

## **SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology (Section 6)** **Fall 2020**

**Instructor:** M. David Chunyu, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology  
**Lecture:** Online and asynchronous  
**Office Hours:** On Zoom by appointment  
**E-mail:** [dchunyu@uwsp.edu](mailto:dchunyu@uwsp.edu) (please put "SOC 101" 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).

### **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.

### **Textbook**

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

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

Please visit <https://www.uwsp.edu/centers/store/Pages/default.aspx> to get the fall 2020 text rental information.

### **Additional Course Materials**

Additional course materials (the instructor's lecture slides, chapter-specific review exercises, assignments, exams, additional reading, etc.) will be made available in Canvas.

### **Course Structure**

This course will be delivered entirely online and asynchronously through the course management system Canvas. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course from the [Canvas Login Page](#). If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account](#) page to do so.

This course consists of 12 units of substantive learning, aligned with 11 chapters of our textbook. In most cases, students are expected to complete one unit each week throughout the semester, with the only exception of Chapter 12, which will take more than one week to complete. For each unit students are expected to complete various kinds of 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 course you will be expected to complete the following types of tasks.

- read the assigned textbook chapters
- download and read documents (instructor’s lecture slides, chapter-specific review exercises, assignments, additional reading, etc.) from Canvas
- view online videos
- conduct pertinent internet searches
- complete assignments in Canvas including participating in online discussions (earning up to 40 points in total)
- practice chapter-specific review exercises (highly relevant to preparation for exams)
- take exams in Canvas (earning up to 60 points in total; 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” s/he has 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 (also see the “Grading Scale” section below about the calculation of a student’s “TOTAL POINTS”).

*A student’s max total points consist of the following:*

- **Assignments** **40 Points**
  - ❖ *Including online discussions*
- **Exams** **60 Points**
  - ❖ *1st exam* *20 points*
  - ❖ *2nd exam* *20 points*
  - ❖ *Final exam* *20 points*

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***Max Total = 100 Points***

Assignments (40 Points)

There will be 12 assignments spread over the semester (i.e., one new assignment for each substantive unit of the course). 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 of these assignments is worth 3-4 points. Altogether they are worth 40 points.

For each required task (i.e., assignment and/or online discussion) students will have about one week to complete it. ***Each required task is due on Sunday night within the week. Late submission will receive 1 point penalty. The last day for the instructor to accept any assignment submission, including late submission, is December 13, 2020 (Sunday).*** No late submission will be accepted beyond December 13, 2020 (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 2-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 lectures and 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" s/he has 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, division, or any “out of (a base number)” concept is involved in the “TOTAL POINTS” calculation.

A student’s “TOTAL POINTS” will then be converted into her/his 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

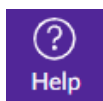
Students’ grade points from assignments (including online discussions) and exams, plus optional bonus points if applicable, will be posted in Canvas → “Grades” area as soon as they become available. A distinct grade item will also be created in Canvas → “Grades” area to show a student’s “TOTAL POINTS” s/he has accumulated over the semester. (**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. 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 her/his own grade status.

### **UWSP Technology Support**

- Visit with a [Student Technology Tutor](#)
- Seek assistance from the [IT Service Desk](#) (Formerly HELP Desk)
  - IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
  - IT Service Desk Email: [techhelp@uwsp.edu](mailto:techhelp@uwsp.edu)

### **Canvas Support**

Click on the



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

Support Options	Explanations
<p><a href="#">Ask Your Instructor a Question</a> Submit a question to your instructor</p>	<p>Use <b>Ask Your Instructor a Question</b> sparingly; technical questions are best reserved for Canvas personnel and help as detailed below.</p>

