches.
- Practice chapter-specific review exercises (highly relevant to preparation for exams).
- Complete assignments in Canvas (including participating in online discussions).
- Take exams in Canvas (exams are mostly based on chapter-specific review exercises).
- Communicate via emails/Canvas messages/Zoom meetings.

Additional communication expectations for students:

1. Professional and respectful tone and civility are used in communicating with fellow learners and the instructor.
2. Written communication, both formal and informal, uses Standard English rather than popular online abbreviations and regional colloquialisms.
3. Spelling and grammar are correct.

GRADING

A student's final course grade is based entirely on the "TOTAL POINTS" they have earned over the semester. The "TOTAL POINTS" are simply the total crude points a student has accumulated from assignments (including online discussions) and exams, plus optional bonus points if applicable, and **summation** is the only mathematical operation used for calculating a student's "TOTAL POINTS". Thus, no percentage, proportion, or division is used in the "TOTAL POINTS" calculation. (***Important note:*** *The "Total" % column or other automatically generated columns in the "Grades" area of Canvas will NOT be used, because they reflect some sort of percentage calculation, which is inconsistent with the grading system of this course. Also see the "Grading Scale" section below.)*

A student's max total points consist of the following:

➤ Assignments	40 Points	
❖ <i>Including online discussions</i>		
➤ Exams	60 Points	
❖ <i>1st exam</i>		<i>20 points</i>
❖ <i>2nd exam</i>		<i>20 points</i>
❖ <i>Final exam</i>		<i>20 points</i>

Max Total = 100 Points

➤ ***Assignments (40 Points)***

There will be weekly assignments spread over the semester. Most of these assignments take the form of short-answer or essay questions; some assignments also include a few standardized questions (true-false, multiple-choice, item matching, etc.). These assignments are usually based on the unit's lecture, reading, and/or video clips and they are often closely tied to the "key topics" for that unit (see the "Course Outline" section about the key topics). Some assignments also include online discussions. The discussion topics vary, but they are also closely tied to the "key topics" for a given unit. Each weekly assignment is worth 3-4 points. Altogether they are worth 40 points. All assignments are to be submitted to Canvas.

All assignments are due on Sunday night within the week. For example, the assignment for the 1st week (01/22 – 01/28 Chapter 1 The Sociological Perspective) is due on Sunday (01/28), the assignment for the 2nd week (01/29 – 02/04 Chapter 2 Culture) is due on Sunday (02/04), so on and so forth. ***The last day for the instructor to accept any assignment submissions, including late submissions, is May 12, 2024 (Sunday).*** No late submission will be accepted beyond May 12, 2024 (Sunday).

➤ ***Exams (60 Points)***

There will be three (3) exams: two midterm exams and one final exam. All exams will be held in Canvas

and students will choose a two-hour time slot of their preference within the exam week to take the exam (see the “Course Outline” section for the exam week schedules).

Each exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions and is worth 20 points. The exams questions will be based on lectures, reading, chapter-specific review exercises, assignments, and video clips shared in Canvas. The exams are **NOT** cumulative.

To help students prepare for the exams, the instructor will post review exercises for each chapter in Canvas. These review exercises are designed to help students digest and reinforce the class learning. Also importantly, these review exercises are very closely tied to the exams, so students are highly recommended to make good use of these review exercises when preparing for the exams.

➤ ***Bonus Points (Optional)***

There might be opportunities for students to earn extra credits/bonus points.

Grading Scale

Again, a student’s final course grade is based entirely on the “TOTAL POINTS” they have accumulated over the semester. Thus, for calculating a student’s “TOTAL POINTS”, **summation** is the only mathematical operation used; that is, the instructor will simply add up all the points a student has earned from assignments (including online discussions) and exams, plus optional bonus points if applicable. No percentage, proportion, or division is used in the “TOTAL POINTS” calculation. (***Important note: Again, the “Total” % column or other automatically generated columns in the “Grades” area of Canvas will NOT be used, because they reflect some sort of percentage calculation, which is inconsistent with the grading system of this course.***)

A student’s “TOTAL POINTS” will then be converted into their final course grade according to the following scale:

A	93.00 – 100.00 points	C.....	73.00 – 76.99 points
A-.....	90.00 – 92.99 points	C-.....	70.00 – 72.99 points
B+.....	87.00 – 89.99 points	D+.....	67.00 – 69.99 points
B.....	83.00 – 86.99 points	D.....	60.00 – 66.99 points
B-.....	80.00 – 82.99 points	F.....	0.00 – 59.99 points
C+.....	77.00 – 79.99 points		

Grade Posting

Students’ grade points from assignments (including online discussions) and exams, plus optional bonus

points if applicable, will be posted in Canvas → “Grades” area as soon as they become available. A distinct grade item will also be created in Canvas → “Grades” area to show a student’s “TOTAL POINTS” they have accumulated over the semester. (***Important note:*** *One last time, the “Total” % column or other automatically generated columns in the “Grades” area of Canvas will NOT be used, because they reflect some sort of percentage calculation, which is inconsistent with the grading system of this course. Please also see the preceding “Grading Scale” section for explanation.) It is a student’s own responsibility to check Canvas regularly and to be kept informed of their own grade status.*

TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING RESOURCES

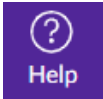
UWSP Quick Help Resources

Quick links to resource information on Canvas, Zoom, Office 365 suite, accesSPoint, and UWSP library support: [Quick Help Resources](#)

UWSP Technology Support

- UWSP IT resources and services: [Information Technology](#)
- Seek help from the [IT Service Desk](#) (Formerly HELP Desk)
 - IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
 - IT Service Desk Email: itsvdesk@uwsp.edu

Canvas Support

Click on the  button in the global (left) navigation menu and note the options that appear:

Support Options	Explanations
Ask Your Instructor a Question Submit a question to your instructor	Use Ask Your Instructor a Question sparingly; technical questions are best reserved for Canvas personnel and help as detailed below.
Chat with Canvas Support (Student) Live Chat with Canvas Support 24x7!	Chatting with Canvas Support (Student) will initiate a <i>text chat</i> with Canvas support. Response can be qualified with severity level.
Contact Canvas Support via email Canvas support will email a response.	Contacting Canvas Support via email will allow you to explain in detail or even upload a screenshot to show your particular difficulty.

<p>Contact Canvas Support via phone Find the phone number for your institution</p>	<p>Calling the Canvas number will let Canvas know that you're from UWSP; phone option is available 24/7.</p>
<p>Search the Canvas Guides Find answers to common questions</p>	<p>Searching the Canvas guides connects you to documents that are searchable by issue. You may also opt for Canvas video guides.</p>
<p>Submit a Feature Idea Have an idea to improve Canvas?</p>	<p>If you have an idea for Canvas that might make instructions or navigation easier, feel free to offer your thoughts through this Submit a Feature Idea avenue.</p>

All options are available 24/7; however, if you opt to email your instructor, he may not be available immediately.

- Self-train on Canvas through the [Self-enrolling/paced Canvas training course](#)

Protecting Your Data and Privacy

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. For a list of approved tools, visit this website. <https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests>

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357.

Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.

- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use
- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP)
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your devices

OTHER CLASS POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Expected Instructor Response Times

The instructor will attempt to respond to student emails within 24 hours. If you have not received a reply from me within 24 hours please re-send your email.

Note: If you have a general course question (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to the Course Q & A Discussion Forum found on the course homepage. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too.

The instructor will attempt to grade assignments within a week, however longer assignments may take me longer to read and assess.

Online Classroom Etiquette

The online classroom is a learning environment and an academic community. All members of this community, students and instructor alike, have a special obligation to preserve an atmosphere conducive to the freedom to teach and to learn. What is essential to preserve such freedom is a culture of respect that honors the rights, safety, dignity, and worth of every individual. For that reason, all members of this community are expected to show courtesy, civility, and respect for one another.

Part of that obligation to maintain a positive learning environment is to ensure that the behaviors of any individual do not disrupt the process and flow of teaching and learning. Accordingly, students should do their best to minimize distractions and disruptions that can interfere with their own learning and that of their peers. *Students with repeated disruptive behavior/causing repeated distractions will receive point deduction to their "TOTAL POINTS" and therefore will get a lower final course grade.*

The instructor reserves the right to restrict a student's participation in class activities, should the student behave in a way that interferes with the academic or administrative functions of the class.

Diversity and Inclusion

UWSP supports an inclusive learning environment where diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, and appreciated. These differences include race/ethnicity, gender, class, political view, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital or family status, as well as personality, learning styles, and life experiences. It is these very differences among us that enrich our learning environment and make us strong. We expect that students, faculty, administrators, and staff will respect differences and demonstrate diligence in understanding how other peoples' perspectives, behaviors, experiences, and worldviews may be different from their own.

Disabilities/Special Needs

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and/or special needs. If you have disabilities/special needs affecting your participation in the class and wish to have special accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. DRC will then coordinate with me in helping you receive the proper accommodations and auxiliary aids. DRC is located in the Collins Classroom Center (CCC) room 108. DRC can also be reached at 715-346-3365 or drc@uwsp.edu. You can also find more information here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/drc>.

Academic Support

If a student finds it difficult to keep up with the class progress at any point during the semester, they are recommended to seek help from the instructor immediately.

In addition, students may also use help from the Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) and discuss their specific needs. TLC is located in the Collins Classroom Center (CCC) room 234. TLC can also be reached by phone (715) 346-3568 or email tlctutor@uwsp.edu. The tutoring support is usually to be arranged directly between students and TLC staff and the instructor may assist with such arrangements when needed. Students can self-schedule an appointment with a TLC tutor through Navigate <https://uwsp.navigate.eab.com>. More information on TLC can be found here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc>.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is central to the mission of this institution. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated and will receive disciplinary sanctions per the UWSP policies. The UWSP policies regarding student academic standards and disciplinary procedures can be found here:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>. If I observe academic misconduct, or if suspicions of academic dishonesty are reported to me, I will request that the identified parties to discuss the situation, and then the procedures set out in UWS/UWSP Chapter 14 will be followed.

