

SOC 101-04: Introduction to Sociology

Spring 2021

Instructor: Shuang Li, Ph.D., Sociology Lecturer
Lecture: Monday 3:00PM - 3:50PM (Weekly Zoom Meeting)
Office Hours: Appt. by email (the below email address)

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E-mail: sli@uwsp.edu (please put "SOC 101-04" in the subject line)

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).

Course Objectives

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

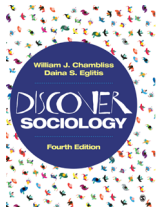
1. Recognize sociology as a social science;
2. Explain the sociological perspective;
3. Identify the major concepts used by sociologists to investigate human behaviors and social phenomena, including theory, social interaction, social organization, and social inequality;

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 of human groupings based on race/ethnicity, gender, class, national origin, religion, family status, etc.;
6. Explain how individuals or groups in the United States have responded to the experience of discrimination and inequality;
7. Demonstrate understanding of and empathetic insight about diverse cultural perspectives in the United States;
8. Develop critical thinking skills to explain and predict various aspects of social phenomena.

Required Textbooks:

The following book is required and has been ordered at the university bookstore:

Discover Sociology, Fourth Edition. Authors: William J. Chambliss and Daina S. Eglitis
Pub Date: January 2019



Description of Instructional Methods: Since it is a hybrid class, the class is navigated through weekly Canvas contents and Zoom meetings.

1) Canvas Contents:

The instructor's lecture slides, class recordings, assignments, and exams will be posted on Canvas. It is students' responsibility to review lectures slides and complete weekly quizzes to earn the associate points (see Grading Weights below).

Please visit Canvas frequently, especially check for new announcements, weekly modules, and grades. If you have questions about any of these items, please communicate with me via sli@uwsp.edu

2) Zoom Meetings: (start from the week of 02/08)

The Zoom meeting is scheduled once a week. The whole class will meet at the weekly designated class time (**Monday 3:00PM - 3:50PM**) for more intensive discussions and Q&As. Since we have a large class (around 45 students), we will have small group discussions during the Zoom meeting. It is essential for you to attend the weekly Zoom

meeting to actively interact with other students in the class discussions. The Zoom meetings link can be found under “Zoom” on Canvas.

The Zoom meetings are not compulsory, but highly recommended. If you cannot attend, please check for meeting recordings (will be posted into that week’s module after the meeting) on Canvas.

Assignment Submission and Late Policy

No make-up assignments will be offered except in documented conflicts or emergencies. Only proper documentation can be accepted as justification for make-up assignments, such as a doctor/coach/supervisor/adviser’s note, a court order/subpoena, wedding invitation, obituary/visitation/funeral notice, and the like, and the proper documentation shall be provided to the instructor in hard copy or as an electronic file so that the instructor can keep it in his record. A simple self-narration of an emergency or a special occasion (e.g., sickness, car failure, misfortune, family/work emergency, celebration/festivity, vacation, etc.), whether in oral or written forms, whether given weeks in advance or in the last minute, cannot be accepted as proper documentation, and a student’s request in that case will NOT be granted. ONCE AGAIN, A SELF-NARRATION DOES NOT COUNT AS DOCUMENTATION.

For any other missing assignments, late work is accepted up to one week after the specified deadline (0.5-point reduction). I will not accept assignments after this.

Evaluation

Evaluation of this course is based on the standard UWSP grading scale.

Course Evaluation:

Quizzes=	30
Midterm=	40
Final Project=	30
<u>Total =</u>	<u>100</u>

A total of 100 possible points can be earned for all coursework. Letter grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	93-100
A-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
<u>C-</u>	<u>70-72.99</u>

D+	67-69.00
D	60-66.9
F	<60

Grading Weights: Students must complete all assignments to receive course credit. Assignments must be completed when due, and mass submissions of late work at the end of the semester will not be accepted. Students can expect grades to be posted one week after the assignment's due date.

