

SOC 100: Introduction to Sociology

Brian L. McPhail

Summer 2019, Purdue University

E-mail: bmcphail@purdue.edu

Office Hours: W 1:00-3:00 p.m. or by appointment

Office: G13 Heavilon Hall

Web: mycourses.purdue.edu

Class Hours: MTWRF 09:50-10:50 a.m.

Class Room: RAWL 2029

(Syllabus updated: 6/09/2019)

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the discipline of sociology. Sociology focuses on the systematic understanding of social interaction, social organization, social institutions, and social change. Major themes in sociological thinking include the interplay between the individual and society, how society is both stable and changing, the causes and consequences of social inequality, and the social construction of human life. Understanding sociology helps discover and explain social patterns and see how such patterns change over time and in different 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.¹

This course will expose you to major sociological concepts and perspectives and encourage the development of your sociological imagination, that is, the ability to think beyond our personal lives and to connect the experiences of individuals with large social structures. We will begin the course with an overview of sociology; its history, major theoretical perspectives, and methods. We will then continue by looking at a variety of topics such as race, gender, and religion from a sociological perspective and explore the role of social institutions in society. By the end of the course you should be able to view our world through a sociological lens and have a basic understanding of, and appreciation for, the discipline of sociology.

Course Objectives

1. Explain the impact of social processes (social institutions, social structure, culture, groups, etc.) on the lives of individuals, including yourself.
2. Define and apply fundamental sociological theories and concepts to human behavior.
3. Identify patterns and causes of social inequality in the United States related to social class, race and ethnicity, and gender.

¹<http://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/savvy/introsociology/Documents/CurriculumIntroSoc032709.html>

Required Text

Carr, Deborah, Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, and Richard P. Appelbaum. 2018. *Introduction to Sociology*. Seagull Eleventh edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-63945-2.²

Additional required readings will be posted in Blackboard.

Course Website

Blackboard Learn is our course management system. You can access the course website at mycourses.purdue.edu. It is strongly suggested that you explore and become familiar not only with the site navigation, but with content and resources available for this course. For example, you will find in the left-hand course menu the items Student Help and Student Success. Student Help contains information about Blackboard Learn, including tutorials to help you learn about Blackboard Learn functionality, as well as a link to the Purdue Libraries. Student Success contains many resources offered through programs at Purdue to help you become successful in your courses, such as tutoring, downloadable resources and more.

Course Requirements & Grading

Assignments	Points
Online Quizzes (6 x 5 pts)	30 pts
Journal Reflections & Hotseat	15 pts
Reading Groups (5 x 3 pts)	15 pts
Application Paper	15 pts
Photo Essay Final Project	25 pts
Total	100 pts

A+	97.0% to 100.0%	C+	77.0% to 79.9%
A	93.0% to 96.9%	C	73.0% to 76.9%
A-	90.0% to 92.9%	C-	70.0% to 72.9%
B+	87.0% to 89.9%	D+	67.0% to 69.9%
B	83.0% to 86.9%	D	63.0% to 66.9%
B-	80.0% to 82.9%	D-	60.0% to 62.9%

Assignments

Weekly Online Quizzes - 30%

Each week you will complete a short online quiz covering the assigned readings (from the textbook). These quizzes will be completed through Blackboard outside of class and are due before

²Note this is the “Seagull Edition” not the regular edition (which is longer and more expensive).

Monday's class each week (9:50am). Starting and finishing quizzes is your responsibility. I do not send out a reminder. There will be no excused quizzes or make up points.

Each quiz will be 15 questions (drawn randomly from a bank of ~30 questions) worth 1/3 point each. You will have 90 minutes to complete each quiz after you have started it (i.e., you cannot navigate away from the quiz and come back to it later). I strongly encourage you to have read the assigned chapter readings prior to starting the quiz. Feel free to use your textbook; however, I expect you to complete the quiz on your own without the help of others.

Only six of the quiz scores will count towards your final grade. I will drop your lowest quiz score.

Journal Reflections & Hotseat - 15%

Throughout the course, you will regularly write short journal reflections based on lecture topics, class activities, class discussions, or course readings. In these journal reflections, you will write about your own thoughts, opinions, reactions, or experiences with the posed topic. Journal reflections will usually take place *in class* and will be written in a "blue book" that I collect and bring back and forth to class for you. These are not "graded", but I may occasionally make comments and provide feedback. Points will be awarded for participation, effort, and completion.

We will also be using a communication platform developed for Purdue classes called [Hotseat](#). It is kind of like Twitter for the classroom. I will routinely post topics, questions, or polls that you will respond to in our private class space using SMS texting (765 560-4177), the [iOS](#) and [Android](#) mobile apps, or [desktop/mobile websites](#). Points will be awarded for participation. The five students who engage the most will earn 2 **extra credit** points towards their final grade.

