

Introduction to Sociology

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Classroom: Morrissey Hall 0600	Course Number: SOC 110
Meeting Day/Time: TR 2:15-3:30PM	Website: blackboard.slu.edu

Course Description

This survey course offers students the opportunity to examine the world through a sociological lens. By developing and strengthening their sociological imaginations, students will become adept at linking individual challenges to broad social problems, recognizing how nested sets of social systems relate to each other and impact social life. We will begin by tracing the history of the field, noting key theorists and their critical perspectives. Next, we will address how sociology developed as a social science and the scientific tools sociologists use to examine our social world. We will examine key socializing agents such as family, peers, educators, religion, the internet, and mass media as they affect individuals' lives and broad social trends. We will consider the historical and contemporary factors that shape inequalities in terms of class, race/ethnicity, gender, and sexuality and how these inequalities persist on a domestic and global scale. We will broaden our understandings of topics such as politics and health and illness by adopting sociological perspectives. Overall, this course will help students map the diverse and dynamic field of sociology. This course will offer an engaged, student-centered learning environment in which students actively participate in the construction of knowledge and analysis of social, cultural, and political trends.

Course Objectives

- Establish a strong working knowledge of the field of sociology
- Learn to consume media critically by assessing the quality and positionality of sources
- Synthesize sociological theory with contemporary data
- Enhance real-world understandings of social phenomena
- Improve writing skills by writing for academic audiences

Required Readings

Giddens, Anthony, Mitchell Duneier, Richard P Applebaum, and Deborah Carr. 2013. *Essentials of Sociology*. New York: WW Norton & Co Inc.

All other readings are located on the **Blackboard site** for this course.

Course Requirements

1. **Pop Quizzes (worth 200 points):** Quizzes are designed to test your understanding of course material. Ten quizzes will be offered over the course of the semester. Quizzes can cover any topic we have addressed prior to the quiz date, not just the readings from that week. Quizzes will take place at the

beginning of class. If you are late to class, you will not receive extra time to take the quiz, so be sure to come to class on time and prepared to work. No make-up quizzes will be offered without **official** (doctor's note or equivalent) documentation to explain your absence.

- 2. Living Sociologically: Student Experiences (worth 300 points):** We are not just sociologists in the classroom, we are sociologists out in the world. These experiences are designed to help you direct your budding sociological imaginations towards daily experiences and to use those experiences to sharpen your sociological imaginations. To that end, you will choose three out of four student experiences to complete and discuss in class. Details on these experiences will be included in separate assignments on Blackboard.
- 3. Mid-Term Exam (worth 200 points):** The mid-term exam will gauge your understanding of course material. Any topics covered prior to the exam date are fair game for inclusion on the exam. If you are late to class, you will not receive extra time to take the exam, so be sure to come to class on time and prepared to work. No make-up exams will be offered without **official** (doctor's note or equivalent) documentation to explain your absence.
- 4. Final Exam (worth 200 points each):** The final exam will gauge your understanding of course material. The exam is **comprehensive**, meaning that any topics covered prior to the exam date (including materials covered prior to the midterm) are fair game for inclusion on the exam. If you are late to class, you will not receive extra time to take the exam, so be sure to come to class on time and prepared to work. No make-up exams will be offered without **official** (doctor's note or equivalent) documentation to explain your absence. The date and location of the final exam are noted on the syllabus in the section titled "Daily Assignments" in the row titled "Exam Period."
- 5. Attendance/Participation (worth 100 points):** This class involves building knowledge over time through reading, lecture, and discussion. You cannot participate in this process if you are not present. **I take attendance each day** and award participation points based on making thoughtful contributions and asking compelling questions. **BE ON TIME! If you enter class after I have taken attendance, you will not receive attendance points for that day.** If you have extenuating circumstances that will make it difficult for you to get to class on time, let me know and I will do my best to accommodate you (but be prepared to offer proof). The first two classes missed will result in 3 points removed from your attendance grade. If you miss between three and four classes, absences 3 and 4 will result in a removal of 10 points from your attendance grade for each absence. Missing 5 or more classes will result in a lowering of your course grade by one letter grade in addition to the attendance points lost. In a nutshell, don't miss class!

