

SOC 1010: Principles of Sociology
Spring 2024

Instructor: Kelly Campbell

Class time: 12:30PM – 1:20 PM, M/W/F

Office: 227 Williams Hall

Class location: 223 Olscamp Hall

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Office hours: By appointment

Course Description

Sociology is the study of human behavior and society. How can we understand human behavior? Sociologists maintain that our behavior is largely a function of our social world, the context in which we live. Our experiences with others shape our own thoughts and actions. In this course, we will cultivate what C. Wright Mills termed our “sociological imagination,” that is, the ability to identify the connections between our personal experiences and our social milieu. To introduce you to the ways in which sociologists study social interactions and social organization, we will focus on the theoretical and conceptual frameworks developed by sociologists as well as the empirical strategies sociologists use in their research. We will also cover sociological terminology as it forms the basis of the discipline and is necessary for subsequent course work in the field. Throughout the semester, we will emphasize the role of sociology in enhancing our understanding of the world around us.

Course Objectives

This introductory sociology course is designed with several student learning outcomes in mind:

- To gain a general knowledge of the history, basic concepts, and theories of sociology.
- To introduce you to the diverse ways in which sociologists gather, interpret, and evaluate data.
- To apply a sociological imagination to various areas of social life.
- To develop and articulate sociologically informed opinions and arguments concerning social and behavioral phenomena and critically assess sociological arguments.

These student learning outcomes will be assessed by exams and writing assignments described in the syllabus.

Learning Outcomes

SOC 1010 is a BG Perspective course. We will be working toward the following learning outcomes.

- You will learn how to identify issues and problems and to formulate and frame these in ways that contribute to their solution*.
- You will learn how theory is applied to events to produce knowledge.*
- You will be able to examine the nature of decision making in society from the perspectives of the social sciences and how values impact on that decision-making.*
- You will be able to construct and present an argument, identifying the evidence that supports it and the reasoning process by which a conclusion is reached.
- You will be able to articulate the bases of evidence in this discipline, how they are used, and the assumptions on which they rest.*

*The achievement of the BGP learning outcomes will be assessed using a standardized set of multiple choice questions.

Text and Materials

- There is a required textbook for this course: **Sociology: a Down-To-Earth Approach**, James M. Henslin, 2019, 14th edition. This text is available to purchase in the BG Textbooks website.
- Supplemental Reader: **Life in Society**, James M. Henslin, 2011, 4th edition, on reserve in the library.
- A schedule of required readings and topics covered, as well as additional readings, are available on Canvas under Modules.

- Lecture notes /outlines will be provided for the course to help you structure your note-taking. These will be located under Pages > Chapter Notes and in the weekly Modules on Canvas.
 - These lecture notes are not a substitute for attending class and taking notes. Students should not expect to merely come to class and copy down what is in a PowerPoint presentation or written on the board.
 - Each set of chapter notes will have words or concepts listed in bold print. It is your responsibility to read and understand the definitions of these words/concepts from the textbook, as you will need to know them for your exams.

Class Format (Instructional Strategies)

We will engage in a variety of activities throughout the semester including: interactive lecture, small group and class discussion, and other in-class activities, including response to films and other media. Your active participation on a regular basis is expected and necessary for you to benefit from these activities and develop an understanding of the course material.

Course Requirements and Learning Activities

The course requirements listed below assess the attainment of student learning outcomes. Because students learn in many different ways, and knowledge and comprehension are demonstrated in different ways, there are a variety of ways in which I assess student learning outcomes.

- **Exams:** There are four exams in this class. Each exam is worth 100-120 points, and includes multiple choice, true/false, matching, ranking and essay questions. Exams cover materials from the lectures, readings, and any class discussions and activities. Failure to take an exam will result in a zero. Make-up exams will be given at my discretion and will only be given to students who have received prior permission to miss the scheduled exam or in case of documented emergencies. Make-up exams may be in a format that is different from the original exam. This make-up allowance does not apply to the final exam. You are expected to take the final on the regularly scheduled day and time. Do not schedule travel or other events that conflict with the final exam. The final exam is not comprehensive.
- **Assignments:** All weekly assignments are listed under Modules on Canvas. You will be expected to answer textbook questions each week from each chapter. The instructions for this assignment are under Pages on Canvas > *Instructions for Weekly Chapter Questions*. Each set of chapter questions is worth 20 points. Late assignments will be accepted with a 10% penalty for each day late (including weekends and non-class days).
 - Assignments must be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted on Canvas (unless otherwise noted). Save a copy of all assignments until the end of the semester in a place where you can access the assignment again (i.e., NOT on a computer in a computer lab where it will get deleted.)
- **Essay / Paper:** You will be expected to write 1 critical thinking essay on a selection of your own choosing, from the supplemental reader, **Life In Society**, James M. Henslin, which is on reserve in the Jerome Library. The instructions for this essay are listed under Pages in Canvas and the due date for this paper is listed on Canvas under Modules > *Instructions for Critical Thinking Analysis Paper*. The essay needs to 2-3 pages in length, and is worth 50 points.
- **Attendance and Class Participation:** Class attendance and participation are considered crucial to this course and understanding of the material, therefore your attendance is weighted accordingly. The total of points for attendance and participation is 50 points.