Reading Group Participation & Role Prep - 15%

Every Wednesday our class session will be devoted to group discussions of an assigned reading. To prepare for these discussions, you will complete a Reading Group Role Prep that you will submit on Blackboard before each Wednesday's class (9:50 a.m.). Detailed instructions for Reading Groups are posted in Blackboard.

Application Paper - 15%

You will write one application paper (800-1000 words) and submit on Blackboard by Friday, 7/19. Two paper topics are provided, but you will *choose to write about only one*. Detailed instructions are posted in Blackboard.

Photo Essay Final Project - 25%

Your final project is a photo essay and will be due on Friday, August 2. A full-set of instructions are posted in Blackboard.

Attendance Policy

I do not take attendance, but attendance is expected and strongly encouraged. Arriving to class late and leaving early are distracting behaviors that should be avoided. Students who regularly

attend class generally perform better in the class. If you are unable to attend class, you do NOT need to notify me in advance or provide an excuse after the fact.

Missed Assignment/Late Work Policy

I will not accept late work, so please plan accordingly. If you encounter technical problems with the Blackboard quizzes, you must contact me at least an hour before the quiz closes. I will not reopen quizzes after they are due.

Extra Credit

In this course, you will have the opportunity to earn up to 5 extra credit points. As noted above, you can earn two extra credit points if you are one of the top five engagers on Hotseat topics. You can earn an additional three extra credit points by completing an extra assignment in which you will 1) read an online article from [Sociology in Focus](#), 2) summarize the main point(s), and 3) answer the *Dig Deeper Questions* at the end. Detailed instructions are posted in Blackboard. This extra assignment must be submitted by Wednesday, 7/31 at 11:59 p.m.

General Course Policies

You are expected to behave respectfully toward everyone in this class. Please silence your cell phones and refrain from texting. You may use laptops to take notes, but only if they do not provide a distraction to the rest of the class. I may ask you to put away your electronic devices if I feel they are providing a distraction. In this class, we will often discuss sensitive and politically charged topics. It is important that we remember to be respectful and avoid offensive language and personal insults. I will not tolerate any kind of harassment in class or in the process of conducting course requirements outside of this class. Harassment will be reported to the director of the Business Opportunity Program and, if necessary, the Dean of Students.

Important Note

Course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change so as to best meet the educational objectives of the course. Any revisions will be announced with reasonable notice (in-class and by email) and the version of the syllabus posted in Blackboard will be updated. You are expected to check and read your @purdue.edu email on a regular basis.

Course Evaluation

During the last two weeks of the course, you will be asked to evaluate this course and your instructor using Purdue's online course evaluation system. You will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the online evaluation site. You will have up to two weeks to complete this evaluation. Your participation is an integral part of this course, and your feedback is vital to improving education at Purdue University. I strongly urge you to participate.

Academic Success Resources

Purdue's Academic Success Center provides a variety of helpful resources designed to help undergrads meet their personal academic goals. They have handouts with tips for boosting your study skills, developing time-management strategies, taking better notes, etc. You can find these resources at: <https://www.purdue.edu/asc/resources/allHandouts.html>.

Academic Integrity

Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, Student Regulations] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]

See Purdue's student guide for academic integrity for additional information: <https://www.purdue.edu/odos/academic-integrity/>.

Grief Absence Policy

Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). GAPS Policy: Students will be excused for funeral leave and given the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for misses assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student's family.

Student Well-Being

Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765) 494-6995 and <http://www.purdue.edu/caps/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselors physically located in the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try WellTrack, <https://purdue.welltrack.com/>.

Emergencies

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

See the University's website for additional information: https://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency_preparedness/.

Accessibility and Accommodations

Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. Students with disabilities must be registered with Disability Resource Center before classroom accommodations can be provided: <https://www.purdue.edu/drc/>.

Nondiscrimination

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in Executive Memorandum No. D-1, which provides specific contractual rights and remedies. Any student who believes they have been discriminated against may visit University's website (www.purdue.edu/report-hate) to submit a complaint to the Office of Institutional Equity. Information may be reported anonymously.

See Purdue's nondiscrimination statement: http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html.

Class Schedule

Week 1: What is Sociology?

