

SOCI 001 Introduction to Sociology

Summer 2018, Georgetown University

MTWTh 5:45-7:45 SOCI 001-10

Car Barn 303

Professor: Dr. Elif Andaç-Jones

Office: Car Barn 209-04

E-mail: ea568@georgetown.edu

Office Hours: M W 4:45-5:45 and by appointment

Course Objectives

Sociology is the systematic study of human social behavior. Sociologists examine not only how social structures shape our daily interactions but also how society constructs social categories and social meanings.

The purpose of this course is to offer an overview of the major concepts, theories and methodologies of sociology, and enable you to think *sociologically*. Thinking sociologically enables us to make observations and offer insights about the social world that extend far beyond either common sense or explanations that rely on individual quirks and personalities; to develop an awareness of the connection between personal experience and the larger society. Throughout this course you will be introduced to “the sociological imagination” and be encouraged to develop this critical capacity to understand how the social world around you works.

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- ▶ demonstrate knowledge of basic sociological concepts, social processes (e.g., socialization, deviance, social control, or stratification) and social institutions (e.g., the family, religion, or the state);
- ▶ summarize several basic theoretical approaches used in sociology;
- ▶ apply these concepts and theories to contemporary events or personal experience, i.e. develop a sociological imagination; and demonstrate a knowledge of cultural, class, religious, and other differences within and between societies, as well as scientifically-grounded ways to account for these differences.

Readings

We will use the following textbook. The book is required, and available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

- ▶ Conley, Dalton. 2017. *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*, 5th edition. New York, W.W. Norton & Company.

You are expected to come to class having completed the assigned readings for that particular week. I may not always have the time nor feel the necessity to go over every single reading you have for a particular class. Hence I will assume that unless there are questions in a given class session regarding the readings for that class, that the readings have been read and understood, and that we may safely proceed from there.

In addition to the assigned textbook readings, we will use a series of videos linked to our course materials, as well as some additional readings. Any additional materials will be posted online on Canvas as pdf files or links to the library.

Attendance

One of the most important requirements to be successful in this class is regular attendance. In order to keep up with the assignments and lectures and get the most out of this class, you will need to attend all of our meetings. I will take attendance on random days, and I will take them into consideration when I assign your participation grade.

Examinations, Online Assignments and Discussions

There will be two in class exams for this course: A midterm and a final. Exams will not be cumulative and will focus on material since the previous exam; however, you will still be responsible of the material that is pertinent to the current topics. More details regarding the exams will be discussed later in class.

In addition to in-class exams, there will be several online activities, quizzes and discussions posted on Canvas. If you're not familiar with Canvas, please check Canvas Guide for Students at <https://guides.instructure.com/m/4212>. All of the assignments will be posted on Canvas ahead of time and you will be able to complete them open book at your convenience. Your participation in these activities and online discussions form an important part of your grade, but I believe they also significantly enhance your learning experience.

In order to be excused from any assignment or activity, you must have a doctor's excuse and permission from your Dean, and/or have secured my permission well in advance. **If you miss the midterm or the final exam, you will automatically fail the class, even if you total a passing score with other assignments.**

Course Grade

Your final grade for this class will be based on the following distribution:

Mid-term	25%
Final	30%
Online Chapter Quizzes	25%
Online Assignments and Discussions	10%
Participation	10%

Accommodation

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, individuals with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations to ensure equity and access to programs and facilities. Students are responsible for communicating their needs to the Academic Resource Center, the office that oversees disability support services, (202-687-8354; arc@georgetown.edu; <http://academicsupport.georgetown.edu/disability>) before the start of classes to allow time to review the documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations. The University is not responsible for making special accommodations for students who have not declared their disabilities and have not requested an accommodation in a timely manner. Also, the University need not modify course or degree requirements considered to be an

essential requirement of the program of instruction. For the most current and up-to-date policy information, please refer to the [Georgetown University Academic Resource Center website](#). Students are highly encouraged to discuss the documentation and accommodation process with an Academic Resource Center administrator.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with the Standards of Conduct of the Undergraduate Honor Council, and refresh your knowledge especially on plagiarism. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures, as well as consequences with regard to this course.

