

Course: S0CL 100: Online Introductory Sociology

Instructor: John Musalia

Email: john.musalia@wku.edu

Course Dates: July 2 - 27, 2018

General Contact: Use email for course questions.

Course Description

Sociology is the scientific discipline that studies how social groups influence human action and interaction. We will learn the methods of inquiry sociologists utilize to examine the influence of gender, race, class, region of the country, and type of community, on an individual's values, behavior, and expectations. Students will explore the difference and similarities among cultures within the United States and the world. We will focus on the contribution of social institutions like family, education, the economy, and the polity make in shaping a society's knowledge. Through discussion of these sociological issues the course will enable you to think critically about the social world in which we live.

This course fulfills part II of the Explorations section of the Colonnade (Social and Behavioral Sciences) general education requirement. Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- a. Demonstrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
- b. Apply knowledge, theories, and research methods, including ethical conduct, to analyze problems pertinent to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
- c. Understand and demonstrate how at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences conceptualizes diversity and the ways it shapes human experience.
- d. Integrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences into issues of personal or public importance.
- e. Communicate effectively using the language and terminology to germane to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.

Specifically, at the end of this course you should:

- a. Explain the theoretical perspectives and research methodologies used in Sociology.
- b. Illustrate how an individual's race, class, and gender affect his/her experiences in the social world.
- c. Explain the role of social institutions such as the family, education, the economy, religion and the polity in shaping our experiences in society.

Required Text/Materials

Schaefer, Richard. 2016. Sociology: A Brief Introduction (12th edition). New York: McGraw-Hill. **ISBN: 9781259425585 (Make sure you purchase the book with the Connect plus access).**

PC: You should have a modern computer with consistent internet access. You should also have storage facilities such as USB or other storage media that you can use to store your class documents.

Teaching Methods

Lectures: Recorded chapter introduction videos and PowerPoint's slides are provided to guide you as you go through the course. In addition you have connect resources to utilize.

Homework: You are assigned homework through connect to help you study. However, they will not count towards your grade.

Exams:

Exams will be completed using the testing capabilities of the Blackboard learning management system and will consist of multiple choice questions. Students must take the exam at the scheduled date/time. Exams will be timed – giving well-prepared students ample time to answer all questions. Exams are scored immediately upon completion – no waiting in suspense to see how well you did.

You will have a total of FIVE tests in the course each consisting of 50 multiple choice questions to be completed in 90 minutes. Considering that this is a FOUR weeks class, you should expect to digest a lot of information within a short time. You will be examined after every three chapters. To be clear, Test 1 will cover materials from Chapters 1-3; Test 2 will cover materials from Chapters 4,5,7; Test 3 will cover materials from Chapters 8-10; Test 4 will cover materials from Chapter 11-13 and Test 5 will cover chapters 14-16. See the schedule below for details. Exams will be open from 8am – 11 pm (Central Day Light Time - CDT) on test dates. No extension will be allowed beyond the times specified. You will be allowed TWO attempts at the test and your last attempt will be recorded as your grade (unless you run into technical difficulties on your second attempt then I might consider your previous attempt as your grade). **There will be no THIRD attempt even if you encounter technical difficulties in one of the attempts.** Before you take the test please make sure you've prepared well because your first attempt score might turn out to be your best score if you run into technical problems on the second attempt.

You Must Use Respondus Lockdown Browser

You must use a special Internet Browser named Respondus Lockdown Browser to take the exams. You CANNOT use Explorer, Firefox, Safari or Google Chrome. ONLY Respondus Lockdown Brower has access to the Blackboard site. It is FREE and can be downloaded from WKU's Blackboard site (look at the top of the Blackboard page and click on Software tab at the top of our Blackboard page) or download it directly from <http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/information.pl?ID=476234332>

Study Tip: Here is a study tip from a former student. I quote him verbatim. "This is what I do for studying, I read the chapter for the day and highlight anything that at that point and time I feel is important. I then try and answer the review questions at the end of each chapter on my own and double check my answers afterwards. After doing the review questions I go back to the book and highlight the information that I missed the first time around. I review all of my highlighted portions of the book and PowerPoint before the test. So far this has really worked well for me." Tad Phelps, 2012.

