

SOCIOLOGY 100: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY ON DEMAND COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The Sociology 100 Introduction to Sociology course is a survey course of the Sociology discipline and is designed with several goals in mind. Sociology is a scientific discipline that studies how social groups influence human action and interaction. Through this course, you will learn the analytic methods of inquiry sociologists use when they examine virtually all aspects of human social life, particularly the influence of gender, race, class, region of the country, and type of community, on an individual's values, behavior, and expectations. You will be exposed to the differences 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 one of the Explorations requirements in the Social/Behavioral Sciences category in the new Colonnade program. Upon the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

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

Additionally, you will further develop the following:

- The capacity for critical and logical thinking.
- An appreciation of the complexity and diversity in your own and the in the world's cultures.
- An understanding of society and human behavior.

There are also lesson- and chapter-specific learning objectives found within each of the lesson folders on Blackboard. All of these objectives will be assessed through the assignments, papers, and final exam of the course.

TEXTBOOK:

The textbook for this course is:

- Manza, Jeff, Richard Arum, and Lynne Haney (eds). 2016. *The Sociology Project 2.0*. Pearson Education, Inc.

This is one of the better Sociology textbooks on the market. The editors invited experts in the respective areas to write each of the topical chapters, so you are being exposed to the most recent and important information available.

Be sure to obtain the 2.0 edition of this book, as there is an earlier edition. The lessons and exam are designed around the 2nd (2.0) edition.

The textbook can be ordered either as an eText or as a hardcopy text, both of which include online access to supplemental materials from the publisher, from the campus bookstore--The WKU Store--(<https://www.wku.edu/wkustore/>) OR directly from Pearson Publishing Group (<http://www.pearsonhighered.com/educator/discipline/Sociology/91000080.page>)

LESSONS, PAPERS, AND FINAL EXAM:

The content of this course will consist of lessons associated with assigned chapters, two short papers, and a comprehensive final exam.

Lessons:

The lessons will be worth 50 points and will be composed of multiple choice and essay questions derived from the assigned chapters in the textbook and from recorded lectures. The lessons will not only count toward your final grade, but they will also be your BEST sources for studying for the final exam. The final examination will be composed of questions taken from the lessons themselves. Your lesson scores will be averaged (arithmetic mean) from the 15 lessons for computation of your final grade. NOTE: We will NOT cover all of the chapters for this course, so the chapter number and the lesson number may not match.

Do not submit more than four lesson assignments per week without prior instructor approval. Pace yourself so that the instructor may give you feedback on your lessons. To obtain approval for submitting more than four lessons per week, email your instructor (james.kanan@wku.edu) with your request and an explanation for why you'd like to submit more than four lessons per week.

Papers:

The two papers will consist of one shorter (1 – 2 pages) paper in which you think about the meaning of race and explain your thoughts and a slightly longer paper (3 – 4 pages) in which you discuss some important aspect that you have “learned” during the semester. The shorter paper will be worth 25 points while the longer paper will be worth 50 points. More detailed instructions for the papers can be found at the related links on Blackboard.

Final Examination:

After you have completed and submitted all 15 lessons and the two papers, you may apply to take the **final examination**. You MUST take the examination at a proctored site: a university or community college. You should arrange, through WKU On Demand, the time and place for this examination. The exam will be composed of 90 multiple choice questions worth one point each and one essay question worth 10 points. Most of these questions will be taken directly from the questions found in the lessons and some additional exam questions will reflect written materials in the lessons. The final exam will be a “closed-book” exam, meaning you will not be able to use lessons, notes, or the text when you take it. Therefore, you should try to be as familiar as possible with the material from the course when it comes to taking the exam. One suggestion for preparation is to look over the lesson assignments and use them as a study guide.

COURSE GRADE

Final grades will be calculated based on a 225-point scale. Your lessons average will account for up to 50 points, the two papers will account for up to 75 points, and the final exam will account for up to 100 points as indicated below.

• Lessons (calculated average of all lessons)	50 points
• Papers (1 x 25 pts + 1 x 50 pts)	75 points
• <u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total	225 points

The final grade will be then be determined by converting your accumulated point total to a percentage score, with the final grade scale being:

A = 90 – 100%	C = 70 – 79%
B = 80 – 89%	D = 60 – 69%
F = 59% or lower.	

Examination Retake Policy

Any student who fails the final examination on the first attempt will be given ONE opportunity to retake the final. You must also make arrangements to take the retake examination at a proctored site. The retake final will be a different exam, with the majority of the questions still being taken from lesson questions. If the score is 60 or more points, you will be considered to have passed the final examination and the new score will be added to the average lesson score and papers scores to determine the final letter grade.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the **STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCE CENTER (SARC)** in DSU 1074. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, **plagiarism**, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor or tampering with the academic work of other students. I will not tolerate it and any evidence of violations of this policy will result in a score of 0 for the assignment or exam in question. Extreme cases may result in failure of the course without possibility of withdrawal. Of particular note here is plagiarism. When you write your papers, it is critical that you use your own words and work. Remember, you are here to expand your mind, not just get a grade.

COURSE OUTLINE

Lesson #	Topic	Textbook Chapter
1	The Sociological Imagination	1
2	Social Theory	2
3	Social Science Research Methods	3
4	Social Interaction	4
5	Social Structure	5
6	Culture	6
7	Power and Politics	7
8	Social Stratification and Poverty	10
	RaceCard Paper Due	
9	Race and Ethnicity	11
10	Gender and Sexuality	12
11	Families and Family Life	13
12	Sociology of Religion	14
13	Health and Medicine	16
14	Social Control, Deviance, and Crime	17
15	Population and Society	20
	What I Learned Paper Due	
	Final Exam	