

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY: SC 101/ 51- 201525

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Summer III, 2015

COURSE FORMAT:

This is an asynchronous online course. We will not meet in a classroom. All assignments will be completed on-line within the time limits provided for each assignment or exam.

COURSE TIME FRAME:

This is a five-week on-line course beginning on Monday, July 20th and continuing through August 13th, 2015. Students are expected to follow the course outline and complete assignments by the designated due dates. All due dates are expressed in the Eastern Standard Time Zone.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Learning outcomes are listed on the course outline by week.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

I am available by email and will respond to your questions within 24 hours (In most cases much sooner). If it is an emergency, please indicate it in the subject area of your email and also attach a high priority designation. You may email me directly through your John Carroll email account or, if you prefer, you may select the "send email" tab under Course Tools. I will respond as quickly as I can.

MANDATORY TEXT*:

Conley, Dalton: 2013. You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction To Thinking Like A Sociologist. Third Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. New York: New York. ISBN: 978-0-393-91299-9.

*If preferred, students can purchase an eBook version of this text at nortonebooks.com. The eBook replicates actual pages and allows students to highlight, take notes, print, and save their work. The eBook is available on-line and in PDF.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exam 1	30 points
Exam 2	30 points
Exam 3	30 points
Exam 4	30 points
Discussion Questions	60 points
Pop Cultural Film Analysis	70 points
Total Class Points	250 Points

REQUIREMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

Exams.

The exams will consist of short answer essay questions.

Discussion Questions.

The discussion questions are short-answer essay questions that reflect the chapter material and the weekly videos. Students are to select one question to answer from those posted.

Pop Cultural Film Analysis.

Write a four-page sociological analysis of your favorite film. The paper must be written in 12 point Arial or Verdana font. Double spaced with one-inch margins. The paper may follow the style guidelines of either your discipline or preference (i.e. M.L.A., A.S.A., A.P.A., and Turabian).

For your analysis:

- Select a total of six concepts or ideas from your text and describe how the film either comments on these ideas OR how you can apply these concepts or ideas to a better understanding of the film.
- Three of the total six concepts or ideas used in your paper must come from the chapters in Unit Five: the Family, Education, and the Economy.
- If you prefer, as a strategy, approach the analysis in your paper by answering the question: what is my favorite film communicating to me that I can better understand using the concepts or ideas that I have chosen for this paper?

Please submit your paper as a Microsoft Word (.doc) file by X/X/2015 by 11:59 p.m. E.S.T. Name your file: lastname_firstname.doc.

COURSE GRADING SCALE:

100 - 95 = A	84 - 80 = B-	69 - 66 = D
94 - 92 = A-	79 - 77 = C+	< 66 = F
91 - 88 = B+	76 - 74 = C	
87 - 85 = B	73 - 70 = C-	

CHECK GRADE PROGRESS:

Graded material will be available for student review on each Monday afternoon by 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. Students can check their grade progress one of two ways: (1) go to the *Tools* navigational tab for our class and click on *My Grades*; or (2) go to *My Grades* under the *Tools* box heading on the landing page for Blackboard.

FINAL GRADE POSTING:

Final grades will be posted on X/X/2015 by 4:00 P.M. E.S.T.

PLAGIARISM:

Students who plagiarize will receive "0" points for that assignment.

MISSED OR INCOMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments are date sensitive. In addition, the exams are time sensitive. Any assignments not returned to Dr. DeZolt by the designated time will receive "0" points.

READING, WRITING, EXAM, AND DUE DATE SCHEDULE*:

***THE DESIGNATED DUE DATES FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, EXAMS, AND THE POP CULTURAL FILM ANALYSIS PAPER ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF YOUR WORK ON THE DESIGNATED DUE DATES MUST BE RECEIVED BY ME NO LATER THAN 11:59 P.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME.**

FAILURE TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK ACCORDING TO THE TIME GUIDELINES ABOVE WILL RESULT IN "0" POINTS FOR EACH LATE SUBMISSION. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Week 1:

Unit Title: Thinking Sociologically

Individual Topics:

Ch. 1 – The Sociological Imagination

Ch. 2 – Methods

Ch. 3 – Culture and the Media

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this unit, you should be able to explain...

- The influence of cultural values on behavior.
- How and why most Americans generally adhere to the larger cultural value system even though their daily allegiance may be to a subcultural tradition.
- The influence that macro social factors have on micro day-day life.
- The influence of institutions, like the media, to project an allegiance to the core values and norms of American society.
- How the asking of different types of questions frame sociological understanding.

Week 1 Videos: (twenty-six total video minutes for the week)

- Survey methods and interpretation of data from Middletown study (6:46).
- Personal troubles and public issues converge in a eulogy for a brother and a soldier (5:10).
- Behind the Screens: Hollywood Goes Hyper Commercial (8:16).
- Advertising and the End of the World (5:11).

