

Introduction to Sociology

Sec 1: MW 0930-1045

Sec 4: TR 0800-915

Sec 5: TR 930-1045

Fall 2019

Dr. Helena L. Alden

Student Hours: M-R 1045-1145 and by appointment

CCC 454

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Sociology is defined as the systematic study of human society. For the purposes of class, our goal is to achieve a level of scholarly understanding of our everyday social worlds. As we start to examine, and ultimately question, the social forces impacting our lives, we will see how the 'life we take for granted' - from the simple act of saying hello to the complicated business of politics and government - is all part and parcel of our cultural and social identity. Food, housing, hobbies, music, knowledge, love, sports teams (Go Gators!), crime, families, race, social class, abilities, sex, gender (and many more) are all subject to the same forces and form part of the subject material open for us to study this semester.

The most important lesson of the class concerns the relationship between the individual and society. To examine this, we will investigate how structural forces such as race, class, gender, poverty, crime, etc. impact our day to day lives. We will also explore possible theoretical explanations for the existence and influence of these social conditions. Given the nature of the subject matter, you may recognize your life in the class, you may get upset or angry, you may be inspired, and you may come across new social arenas you haven't encountered before - that is the way sociology works! Since the focus of the class is on everyday life, you have much to contribute to one another and also to me, which I strongly urge you to do. Just remember to listen and be respectful of your classmates whether you agree with them or not.

Course Objectives:

1. Explain how class, race and gender condition social relations and affect life chances
2. Distinguish between personal troubles and public issues
3. Access, use and evaluate ways sociologists have explained social behavior
4. Identify ways in which historical and social forces influence personal biography

Textbook:

The texts are available at the campus bookstore.

I reserve the right to change the syllabus to suit the pedagogical needs of this class.

Newman, David. *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life Brief Edition 5th ed.*
Newman, David. *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Readings 10th ed.*

Class Attendance:

Attendance is required in this class. Lectures and discussions will complement and expand on the material in the book and additional readings. Students will be expected to read the required material before coming to class. However, I will not monitor attendance.

Class Participation:

I see my role in the classroom as being discussion leader, as opposed to a lecturer who stands in the front and lectures all class period, every class period. As such, I value class discussion and interactive learning. I am actively involved in teaching and expect you to be actively involved in learning. I will do everything I can to make this class engaging, as I believe this is the best way to learn. Be prepared to participate!

Examinations:

There are 3 examinations in this class, each worth 30% of the final grade. These exams are multiple choice, and will consist of not more than 50 questions. Each exam will draw questions from lecture material, readings and class assignments. None of the exams, including the final, are cumulative. The dates are as follows:

Exam 1

- Section 1: Mon., Sept. 30
- Sections 4 & 5: Tues., Oct. 1

Exam 2

- Section 1: Mon., Nov. 4th
- Sections 4 & 5: Tues., Nov. 5

Exam 3

- Section 1: Tues., Dec. 17, 1445-1645
- Section 4: Mon., Dec. 16, 0800-1000
- Section 5: Tues., Dec. 17, 10:15-1215

Please take careful note of the examination dates. In particular, take note of the date and time of the final examination. Earlier exam times will not be offered.

NO MAKE UPS FOR MISSED EXAMINATIONS ARE AVAILABLE EXCEPT IN DOCUMENTED EMERGENCIES.

Class assignments:

Over the course of the semester you will be required to do a series of assignments, both in class and out of class. These will become part of a portfolio of work that will constitute 10% of your final grade. These will primarily be submitted to Canvas. Specific due dates and requirements will be announced in class. These assignments are pass/fail. To pass, work must have been completed fully, thoroughly and thoughtfully. If you are not in class when the assignment is completed you WILL NOT be able to make it up, so please **do not ask me.**

These class assignments cannot be made up under any circumstances.

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No extra credit is available in this class.