Grade Breakdown – 1000 Points Possible

A	=	93% to 100%	=	930-1000
A-	=	90% to 92.9%	=	900-929
B+	=	87% to 89.9%	=	870-899
B	=	84% to 86.9%	=	840-869
B-	=	80% to 83.9%	=	800-839
C+	=	77% to 79.9%	=	770-799
C	=	74% to 76.9%	=	740-769

C-	=	70% to 73.9%	=	700-739
D+	=	67% to 69.9%	=	670-699
D	=	64% to 66.9%	=	640-669
D-	=	60% to 63.9%	=	600-639
F	=	59% or less	=	590 or less

SLU's Undergraduate Grading Scale: Arts & Sciences

The undergraduate grading system at Saint Louis University follows a 0 - 4.000 grade point scale. Grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	Grade Points	Interpretation
A	4.000	High achievement and intellectual initiative
A-	3.700	Approaching high achievement
B+	3.300	Slightly higher than above average achievement.
B	3.000	Above average achievement
B-	2.700	Approaching above average achievement
C+	2.300	Slightly higher than average achievement
C	2.000	Average achievement
C-	1.700	Below average achievement. Grade may not fulfill "C or better" course requirements
D	1.000	Inferior but passing achievement. Students should check individual School or departmental policies for further information on potential implications of "D" grades
F	0	Failure

Class Policies - Important Things to Know For This Class

BE PREPARED!

This course works better when everyone is engaged, and you can engage best when you have done the reading and arrive prepared to discuss it. A large proportion of your grade comes from in-class work (attendance/participation) so it is essential that you attend each class and come prepared to discuss the material. I will **not** give incompletes in this course. Joining the class late is **never** an excuse for missing assignments. You **will** lose points for any assignment(s) you missed during your absence. Pay attention to deadlines.

ETIQUETTE – WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU IN THIS COURSE

As with all classes, your behavior should be professional and academic. This means getting to class on time, **turning off cell phones, computers, tablets, ending chat sessions** and being prepared to work. If you are waiting for an emergency call, let me know before class starts and I am happy to accommodate you.

BLACKBOARD/EMAILS

Please visit the course Blackboard site frequently to check for updates. All handouts are posted on Blackboard. Also, check your emails frequently, I send out important information via email. If you have not activated your SLU account or you do not clean out your email disk space frequently, you will not get these emails. Please let me know if you have an alternate email account that you want me to use. **If you have something you would like to discuss, meet with me before or after class or set up an appointment with me at another time. E-mailing is often not the best or most efficient way for me to help you.** I attempt to respond to e-mails within 24 hours, but do not respond in the evenings or on weekends, so be sure to leave yourself plenty of time to prepare for your assignments in case questions arise (and they inevitably do).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

<http://www.slu.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences-home/undergraduate-education/academic-honesty>
<http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml>

The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonesty such as soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of work submitted toward academic credit. While not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, examples include copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed book exam, submitting materials authored by or revised by another person as the student's own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, and colluding with another student or students to engage in academic dishonesty.

Any clear violation of academic integrity will be met with appropriate sanctions. Possible sanctions for violation of academic integrity may include, but are not limited to, assignment of a failing grade in a course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University. Students should review

the College of Arts and Sciences policy on Academic Honesty, which can be accessed on-line at <http://www.slu.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences-home/undergraduate-education> under “Quicklinks for Students” or in hard copy form in the Arts and Sciences Policy Binder in each departmental or College office.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS-DISABILITY SERVICES

<http://www.slu.edu/x24491.xml>

Any student who feels that he/she may need academic accommodations in order to meet the requirements of this course—as outlined in the syllabus, due to presence of a disability, should contact the Office of Disabilities Services <<http://www.slu.edu/x24491.xml>>. Please telephone the office at 314-977-8885, or visit Suite 331 in the Busch Student Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

COURSE CONTENT DISCLAIMER

In this course, students may be required to read text or view materials that they may consider offensive. The ideas expressed in any given text do not necessarily reflect the views of the instructor, the Sociology Department, or Saint Louis University. Course materials are selected for their historical and/or cultural relevance, or as an example of stylistic and/or rhetorical strategies and techniques. They are meant to be examined in the context of intellectual inquiry of the sort encountered at the university level.

WRITING CENTER

I encourage you to take advantage of the writing services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with any writing, multimedia project, or oral presentation. During the one-on-one consultations, you can work on everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. These services do fill up, so please make an appointment! For more information, or to make, change, or cancel an appointment, call 977-3484 or visit <http://www.slu.edu/writingservices.xml>.

Course Evaluations

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION

The instructor and course will be evaluated at the end of the term by students through the use of Webct. Each evaluation will cover the quality and relevance of course material and the quality of instruction. The intent is to seek information which will help to improve both the quality of the course and instructional competence. In completing these evaluations, the each student should be mindful of the extent to which the course objectives have been met.

All course evaluations will be conducted online towards the end of the semester. Your feedback is important for improving the course next time around, so please be sure to fill out the evaluation form.