Assignments:

- Listen to both Dr. DeZolt's Introduction to the Course and week one videos. In addition, complete the Introduce Yourself assignment located on the Discussion Board. **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
 - Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3 in the text **(Due Date: by X/X/2015)**
 - Choose one of the Discussion Questions to answer **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
 - Complete Exam #1 **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
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Week 2:

Unit Title: Social Life, Identity, and Conformity

Individual Topics:

Ch. 4 – Socialization and the Social Construction of Reality

Ch. 5 – Groups and Networks

Ch. 6 – Social Control and Deviance

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this unit, you should be able to explain...

- The ways that social reality is constructed.
- How and why the process of socialization is effective in maintaining social order.
- How the process of group affiliation aids in creating personal identity.
- How the social control apparatus maintains its effectiveness in minimizing deviant and criminal behavior.
- How and why most Americans commit routine acts of deviance across their lifetimes.

Week 2 Videos: (twenty-five total video minutes for the week)

- Crips and Bloods: Made in America (10:43).
- A Hard Straight (4:47).
- Wall Street (6:51).
- The Amish and Us (2:57)

Assignments:

- Read Dr. DeZolt's unit email introduction and view week two videos. **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
 - Read chapters 4, 5, 6 in the text **(Due Date: by X/X/2015)**
 - Choose one of the Discussion Questions to answer **(X/X/2015)**
 - Complete Exam #2 **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
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Week 3:

Unit Title: Inequality and Stratification

Individual Topics:

Ch. 7 – Stratification

Ch. 8 – Gender

Ch. 9 – Race (Ethnicity)

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this unit, you should be able to explain ...

- How the process of valuation transforms ordinary categories of difference into forms of inequality and stratification.
- How the process of legitimation is developed and maintained through the observance of shared meaning.
- How the influence of ideology shapes gender and race inequality.

- How the influence of institutions, and their presumed neutrality, create inequality and stratification.

Week 3 Videos: (thirty total videos minutes for the week)

- The American Ruling Class (6:00).
- Little Rock Central: 50 Years Later (3:43).
- Maxed Out (7:00).
- The Other Side (6:17).
- Gay Youth (7:09).

Assignments:

- Read Dr. DeZolt's unit email introduction and view week three videos **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
 - Read chapters 7, 8, 9 in the text **(Due Date: by X/X/2015)**
 - Choose one of the Discussion Questions to answer **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
 - Complete Exam #3 **(Due Date: X/X/2015) The reason why the due date for this exam is a Sunday is to accommodate for any plans over 7/4.**
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Week 4:

Unit Title: Socio-economic Status, Poverty, and Health

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this unit, you should be able to explain...

- The main social factors that lead to poverty.
- The main theories of poverty.

- The role of cultural transmission in transferring poverty generationally.
- The reasons why American society ranks comparably low among nations regarding quality of health care (i.e. infant mortality rates).
- Patterns of demographic transition.

Individual Topics:

Ch. 10 – Poverty

Ch. 11 – Health and Society

Week 4 Videos: (thirty-five total video minutes for the week)

- In Debt We Trust (5:04).
- The Philadelphia Story (5:01).
- Latching On (7:09).
- Teeth (4:43).
- Toxic Sludge Is Good For You (5:49).
- Kibera Kids (7:46)

Assignments:

- Read Dr. DeZolt's unit email introduction and view week four videos **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
 - Read chapters 10 and 11 in the text **(Due Date: by X/X/2015)**
 - Choose one of the Discussion Questions to answer **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
 - Complete Exam #4 **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
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Week 5:

Unit Title: Institutions and their Influence

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this unit, you should be able to explain ...

- Justifications given for why the American family is “dead” or “dying.”
- Justifications given for why the American family is “alive” and “well.”
- The ways that the institution of education assists in the reproduction of American society.
- The ways that the economy influences American values and goals.
- How credit is being utilized to stimulate the American economy.

Individual Topics:

Ch. 12 – Family

Ch. 13 – Education

Ch. 14 – Capitalism and the Economy

Week 5 Videos: (forty-five total video minutes for the week)

- Production of Coffee and Globalization (6:09).
- Poverty reduction and primary education as methods to reduce global inequality (6:21).
- Family Norms, parent-child conflict, and same-sex relationships (6:06).
- Tracking, hidden curriculum, and labeling theory within a Nevada high school (6:00).
- Globalization, cultural differences, and global inequality between Mardi Gras revelers and bead-making Chinese sweat-shop workers (5:17).
- Making Mothers (6:05).
- The Evolution of Dad (9:14).

Assignments:

- Read Dr. DeZolt's unit email introduction and view week five videos **(Due Date: X/X/2015)**
 - Read chapters 12, 13, 14 in the text **(Due Date: by X/X/2015)**
 - Complete and Submit Pop Cultural Film Analysis Paper **(Due Date: X/X/2015). Since we are not having an exam for this week, and the semester officially ends on X/X/2015, your paper is due on this Friday.**
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A Special Thanks:

The content and form for this course is greatly supported through the resources provided by:

- W.W. Norton and Company, Inc. New York: New York.
- Vai, Marjorie and Kristen Sosulski. 2011. Essentials of Online Course Design: A Standards-Based Guide. Routledge: Taylor and Francis Group. New York: New York.