<p><b>Chat with Canvas Support (Student)</b> Live Chat with Canvas Support 24x7!</p>	<p><b>Chatting with Canvas Support (Student)</b> will initiate a <i>text chat</i> with Canvas support. Response can be qualified with severity level.</p>
<p><b>Contact Canvas Support via email</b> Canvas support will email a response</p>	<p><b>Contacting Canvas Support via email</b> will allow you to explain in detail or even upload a screenshot to show your particular difficulty.</p>
<p><b>Contact Canvas Support via phone</b> 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><b>Search the Canvas Guides</b> Find answers to common questions</p>	<p><b>Searching the <a href="#">Canvas guides</a></b> connects you to documents that are searchable by issue. You may also opt for <a href="#">Canvas video guides</a>.</p>
<p><b>Submit a Feature Idea</b> 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 <b>Submit a Feature Idea</b> avenue.</p>

*All options are available 24/7; however, if you opt to email your instructor, s/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

### 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.

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**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.

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The instructor will attempt to reply to and assess student discussion posts within 48 hours of discussions closing.

The instructor will attempt to grade written work within 72 hours, however longer written 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.

Since some topics covered by this course can be complicated, sensitive, quite often controversial, and sometimes emotionally charged, we will encounter different perspectives, theories, and interpretations about race and ethnicity – some you may agree with and others you may have reservations about, it is of paramount importance that we respect each other's points of view and maintain a critical but open mind. I try to encourage and maintain a classroom dynamic that is conducive to honest and open discussions about topics that are sometimes uncomfortable to talk about. This environment of openness is created and maintained when we respect and listen to one another.

### **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 course and wish to have special accommodations, 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](mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu). You can also find more information here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/datc>.

### **Academic Support**

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

In addition, students can also use help from the Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC). Students can drop in room 018 Albertson Hall (library) to discuss the specific needs. TLC can also be reached at 715-346-3568 or [tlctutor@uwsp.edu](mailto:tlctutor@uwsp.edu). You can find more information on TLC 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.

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## COURSE OUTLINE

DATES	TOPICS/ACTIVITIES	READING
<b>Part I. The Sociological Perspective</b>		
09/02 – 09/06	<p><i>The Sociological Perspective</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the sociological perspective?</li> <li>2. Sociology, social sciences, and science</li> <li>3. Origins of sociology</li> <li>4. Three major theoretical perspectives in sociology               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Functional analysis (structural functionalism)</li> <li>b. Conflict theory</li> <li>c. Symbolic interactionism</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Henslin Ch. 1.
09/07 – 09/13	<p><i>Culture</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is culture?</li> <li>2. Nonmaterial (symbolic) culture</li> <li>3. Subcultures and countercultures</li> <li>4. Values in U.S. society</li> <li>5. Cultural universals</li> </ol>	Henslin Ch. 2.
09/14 – 09/20	<p><i>Socialization</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Society makes us human</li> <li>2. Socialization into the self and mind</li> <li>3. Socialization into gender</li> <li>4. Agents of socialization</li> <li>5. Re-socialization</li> <li>6. Socialization through the life course</li> </ol>	Henslin Ch. 3.

09/21 – 09/27

*Social Structure and Social Interaction*

Henslin Ch. 4.

Key Topics:

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

**09/28 – 10/04**

**\*\*\* 1st Midterm Exam \*\*\* (A 2-hour time slot of student's choice in Canvas)**

**Part II. Social Groups and Social Control**

10/05 – 10/11

*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

10/12 – 10/18

*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

### Part III. Social Inequality

10/19 – 10/25                      *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

10/26 – 11/01                      *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

**11/02 – 11/08                      \*\*\* 2nd Midterm Exam \*\*\* (A 2-hour time slot of student's choice in Canvas)**

11/09 – 11/15                      *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?

11/16 – 11/22                      *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

11/23 – 12/06\*

*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.

\* 11/26 – 11/29

STUDENT VACATION! HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

**Part IV. Social Institutions**

12/07 – 12/13

*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

12/14 – 12/20

**\*\*\* Final Exam \*\*\* (A 2-hour time slot of student's choice in Canvas)**

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

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