Please remember that the following acts of plagiarism constitute Honor System violations:

- The use of another's ideas without citation
- Material copied word for word, cited but lacking quotation marks
- Material placed within quotation marks but lacking a citation (according to the professor's preferred citation style)
- Paraphrased material that too closely resembles the structure of the original source, without citation or attribution
- Paraphrased material from several sources pieced together in a way that resembles original thought, without citation or attribution
- Material attributed to a non-existent or incorrect source
- Fabricated material attributed to a real source
- Citation mistakes, such as wrong author, page number, or date
- Specific help from someone in writing the paper, without acknowledgment
- Imitation of structure or style, without citation or attribution

For more on this issue, please check:

<http://honorcouncil.georgetown.edu/system/policies/standards-of-conduct>

The use of personal electronics and other non-classroom related materials

- I. Cellphones are a distraction for everyone, and should be turned off during class. If there is a special situation where you need to have your phone on for a particular day, please let the me know about the situation before class.
- II. Laptops can be both a benefit and a distraction in a classroom. **This class has a strict no non-class related use rule for laptops — if you are found violating this policy, your in-class laptop privileges will be taken away for the rest of the semester.**
- III. I strongly encourage you to be an avid reader: read your newspapers –local and national, daily; read fiction and non-fiction books; read as much as you can. However, reading non-class related materials during class time is not acceptable. Please put your newspapers and other non-class related readings away at the beginning of each class.

Other issues

- I. It is your responsibility to educate yourself regarding important deadlines, college policies, and academic requirements.

- II. If any class-related activity, including exams, conflict with religious observances of a generally recognized nature that you are under obligation to participate in, you may complete the activity at an alternate time that is mutually agreed upon. In such cases you must contact me at least one week in advance to arrange for an alternate date. Students are expected to complete any work assigned for any class missed due to a religious holiday.

Course Schedule

This is a tentative schedule and the instructor reserves the right to make changes on the syllabus and/or schedule if needed

Week 1

June 4—Introduction to the course, What is Sociology, The Sociological Imagination

- ▶ You May Ask Yourself (Conley) Chapter 1
- ▶ "The Sociological Imagination" by C. Wright Mills
- ▶ Blog post “Junk Mail and the Sociological Imagination” on everyday sociology

June 5— Sociological Theory

- ▶ You May Ask Yourself (Conley) Chapter 1

"Invitation to Sociology" by Peter L. Berger

June 6— Sociological Research

- ▶ You May Ask Yourself (Conley) Chapter 2

June 7— Culture and Media

- ▶ Conley Chapter 3
- ▶ Reading: Blog post “Popular Culture Meets Reality” on everyday sociology

Week 2

June 11— Socialization and the Construction of Reality

- ▶ Conley Chapter 4
- ▶ "The Self" by George Herbert Mead
- ▶ Lareau, Annette. 2003. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race and Family Life*, ch 1 and 2.
- ▶ Reading: Blog Post “No Backstage Pass: Student Presentations of Self to Professors on everyday sociology.

June 12— Groups and Networks

- ▶ Conley Chapter 5
- ▶ Putnam, Robert D. 1995. “Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital”. *Journal of Democracy*, 6(1), 65.

June 13— Social Control and Deviance

- ▶ Conley Chapter 6
- ▶ Becker, Howard S. 1953. “Becoming a Marijuana User”. *American Journal of Sociology* 59 (3). University of Chicago Press: 235–42.

June 14— Stratification and Poverty

- ▶ Conley Chapter 7&10
- ▶ Marx and Engels. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, pp 14-27

Week 3

June 18— Stratification cont'd

- ▶ Katherine Newman on the Missing Class-PBS Interview

June 19— **Midterm**

June 20— Gender

- ▶ Conley Chapter 8
- ▶ West and Zimmerman. 1987. *Doing Gender*

June 21— Race

- ▶ Conley Chapter 9
- ▶ Bonilla-Silva and Forman. 2000. *I am not a racist but...*

Week 4

June 25— Family

- ▶ Conley Chapter 12
- ▶ Hochschild-1997-The Time Bind

June 26— Education

- ▶ Conley Chapter 13
- ▶ Lareau-1987-Family-School_Relationships
- ▶ Kozol-1991-Savage Inequalities

June 27— Authority and the State

- ▶ Conley Chapter 15
- ▶ Weber-Politics as a vocation
- ▶ Mills-The Power Elite

June 28— Religion

- ▶ Conley Chapter 16

Week 5

Jul 2— Collective Action, Social Movements and Social Change

- ▶ Conley Chapter 18
- ▶ Dorf, Michael C and Sidney Tarrow. 2014. "Strange Bedfellows: How an Anticipatory Counter-movement Brought Same-Sex Marriage into the Public Arena." *Law & Social Inquiry* 39:449-473.

Jul 3— Democracy and Social Change

Jul 4—Independence Day-No school

Jul 5—Course Wrap Up

Jul 6—FINAL