

**Self in Society: Sociology 210-700**  
**Web Based Course**  
**<https://Blackboard.wku.edu>**  
Western Kentucky University, Fall 2017

Dr. Krull  
Grise Hall 121  
(270)745-6363  
\*[Amy.Krull@wku.edu](mailto:Amy.Krull@wku.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:20  
Or by appointment.

\*When e-mailing, please indicate “210-700” in the subject line of your e-mail. Also, be sure to indicate your full name as it appears on the course roster/blackboard. E-mails will not be answered over the weekend, but outside of that will typically be answered within 24 hours.

We all like to think to some degree or another that we are islands unto ourselves, setting our own courses of action, or in the case of this class, interactions. However, sociology tells us that individuals’ interactions are very much affected by the social context in which they are acted out. Furthermore, individual actions can affect other’s actions, or society. In this course you will learn the theoretical perspectives and concepts that are used to understand the self in society. We will evaluate the accuracy, authority, bias and relevance of the information that actors use to develop lines of action. We will trace the effects that pragmatism and symbolic interaction ideas have had on social thought. We will engage each of these goals through reading, writing and speaking.

### **Course Goals**

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- a.) Use concepts and methods learned in the course to critically analyze social situations.
- b.) Have a greater understanding of how individual action is shaped by the social context.
- c.) Have greater agency in their own social interactions, based upon this knowledge,

### **Required Text**

*The Production of Reality Essays and Readings on Social Interaction* 6th edition.

Jodi O'Brien. Pine Forge Press 2017. No previous editions will be acceptable for use in this class.

### **Where do I get technical help?**

Once you are at the [WKU blackboard](https://blackboard.wku.edu) website (<https://blackboard.wku.edu>) you will see a row of red tabs near the top of your screen. If you click “bbhelp” you will be linked to a page that provides video tutorials for many common questions. If you need further technical assistance, contact WKU’s information technology help desk at 745-7000. Generally speaking, I will not be able to address technical difficulties you may encounter.

## Course Organization

Under the “course content” header in the main menu on blackboard, you will find four main menu buttons labeled as “units”. Within each unit are folders titled as Modules. Within each module is a list of tasks that must be completed during a designated week. One week is considered Monday through Saturday. All tasks assigned in a week are due by 11:59 pm on Saturday of that week. Within each module there will always be at least one lecture and reading assignment. There will also always be a link to your individual group discussion board. In addition there may be a paper assignment or articles posted directly to blackboard that you will be required to read. Simply complete each task as listed within the module, paying close attention to be sure you complete any assigned work for the week.

## Exams

There will be four exams throughout this semester. Each exam will be worth 50 points and will consist of a multiple-choice format. You will be given one hour to complete the exam. You may only attempt each exam one time. You will be required to use the “respondus” lockdown browser in which to complete each exam. The final exam is not cumulative. For the sake of student convenience there are several days during which each exam will be available for students to complete. However, if you do not complete an exam during the time period designated, you will be required to take the make up exam at the end of the semester. No accommodations or exceptions will be made unless you have a verified university sponsored event which will remove you from campus for the entire week of the exam. Should you miss a second exam, you will receive zero points for that exam.

## Make Up Exams

Make up exams are unfair to all involved in this course. Therefore, make-up exams are discouraged. Should you miss an exam, you must alert the instructor of your absence and your desire to make up the exam as soon as possible after the missed exam. The make-up exam will be a comprehensive (cumulative) multiple-choice exam, worth fifty points, which you will take during finals week. Students with a scheduled absence (court date, university event) are not subject to this policy and should make arrangements with the instructor prior to the absence to make arrangements.

## Papers

In order to learn, students must engage the material they are seeking to learn. One way to ensure that students are engaging material (actually thinking about what readings or class lecture means) is to organize their thoughts and communicate them through writing. Furthermore, we become good writers by practicing writing. To this end, there are **two**, short reflective papers that are required for this course. There are eight paper topics from which you are required to complete two. You must complete papers by the deadlines assigned no late papers will be accepted (although you may submit them early). You miss a paper deadline; you may not go back and complete that paper. Papers should be submitted by using the assignment feature on blackboard. There is a tutorial available within the “begin here” module on blackboard regarding how to electronically submit your papers. Please note the only document formats which I can open are: .pdf .doc .docx .rtf or .txt. (This list does not include the word processing format of

“Word perfect” (.wps) or the “Pages” word processing format. It also does not include .gdocs or “google docs”)

Papers are expected to be at least two pages in length, word processed, double spaced, 10-12 pt font, one inch margins. Each paper will be worth 10 points. Your papers should be well thought out and well written, meaning full attention to grammatical rules. Because you are being asked to apply course material to your own life, please be assured that the content of your paper is confidential between myself, our teaching assistant and you.

Following is a guideline that will be considered when grading the papers:

10=Paper meets all expectations, is a full two pages, no grammatical errors.

9=The answer is correct, but contains one or two minor grammatical/typographical errors.

8=Essay is correct, but contains several grammatical/typographical errors.

7=Answer is too brief. Answer is poorly communicated.

6=Topic is not appropriately applied.

5,4,3,2,1,0=Topic is not appropriately applied and is poorly communicated.

## Extra Credit

For up to a maximum of 10 points of extra credit you may complete one additional paper. Simply turn in a third paper on the appropriate due date.

## Discussion Board

The class will be divided into three discussion groups midway through the first week of class. I will send you an e-mail notifying you to which group you will “belong.” Each week you will be required to respond a minimum of **two times** to only your own group’s discussion board threads. Your first post will be a “blind” post, meaning you will not be able to see your group members’ posts until after you post first. Once you post, you will see what everyone else has to say. Your second post should be in response to a classmate. Consider the discussion board as a “quiz.” it is your job to demonstrate that you have read the material and can skillfully answer the posed questions, create a question of your own, or extend the conversation by replying to a classmate’s post.

The length of each of your 2 (or more) posts for the week should be a minimum of approximately **100 words**. The first week is simply introductions, and will not be scored. There are 12 additional modules in the course; the discussion portion of each module will be scored at 5 points each for a total of 60 points from the discussion board portion of the course. Because everyone has a sick week or a week they are just “off,” 50 points from the discussion board will be counted towards your final grade. Any points earned in excess of 50 on the discussion board will count as extra credit. Discussion board posts are due Saturday by 11:59 of the week they are assigned. Posts made after the deadline will not be counted for points. Because students are expected to respond to one another, it won’t work to have everyone in the group delay posting until Saturday night, therefore I suggest everyone attempt to post one time by Wednesday evening.

The following is a guideline for grading of the discussion board posts:

5=A minimum of two posts. One a unique point, the second in response to a classmate. The post demonstrates that the student has read the assigned material, viewed the assigned videos and understands all the material.

3=two posts, but student fails in at least one to make a meaningful statement.

2.5—student only posted one time.

1=Student made two posts, but are of insufficient length.

## Grades

Your grade will be calculated as a percentage of points you earn from the total possible points available. Grades will be posted on blackboard—look in the “my tools” button.

4 exams 50 pts each	200
2 papers at 10 pts each	20
Discussion board	50
Total points possible	270

A= 90% or 243-270 points earned

B= 80% or 216-242 points earned

C= 70% or 189-215 points earned

D=60% or 162-188 points earned

## Academic Dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Any infractions will be handled according to student handbook guidelines. Student work may be checked using plagiarism software.

## Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact SARC, DSU room 1074, 270.745.5004.