- **Weekly Quizzes** (3 points each x 10, 30 points total).

The chapter quizzes can be accessed on Canvas under “**Quizzes.**” The weekly quizzes are based on the readings of textbook, lecture slides, and class discussions. There will be 10 multiple-choice questions in each quiz. Each week's quiz will be available starting Monday at 12:00 AM and must be completed by Friday at 11:59 PM. Students will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz with only **ONE** attempt. The quizzes will be graded automatically upon completion. So, make sure you submit once upon completion.

- **Exams** (midterms=40 (20 points x2), final project=30) There will be two midterm exams and one final project. All exams will be open-book exams. The exams questions will be based on lectures, readings, and discussions.
 - i) The midterm exam format will be multiple-choice plus short essay questions. It will be open for a whole week, however, you have a **two-hour** limit to work on the midterm. The first midterm exam will be after week 5 and the second midterm will be after week 10.
 - ii) The final project will be given at the **May 17th-21st**. The final project requires you to complete an individual work of demonstrating one social problem that you care about and use one or more sociological theories to back up your argument. More instructions will be given when we approach to the final week.
 - iii) You only get **one attempt** to work on all the exams.

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.

Disability Support Services

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC) on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (library) as soon as possible. DATC will then coordinate with me in helping you receive the proper accommodations and auxiliary aids. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or datctr@uwsp.edu. You can also find more information here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/datc>.

Academic Support Resources

UWSP at Wausau students have academic support resources available to them for FREE. The Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) offers tutoring services including one on one and drop-in tutoring services, academic skills workshops, and one on one academic coaching appointments. For additional information please contact Megan Sippel, the Academic Success Coordinator, via email msippel@uwsp.edu or phone 715-261-6148.

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 come to my office to discuss the situation, and then the procedures set out in UWS/UWSP Chapter 14 will be followed.

Use of Technology

Any form of audio or video recording in the classroom is strictly prohibited. If a student has a legitimate need to record the instructor's lecture in audio or video format, then the student shall obtain the pertinent accommodation authorization **AND** the instructor's permission beforehand.

Other Things to Consider:

My Responsibility: I personally take this great opportunity of lecturing this online course in the fall semester of 2020. I will make every reasonable effort to ensure that you have an opportunity to apprehend the material presented in this course. I will be happy to answer your questions

pertaining to our course content through email; please contact me sooner rather than later if you feel that you are lost, falling behind, or confused.

Student Responsibility: Students are expected to browse through Canvas **weekly**, read the readings assigned, and engage in oral discussions and post written reflections on time. Students are responsible for their own performance on the assigned work. This responsibility includes seeking my help (by emailing me) if students feel they are unable to keep up with class using the readings and in-class activities.

Etiquette: Sociology deals with topics of great importance in people's lives. There is a good chance we will address topics which make you uncomfortable, perspectives you disagree with, and ideas and behaviors you may find morally or otherwise objectionable. In order to advance our understanding of social life, we must be able to treat one another with respect and to face aspects of human behavior we may not find personally appealing. It is critical that students maintain open minds and a willingness to hear one another and consider their positions and experiences using reason and careful consideration. Students are required to follow the standard English grammar rules and regulations when communicating with others in the discuss board.

Unacceptable behaviors in the course are:

- Criticizing another student personally.
- Interrupting or refusing to allow other students to speak.
- Shouting (the electronic version of this, using all caps), engaging in online harassment (spamming messages or email, organizing "hate" pages or groups, outing private information shared with the class in an online context), becoming or threatening to become physically aggressive, using racist, sexist, or homophobic epithets, or disrupting the integrity of the online classroom environment or online discussion by obtrusive behavior.
- Ignoring my authority to moderate course interactions.