Grading

The grade distribution is the following:

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Exam 4	100 points
Weekly Assignments	300 points
Essays / Papers	50 points
Attendance/Participation	50 points

800 points

Calculating Your Grade: At the end of the semester, I will calculate your grade and if you are close (within a point) to the next highest grade, I will take into account your attendance and class participation and consider moving you up to the higher grade.

Grading Scale

90% – 100%	A
80% – 89%	B
70% – 79%	C
60% – 69%	D
<60%	F

Policy Statements

- **Attendance:** It is important to attend class regularly. I consider learning an interactive process, and you cannot interact with your instructor and classmates if you do not show up. This course will use lectures, class discussions, and exercises that cannot be replaced by reading the course materials alone. This class assumes students are responsible adults capable of deciding where to be and accepting the consequences of this decision. **Please do not email me to ask what you have missed or if you have missed anything due to an absence – you should expect that you will miss something every time you are absent from a class.**

****If you must be absent, please be aware that you are responsible for all material covered during class time.**

Throughout the semester, we will do group work in class. Please use this opportunity to get to know some of your classmates. While no one is obligated to share notes or information about the class with another student, you may find a helpful classmate in the unlikely event that you miss class.

If you are going to miss class for a University-related event (e.g., athletic event that you are participating in, field trip for another class, etc.) on the day that an assignment is due or an exam is given, you must make arrangements with me to turn in the assignment or take the exam *prior* to the due date.

- **Cell Phones, Laptops, and other Electronic Devices:** Laptop computers may be used *at certain times* during the class for note-taking/class activities only. At other times (e.g., group discussions, videos, etc.), students will be required to close their laptops. Any student found to be using a laptop during restricted times or using a laptop for tasks other than taking notes for our class may be asked to leave the class. In

such cases, the student may be banned from using a laptop in class the rest of the semester. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices (e.g., iPads) is *not* allowed in class. These devices must be turned off and put out of sight during class.

If the use of laptops in class serves as a distraction for the instructor and/or students, laptop use may be banned for all for the remainder of the semester.

- **Student Code of Conduct:** A community exists on the basis of shared values and principles. At BGSU, students, recognized student organizations, and student groups are expected to uphold and abide by certain standards of conduct. You should familiarize yourself with the Codes which create a set of expectations for student conduct, ensure a fair process for determining responsibility when student behavior may have deviated from those expectations, and provide sanctions when a student and or student organization has violated the Code(s). Students who violate faculty expectations as outlined in the Syllabus may be subject to conduct action. **Please view the Student Handbook, the Code of Academic Conduct and the Code of Student Conduct** and contact the Office of the Dean of Students if you have any questions at 419-372-2843 or odos@bgsu.edu.
- **Academic Honesty:** The instructor and students in this course will adhere to the University's general Codes of Conduct defined in the BGSU Student Handbook. The Code of Academic Conduct (Academic Honesty Policy) requires that students do not engage in academic dishonesty. *Please note: I encourage scholarly discussion about the topics covered in class. However, all work for the class (e.g., exams, assignments) is to be your own, independent work. If you have any questions about this policy, please ask me.*
- **Freedom of Expression:** Bowling Green State University, as a public institution, is committed to freedom of expression and the rights protected by the First Amendment. First Amendment rights have implications inside the classroom as well. Review the **Office of the Dean of Students page regarding Freedom of Expression at Bowling Green State University**. For more information including this policy and reporting concerns please visit the **"See It, Hear It, Report It"** page.
- **Title IX:** Bowling Green State University is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students that is free of all forms of discrimination and harassment. Sexual misconduct and relationship violence in any form are antithetical to the University's mission and core values, violate University policies, and may also violate federal and state law. Faculty members are considered "Mandatory Reporters" and are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and relationship violence to the Title IX Coordinator. If you, or someone you know has been impacted by sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, please visit the Title IX webpage, (<http://www.bgsu.edu/bgsucares/title-ix.html>) to access information about university support and resources.
- **Non-Discrimination in Employment and Education:** Bowling Green State University is committed to maintaining an employment and educational environment that is free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. The University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of protected class. Retaliation against any person for asserting their legal rights to be free from discrimination and harassment, for reporting discrimination and harassment, or for participating in activities is strictly prohibited. You may review BGSU's **Non-Discrimination in Employment and Education** policy for more information. To report concerns, please visit the **"See It, Hear It, Report It"** page.
- **Student Veteran Friendly Campus:** BGSU educators recognize veterans rights when entering and exiting the University system. If you are a student veteran, please communicate with your instructor so that

reasonable accommodations can be made for absence when drilling or being called to active duty. Refer to **Veterans** page.