Grading Scale:

93-100 A
90-92 A-
87-89 B+
83-86 B
80-82 B-
77-79 C+
73-76 C
70-72 C-
67-69 D+
60-66 D
0-59 F

Other policies and procedures:

Disability Statement: Any student who anticipates they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions) should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Students are also encouraged to contact the DATC at 715-346-3365 or at datctr@uwsp.edu to seek further assistance. Students currently registered with the DATC may provide their Notice of Accommodation letter during office hours, electronically via email, after class, or all.

Classroom etiquette: I ask that you arrive on time for class, and turn off your cell phones. I reserve the right to ask anyone texting to leave the classroom. I would prefer that you do not use laptops or tablets in the classroom unless it is a necessary learning tool.

Email: I make an effort to respond to your emails as quickly as possible. Please understand that this does not mean I will necessarily be able to respond within a few minutes or a few hours. Typically, you can reasonably expect a response from me within one business day (note that weekends are not business days). When writing to me, please ensure you do not use text speak!

Academic Misconduct: Academic integrity is central to the mission of this institution. UWSP 14 defines academic misconduct as any "action which a student:

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

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UWSP 14 allows for disciplinary sanctions that range from an oral reprimand to suspension or expulsion from the University. You can obtain a copy of the full academic misconduct policy through the Student Services office.

If I observe academic misconduct, or if suspicions of cheating are reported to me, I will request that the identified parties come to my office to discuss the situation, and the procedures set out in UWS 14 will be followed.

I recognize that the rules regarding academic misconduct can sometimes be confusing for students with respect to specific assignments or course work. If you have questions, I encourage you to come and see me. I am always prepared to help clarify any aspects of the work for this course that may be confusing. If you have questions or concerns about a particular assignment, you should talk with me before the assignment is submitted. Ignorance or misunderstanding of the UW System policy will not serve as a valid excuse for academic misconduct.

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/UWSP14-Final2019.pdf>

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Week	Topic	Assigned Readings
1	Introduction	Chapter 1 The Sociological Imagination
2	Seeing Sociologically	Chapter 2 Culture of Fear Monica and Karen
3	Knowledge	Chapter 3 Concepts, Indicators, Reality
4	Culture	Chapter 4 Body Ritual of the Nacirema Melting Pot
5	EXAM 1 Sept 30th or Oct 1st (check your section) Socialization	Chapter 5
6	Socialization	Tiger Girls Working the Code
7	Presentation of self	Chapter 6 Blue Chip Blacks Girl Hunt
8	Family	Chapter 7 Radical Idea of Marrying for Love
9	Deviance	Chapter 8 Watching the Canary Healing Disorderly Desire
10	EXAM 2 Nov 4th or Nov 5th (Check your section) Organizations	Chapter 9
11	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 11 Racial and Ethnic Formation Optional Ethnicities
12	Sex and Gender	Chapter 12 Black Women and New Womanhood Still a Man's World
13	Class, stratification, and inequality	Chapter 10
14	Class, stratification, and inequality	People of Walmart
15	Demography Social Change	Chapter 13 Chapter 14

FINAL EXAMS

Sec 1: Tuesday December 17th 1445-1645

Sec 4: Monday December 16th 0800-1000

Sec 5: Tuesday Decemner 17th 1015-1215

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Portfolio Assignment Schedule

Assignment #	Topic	Title	Type
1	Sociological Imagination	Personal Biography	In class finished at home
2	Knowledge	Says who?	In class with out of class analysis
3	Socialization	Participant Observation	Out of class
4	Presentation of Self	Impression Management	In class discussion plus out of class analysis
5	Family	What is a Family?	In class discussion
6	Deviance	Life on Parole	Documentary
7	Race and Ethnicity	13 th (subject to change)	Documentary
8	Sex and Gender	Is it a Boy or a Girl?	Out of class
9	Class and Stratification	Class in the US	In class plus out of class analysis
10	Social Change	Contemporary Social Movements	In class discussion

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