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COURSE OUTLINE (Tentative)

DATES	TOPICS/ACTIVITIES	READING
01/25 – 01/29	<i>Discover Sociology</i> <u>Key Topics:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the sociology?2. The Sociological Imagination3. Origins of sociology4. Three major theoretical perspectives in sociology<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Functional analysis (structural functionalism)b. Conflict theoryc. Symbolic interactionism <p>(No quiz, post your introduction to Canvas)</p>	Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 1.
02/01 – 02/05	<i>Discover Sociological Research</i> <u>Key Topics:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Research and The Scientific Method<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Relationships Between Variablesb. Testing Theories and Hypothesesc. Validity and Reliabilityd. Objectivity in Scientific Research2. Doing Sociological Research Values in U.S. Society	Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 2.
02/08 – 02/12 (Zoom meeting starts)	<i>Culture and Mass Media</i> <u>Key Topics:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is culture?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Nonmaterial (symbolic) cultureb. Culture and Languagec. Culture and Mass Media2. Culture, Class, and Inequality	Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 3.

3. Culture and Globalization

02/15 – 02/19 *Socialization and Social Interaction* Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 4.

Key Topics:

1. The birth of the social self
2. Agents of socialization
3. Socialization and aging
4. Re-socialization
5. Total institutions and resocialization
6. Social interaction

02/22 – 02/26 *Groups, Organizations, and Bureaucracies* Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 5.

Key Topics:

1. The nature of groups
 - a. Primary groups and secondary groups
2. The power of groups
 - a. Conformity to groups
3. Economic, cultural, and social capital
 - a. Organizations
 - b. Bureaucracies
 - c. Written rules and regulations
4. Bureaucracy and democracy

03/01 – 03/05 * First Midterm Exam *** due 03/05 at 11:59PM**

03/08 – 03/12 *Deviance and Social Control* Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 6.

Key Topics:

1. What is deviance?
2. How do sociologists explain deviance
 - a. The symbolic interactionist perspective
 - b. The functionalist perspective
 - c. The conflict perspective
3. Social control of deviance

03/15 – 03/19 *Social Class and Inequality in the United States* Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 7.

Key Topics:

1. Stratification in traditional and modern societies
2. Sociological building blocks of social class
3. Class and inequality in the united states: dimensions and trend
4. The problem of neighborhood poverty
5. Why do stratification and poverty exist and persist in class societies?

Spring Break~~~ (03/19-03/28)

03/29 – 04/02 *Global Inequality and Poverty* Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 8.

Key Topics:

1. Dimensions of global inequality and poverty
2. Armed conflict and poverty
3. Technology: the great equalizer?
4. Theoretical perspectives on global inequality
5. Why study global inequality from a sociological perspective?

04/05 – 04/09 *Race and Ethnicity* Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 9.

Key Topics:

1. Race vs. ethnicity
2. Minority and dominant group relations
3. Theories of ethnicity, racism, and minority status
4. Prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination
5. Racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.

04/12 – 04/16 *Gender and Society* Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 10.

Key Topics:

1. Sex, gender, and sexuality
2. Gender and society
3. Gender and economics: men, women, and the gender wage gap
4. Classical theories, feminist thought, and the sociology of masculinity
5. Women's lives in a global perspective

04/19 – 04/23

*** Second Midterm Exam ***

due 04/23 at 11:59PM

04/26 – 04/30

Education and Society

Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 12.

Key Topics:

1. The college dropout dilemma
2. Education, industrialization, and the “credential society”
3. Theoretical perspectives on education
4. Education, opportunity, and inequality
5. Issues in U.S. higher education
6. Education in a global perspective

05/03 – 05/07

Family and Society

Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 11.

Key Topics:

1. Millennials and marriage
2. Theoretical perspectives on families
3. U.S. families yesterday and today
4. Socioeconomic class and family in the united states
5. Globalization and families

05/10 – 05/14

Health and Medicine

Main reading: Chambliss Ch. 16.

(No quiz)

05/17-05/21

*** Final Project ***

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