Daily Assignments

WEEK 1: 1/12-1/16	AN INTRODUCTION TO THINKING SOCIOLOGICALLY	
Tuesday		Icebreaker Course Overview
Thursday	In-Class Activity	Job Talk: Christopher Prenner, "Providers' Perceptions of Urban Emergency Medical Services Work: Stigmatized Space, Illness, and Patients." MOR 3600
	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 1, pp. 3-23
WEEK 2: 1/19-1/23	SOCIOLOGY: THEORY AND METHOD	
Tuesday	In-Class Activity	Job Talk: Noli Brazil, "Large-Scale Urban Riots and Racial Segregation: A Case Study of the 1960s Civil Rights Riots." MOR 3600
Thursday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 1, pp. 23-39
WEEK 3: 1/26-1/30	SOCIALIZATION, THE LIFE COURSE, AND AGING	
Tuesday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 3, pp. 74-88
Thursday	In-Class Activity	Video: <i>Killing Us Softly 4</i> Video Notes Due End of Class
WEEK 4: 2/2-2/6	SOCIALIZATION, THE LIFE COURSE, AND AGING (CONT.)	
Tuesday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 3, pp. 88-105
	In-Class Activity	Critically Examining Mass Media
Thursday	DUE	Experience #1 (due at the beginning of class)
	In-Class Activity	Discussion: Experience #1
WEEK 5: 2/9-2/13	SOCIAL INTERACTION AND EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET	
Tuesday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 4, pp. 106-117
Thursday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 4, pp. 117-131
WEEK 6: 2/16-2/20	GROUPS, NETWORKS, AND ORGANIZATIONS	
Tuesday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 5, pp. 132-149

Thursday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 5, pp. 150-161 The Rise of the Sharing Economy (available on Blackboard)
	In-Class Activity	Evaluating the Sharing Economy
WEEK 7: 2/23-2/27	POLITICS AND ECONOMIC LIFE	
Tuesday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 13, pp. 394-415
Thursday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 13, pp. 415-435
	In-Class Activity	The Economics of T-Shirts
WEEK 8: 3/2-3/6	MIDTERM EXAM	
Tuesday	In-Class Activity	Midterm Exam Review Session
Thursday	In-Class Activity	Midterm Exam
SPRING BREAK 3/9-3/13	SPRING BREAK!	
Tuesday	NO CLASS! IT'S SPRING BREAK!	
Thursday	NO CLASS! IT'S STILL SPRING BREAK!	
WEEK 9: 3/16-3/20	POLITICS AND ECONOMIC LIFE (CONT.) STRATIFICATION, CLASS, AND INEQUALITY	
Tuesday	DUE	Experience #2 (due at the beginning of class)
	In-Class Activity	Discussion: Experience #2
Thursday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 7, pp. 198-218
WEEK 10: 3/23-3/27	STRATIFICATION, CLASS, AND INEQUALITY (CONT.)	
Tuesday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 7, pp. 218-233
	In-Class Activity	Video: <i>The Pruitt-Igoe Myth</i>
Thursday	In-Class Activity	Video: <i>The Pruitt-Igoe Myth</i> Video Notes Due End of Class
		Discussion: <i>The Pruitt-Igoe Myth</i>

WEEK 11: 3/30-4/3	ETHNICITY AND RACE	
Tuesday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 10, pp. 296-329
	In-Class Activity	Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack
Thursday	NO CLASS, EASTER BREAK	
WEEK 12: 4/6-4/10	EXAMINING FERGUSON FROM A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE: RACE, CLASS, AND STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY	
Tuesday	Required Reading	TBA
	DUE	Experience #3 (due at the beginning of class)
Thursday	Required Reading	TBA
WEEK 13: 4/13-4/17	GENDER INEQUALITY	
Tuesday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 9, pp. 262-284
Thursday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 9, pp. 284-295
WEEK 14: 4/20-4/24	EDUCATION AND RELIGION	
Tuesday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 12, pp. 362-377
Thursday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 12, pp. 377-393
	In-Class Activity	Video: <i>Jesus Camp</i> Video Notes Due End of Class
		Discussion: <i>Jesus Camp</i>
WEEK 15: 4/27-5/1	THE SOCIOLOGY OF THE BODY: HEALTH, ILLNESS, AND SEXUALITY	
Tuesday	Required Reading	<i>Essentials of Sociology</i> , Chapter 14, pp. 436-469
Thursday	In-Class Activity	Wrap-Up and Final Review
WEEK 16: 12/8-12/13	EXAM PERIOD	
THE FINAL EXAM FOR THIS CLASS WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MAY 7TH FROM 2:00-3:50PM IN MORRISSEY HALL ROOM 0600		
Good luck on your finals and have a wonderful summer break!		