Internet: All material will be distributed on the Internet. Instructional material such as PowerPoints, recorded lectures and exams will be posted on Blackboard. Students are responsible for their own Internet access. Your professor cannot troubleshoot connections or computer problems for you. The class website can be found at <https://blackboard.wku.edu>.

Grading: Your grade is earned through your performance on exams. As the instructor, I only record the grade that you have earned.

The following will be your grade distribution:

- Exams (5 of them) 100 points each.
- Grade distribution will be as follows:

A = 90.00 – 100.00%	C = 70.00 – 79.99%
B = 80.00 – 89.99%	D = 60.00 – 69.99%, Else F

Class Attendance/Participation: There is limited “class attendance” in the traditional sense of the word. Students are free to manage their own schedules within the due-dates of the various deliverables.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in an F for the course. For more information, refer to the "Academic Dishonesty" policy in the University Catalog.

Class Schedule: For your convenience, a class schedule has been prepared and is located at the end of this document. It is recommended that you print and post a few copies in places where you will logically refer to them (e.g., on the refrigerator, at the office, a copy in your car, etc.). Deliverables are noted in bold. Changes to the calendar may be made to accommodate the class. Such changes will be formally announced on Blackboard. If a change is made, please immediately update your schedule(s).

E-Mail Formatting: E-mail is the most common way for students to contact me. For ease of identification, your email should be formatted as:

Subject: Socl 100, YourLastName, A Brief Subject Statement

Example: Soc 100, Musalia, A question about next week's deliverable

The Learning Center

Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing Student Union, 2141) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. The Learning Center at Downing Student Union offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects and eight academic skill areas by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area (with side rooms designated for peer-to-peer tutoring) and a computer lab to complete academic coursework. Please call TLC in the Downing Student Union at (270) 745-5065 for more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment. www.wku.edu/tlc

Disability Accommodation

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. The phone number is 270.745.5004 [270.745.5121 V/TDD] or email at sarc@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation (LOA) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX, Discrimination, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

Class Schedule

This is an introduction to Sociology, online course, concentrated into 4 weeks. Research indicates that learners prefer focusing upon subjects within short time frames. This can facilitate a strong immersion into the material, but there are costs. By more than "doubling up" on the schedule, you must be willing to devote a lot of your time and energy to this concentrated course during these weeks.

This schedule indicates the days each chapter is covered and exam dates. You may have questions about the schedule, the tests, or other things relating to this concentrated Online Socl 100 course. I will be glad to respond to you via email at john.musalia@wku.edu

Class Duration: July 2 – July 27, 2018		
Dates	Topics	Tests
2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Chapter 1: Understanding Sociology Chapter 2: Sociological Research Chapter 3: Culture	Test 1 July 6
7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Chapter 4: Socialization and the Life Course Chapter 5: Social Interaction, Groups and Social Structure Chapter 7: Deviance, Crime and Social Control	Test 2 July 11
12, 13, 14, 15, 16	Chapter 8: Stratification and Social Mobility Chapter 9: Global Inequality Chapter 10: Racial and Ethnic Inequalities	Test 3 July 16
17, 18, 19, 20, 21	Chapter 11: Stratification by Gender Chapter 12: The Family and Human Sexuality Chapter 13: Education and Religion	Test 4 July 21
22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27	Chapter 14: Government and the Economy Chapter 15: Health, Population and the Environment Chapter 16: Social Change in the Global Community	Test 5 July 27

Caveat: Just so that you know that there is a possibility that I may need to make modification to this syllabus and if that happens, I will let you know of such changes by posting a notice under ANNOUNCEMENTS on our Blackboard site.