Emergency Preparedness

It is important you familiarize yourself with the UWSP emergency plan and procedures prior to the occurrence of an emergency. Please go to www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/emergency-procedures.aspx for details on all emergency responses at UWSP.

Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point occupies the lands of the Ho Chunk and Menomonee people. As a university community, it is important for us to acknowledge and honor this ancestral Ho Chunk and Menomonee land and the sacred lands of all indigenous peoples.

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COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics/Activities</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Part I. The Sociological Perspective		
01/22 – 01/28	<p><i>The Sociological Perspective</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the sociological perspective? 2. Sociology, social sciences, and science 3. Origins of sociology 4. Three major theoretical perspectives in sociology <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Functional analysis (structural functionalism) b. Conflict theory c. Symbolic interactionism 	Henslin Ch. 1.
01/29 – 02/04	<p><i>Culture</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is culture? 2. Nonmaterial (symbolic) culture 3. Subcultures and countercultures 4. Values in U.S. society 5. Cultural universals 	Henslin Ch. 2.
02/05 – 02/11	<p><i>Socialization</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Society makes us human 2. Socialization into the self and mind 3. Socialization into gender 4. Agents of socialization 5. Re-socialization 6. Socialization through the life course 	Henslin Ch. 3.
02/12 – 02/18	<p><i>Social Structure and Social Interaction</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p>	Henslin Ch. 4.

1. Levels of sociological analysis
2. The macrosociological perspective: social structure
3. Social institutions
4. The microsociological perspective: social interaction in everyday life
5. The need for both macrosociology and microsociology

02/19 – 02/25

***** 1st Midterm Exam *** (A two-hour time slot of student's choice in Canvas)**

Part II. Social Groups and Social Control

02/26 – 03/03

Societies to Social Networks

Henslin Ch. 6.

Key Topics:

1. Societies and their transformation
 - a. Hunting and gathering societies
 - b. Pastoral and horticultural societies
 - c. Agricultural societies
 - d. Industrial societies
 - e. Postindustrial societies
 - f. New type of society emerging
2. Groups within society
 - a. Primary groups and secondary groups
 - b. In-groups and out-groups
 - c. Reference groups
 - d. Social networks
3. Group dynamics

03/04 – 03/10

Bureaucracy and Formal Organization

Henslin Ch. 7.

Key Topics:

1. The rationalization of society
2. Formal organizations and bureaucracies
3. Voluntary associations
4. Working for the corporation
5. Technology and the Maximum-Security Society

03/11 – 03/17 *Deviance and Social Control* Henslin Ch. 8.

Key Topics:

1. What is deviance?
2. The symbolic interactionist perspective
3. The functionalist perspective
4. The conflict perspective
5. Reactions to deviance

*03/18 – 03/24 NO CLASS! HAPPY SPRING BREAK!

Part III. Social Inequality and Institutions

03/25 – 03/31 *Global Stratification* Henslin Ch. 9.

Key Topics:

1. Systems of social stratification
2. What determines social class?
3. Why is social stratification universal?
4. How do elites maintain stratification?
5. Global stratification: Three worlds
6. How did the world's nations become stratified?
7. Maintaining global stratification

04/01 – 04/07 * 2nd Midterm Exam *** (A two-hour time slot of student's choice in Canvas)**

04/08 – 04/14 *Social Class in the United States (Part 1)* Henslin Ch. 10.

Key Topics:

1. What is social class?
2. Updated models of social class
3. Consequences of social class
4. Social mobility

Social Class in the United States (Part 2 – Poverty) Henslin Ch. 10.

Key Topics:

1. What is poverty?
2. Who are the poor?
3. Dynamics of poverty
4. Why are there poor people?

04/15 – 04/21 *Sex and Gender* Henslin Ch. 11.

Key Topics:

1. Sex vs. gender
2. Gender inequality in global perspective
3. Gender inequality in the U.S.
4. Gender inequality in the workplace
5. Gender and violence
6. The changing face of politics

04/22 – 04/28 *Race and Ethnicity* Henslin Ch. 12.

Key Topics:

1. Race vs. ethnicity
2. Prejudice and discrimination
3. Theories of prejudice
4. Spectrum of intergroup relations
5. Racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.

04/29 – 05/05 *Marriage and Family* Henslin Ch. 16.

Key Topics:

1. Marriage and family in global perspective
2. Marriage and family in theoretical perspective
3. The family life cycle
4. Diversity in U.S. families
5. Trends in U.S. families
6. Divorce and remarriage
7. Two sides of family life

05/06 – 05/12

Population

Henslin Ch. 20.

Key Topics:

1. Population in global perspective
2. A planet with no space for enjoying life?
 - a. The Malthus theorem and the new Malthusians
 - b. The anti-Malthusian perspective
 - c. Why are (some) people starving?
3. Population growth
 - a. Why do poor nations have so many children?
 - b. Population pyramids
 - c. The three demographic variables
 - d. Forecasting population growth

05/13 – 05/17

***** Final Exam *** (A two-hour time slot of student's choice in Canvas)**

*Unforeseen circumstances may necessitate changes in the course requirements and/or schedules.
Any changes will be announced in advance.*