Date	Topic	Class Activity	Reading	Due
Mon, 6/10	Introduction	Lecture	<i>Syllabus</i>	
Tues, 6/11	What is Sociology?	Lecture	<i>Ch. 1 (p. 3-10, 26-27)</i>	
Wed, 6/12	Example: Suicide	Data Analysis		
Thurs, 6/13	Origins	Lecture	<i>Ch. 1 (p.11-17)</i>	Youtopia Personality
Fri, 6/14	Theory	Lecture	<i>Ch. 1 (p.17-25)</i>	

Week 2: Research Methods; Culture & Society; Socialization

Date	Topic	Class Activity	Reading	Due
Mon, 6/17	Research Methods	Lecture	<i>Ch. 2 (p. 32-36, 38-49)</i>	Quiz 1
Tues, 6/18	Culture & Society	Lecture	<i>Ch. 3 (p. 56-64)</i>	
Wed, 6/19	Culture & Society	Reading Groups 1	<i>Suh et al. 2018</i>	RG Role Prep 1
Thurs, 6/20	Culture & Society	Video	<i>Ch. 3 (p. 80-87)</i>	
Fri, 6/21	Socialization	Lecture	<i>Ch. 4 (p. 92-105, 110-117)</i>	

Week 3: Social Interaction; Groups, Networks, & Organizations; Conformity, Deviance, & Crime

Date	Topic	Class Activity	Reading	Due
Mon, 6/24	Social Interaction	Lecture	<i>Ch. 5 (p.122-132, 143-147)</i>	Quiz 2
Tues, 6/25	Deviance & Crime	Lecture	<i>Ch. 7 (p.180-193)</i>	
Wed, 6/26	Deviance & Crime	Reading Groups 2	<i>Rios 2012</i>	RG Role Prep 2
Thurs, 6/27	Deviance & Crime	Discussion	<i>Ch. 7 (p. 203-209)</i>	
Fri, 6/28	Groups, Networks, & Organizations	Lecture	<i>Ch. 6 (p. 152-166)</i>	

Week 4: Social Class & Class Inequality

Date	Topic	Class Activity	Reading	Due
Mon, 7/1	Social Class	Lecture	<i>Ch. 8 (p. 216-228)</i>	Quiz 3
Tues, 7/2	Social Class & Inequality	Game	<i>Ch. 8 (p. 229-247)</i>	
Wed, 7/3	Social Class & Inequality	Game/Discussion		
Thurs, 7/4	<i>No Class - Holiday</i>			
Fri, 7/5	<i>No Class - Holiday</i>			<i>Enjoy a break!</i>

Week 5: Race, Racism, and Racial Inequality

Date	Topic	Class Activity	Reading	Due
Mon, 7/8	Race & Ethnicity	Lecture	<i>Ch. 11 (p. 326-336)</i>	Quiz 4
Tues, 7/9	Race	Data Analysis	<i>Ch. 11 (p. 336-347)</i>	
Wed, 7/10	Race	Reading Groups 3	<i>May 2015</i>	RG Role Prep 3
Thurs, 7/11	Race & Racial Inequality	Video	<i>Ch. 11 (p. 347-355)</i>	
Fri, 7/12	Race	Discussion		

Week 6: Gender & Gender Inequality

Date	Topic	Class Activity	Reading	Due
Mon, 7/15	Gender	Lecture	<i>Ch. 10 (p. 280-292)</i>	Quiz 5
Tues, 7/16	Gender	Video	<i>Ch. 10 (p. 292-313)</i>	
Wed, 7/17	Gender	Reading Groups 4	<i>Torres 2014</i>	RG Role Prep 4
Thurs, 7/18	Gender & Inequality	Lecture	<i>Ch. 10 (p. 313-321)</i>	
Fri, 7/19	Gender	Discussion		Application Paper

Week 7: Institutions - Family, Education, & Religion

Date	Topic	Class Activity	Reading	Due
Mon, 7/22	Family	Lecture	<i>Ch. 15 (p. 476-487)</i>	Quiz 6
Tues, 7/23	Family	Lecture	<i>Ch. 15 (p. 488-509)</i>	
Wed, 7/24	Family	Reading Groups 5	<i>Edin & Kefalas 2005</i>	RG Role Prep 5
Thurs, 7/25	Education & Schools	Lecture	<i>Ch. 16 (p. 520-547)</i>	
Fri, 7/26	Religion	Lecture	<i>Ch. 17 (p. 552-566, 587-590)</i>	

Week 8: Global Inequality & Globalization

Date	Topic	Class Activity	Reading	Due
Mon, 7/29	Global Inequality	Lecture	<i>Ch. 9 (p.253-265)</i>	Quiz 7
Tues, 7/30	Globalization	Lecture	<i>Ch. 20 (p.690-700)</i>	
Wed, 7/31	Course Review & Wrapup	Discussion		Extra Credit
Thurs, 8/1	NO CLASS			
Fri, 8/2	NO CLASS			Photo Essay Final