- **Consultation:** If you have problems or issues at any time during the semester that you feel are or will be affecting your coursework, please let me know as soon as possible. The sooner I know, the better I will be able to work with you to devise ways to keep up in the class. At times, students have sought additional assignments or extra credit to help boost their grades. I do not offer additional assignments or additional extra credit.
- **Disability Policy and Accessibility Services:** In accordance with the University policy, if the student has a documented disability and requires accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, they should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester and make this known. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Disability Services for Students, 413 South Hall. Accessibility Services , <https://www.bgsu.edu/accessibility-services.html> provides equal access and reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities attending BGSU. Students wishing to discuss their eligibility for such accommodations are encouraged to contact the office at phone: 419-372-8495, fax: 419-372-8496 or email: access@bgsu.edu.
- **Email**
 - *Sending email:* When emailing me, you must include the class (SOC 1010) in the subject line. Include your name or signature. Failure to do so may result in a delayed or no response from me. Please keep in mind, for this class and all classes, that your written communications (in emails, assignments, etc.) represent you as a student and scholar. Your emails should be written in a professional manner.
 - *Receiving email:* Important class information will be communicated using your BGSU email account. University policy states, “Students are expected to check their email on a frequent and consistent basis in order to recognize that certain communications may be time critical” (<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/page53072.html>).
- **Extra Credit:** Throughout the course of the semester, I may offer a few opportunities for small amounts of extra credit. These extra credit opportunities will be announced in class and will often be available only to those who are present in class when they are announced. No individual extra credit (i.e., extra credit for just one student) or make-up extra credit will be offered.
- **In-Class Participation:** In-class participation is expected. An important part of the learning process is interacting with your peers and your instructor. Because the subject matter of this course can be sensitive for people, the following rules for classroom participation are extremely important to obey.
 - There will be no derogatory comments made toward any member of this class.
 - There will be no derogatory language used to describe any group of people.
 - The members of this class will show respect toward all other members of the class and will not interrupt others while they are talking.
- **Office Hours:** It is impossible to schedule office hours that all students are able to attend. If you are unable to visit my office hours because you have another class at that time, I am happy to schedule an appointment at a different time. There are no office hours during breaks or finals week.
- **Religious Accommodations:** It is the policy of the University to make every reasonable effort allowing students to observe their religious holidays without academic penalty and therefore, in addition to participation/attendance/absence policies already listed, you may be absent for up to three (3) days each semester without penalty, to take time off for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system

to participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church or other religious or spiritual organization. You are required to notify me in writing of specific dates requested for alternative accommodation no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of instruction in this class. After necessary notification, you should consult with me to determine an appropriate alternative opportunity that will be provided to help you complete your academic responsibilities for the course. These requests will remain confidential. For more information about this **policy**, you may contact the Dean of Students at odos@bgsu.edu or 419-372-2843.

- **University Closure:** In most cases, the University will not close for winter conditions unless the Wood County Sheriff's Department declares a Level 3 emergency. Once the decision is made to delay, cancel, or close, individuals will be notified through AlertBG, email, the BGSU homepage, social media channels and the news media (See the **Emergency Cancellation Delay and Closing Policy and Procedures** document for a list of radio and television stations).
- **Course or University Transition to Online Status:** Should the university or the instructor need to transition the course or all classes to online status, due to state mandated or emergency campus closure related to CO-VID 19 or any other health related issues, all courses, including our course will transition to an online course and we will proceed as planned, online, with as much instructor support as possible.
- **Class Schedule:** This schedule on the following pages is tentative. Certain topics may take more or less time depending on the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via e-mail. Please refer to the plan of work schedule on the following pages. The schedule has been separated on the last 2 pages of the Syllabus so that you can print it separately for your quick reference throughout the semester. (See next page!)

Date	Topic Covered	Reading/Assignment
Week 1:	Course introduction The Sociological Perspective How Sociologists Do Research	• Class syllabus • Chapter 1 • Chapter 5
Week 2:	Culture Socialization	• Chapter 2 • Chapter 3
Week 3:	Social Structure and Social Interaction	• Chapter 4 • Genie Documentary
Week 4:	Societies to Social Networks	• Exam 1 • Chapter 6 • Street Gang Documentary
Week 5:	Bureaucracy and Formal Organizations Deviance and Social Control	• Chapter 7 • Chapter 8
Week 6:	Global Stratification Social Class in the United States	• Chapter 9 • Chapter 10
Week 7:	Exam 2 Sex and Gender Race and Ethnicity	• Exam 2 • Chapter 11 • Chapter 12
Week 8:	Aging and Elderly	• Chapter 13
Week 9:	The Economy Politics	• Chapter 14 • Chapter 15
Week 10:	Exam 3 Education Religion	• Exam 3 • Chapter 17 • Chapter 18
Week 11:	Medicine	• Chapter 19

Date	Topic Covered	Reading/Assignment
Week 12:	Population and Urbanization	• Chapter 20
Week 13:	Collective Behavior and Social Movements	• Chapter 21
Week 14:	Social Change and the Environment	• Chapter 22
Week 15:	"Catch up"	
Week 16: Finals Week	No class- Exam 4 (Final Exam)	