

**Self in Society: Sociology 210-702**  
**Web Based Course**  
**<https://wku.blackboard.com>**  
Western Kentucky University, Spring 2022

Dr. Krull

Grise Hall 121

(270)745-6363

\*[Amy.Krull@wku.edu](mailto:Amy.Krull@wku.edu)

Office Hours: 9:00-10:00am Wednesdays. Virtual <https://wku.zoom.us/j/7109009950>

Or by appointment.

\*When e-mailing, please indicate “210-702” 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 typically 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://wku.blackboard.com) website (<https://wku.blackboard.com>), login using your WKU netid and password. Navigate to our course. If you need further technical assistance, contact WKU's information technology help desk at (270)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 Sunday. All tasks assigned in a week are due by 11:59 pm on Sunday of that week. Within each module there will always be at least one video lecture, reading assignment and 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/all 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. The final exam is not cumulative. For the sake of student convenience, you may take the exam from any location, at any time during the week of the exam. 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. Students are expected to follow rules of academic honesty and are not allowed to screenshot their computer while taking the exam. Do not have a fellow classmate assist in the exam. The exams are closed book and closed notes.

## Make Up Exams

Exams will be made available for an entire week and students will be able to complete the exam at any time during that week. This should limit the need for 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 inability to complete the exam within the designated exam period. 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. However, due to the length of availability of each exam, you should be able, in most cases, to arrange yours schedule such that an exam can be completed within the deadline.

## Papers

Abstract: Two, two page papers are due this semester. Nine choices of topics are located across the modules, you must complete at least one from the first 5 options (meaning complete at least one paper before exam 2). To encourage you to not wait until the very last opportunity to complete a paper, declining “bonus points” will be added to each paper counting down to the last opportunity.

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 nine paper topics from which you are required to complete two. Choose to write a paper on the topic that you like, write a paper on a topic that you know you will do well on, or a paper that fits in with your other time demands for the week. However, to distribute my grading workload, you must submit at least one paper prior to exam 2. 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. 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 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. This paper must be submitted on the due date for that paper topic. There is no “going back” to complete a paper, once the deadline has passed, you may not complete that topic.

## Discussion board

The downside to an on-line class is the lack of opportunity for students to express their thoughts/reactions to the material that is being presented as should informally happen in a face to face class. In this on-line class you will express your ideas about the material in each module through a written “discussion board posts.” The discussion board post is sort of like raising your hand in class and speaking, in that your answers can be casual, funny, cautious and not as “polished” as you would write in a paper. However, I do expect that your “discussion board post” will clearly demonstrate that you have watched the video lectures and read the assigned reading for the week.

There are 12 modules in this course with one discussion board forum in each module. Over the course of the semester, you are required to complete two posts in 9 of the modules/forums. You should post twice to each board. A post can be either an original post, a reply to a classmate, or replying to people replying to your post. The main thing I am looking for is: Are you engaged with the material for the week? Are you accurately applying the content of the module to the discussion board? The length of your 2 posts in total should be a minimum of approximately **200 words**. The deadline for all work will be Sunday nights at 11:59 pm CST. Note: If you complete all 12 responses, you will earn extra credit from that work.

The following is a guideline for grading the Module responses:

5=The response demonstrates that the student has read the assigned material, viewed the assigned videos and understands all the material. Two posts were made by the due dates. The post is approximately 200 words. Your posts are done in a clearly threaded manner, demonstrating that you are reading other student's posts.

4=The response demonstrates understanding, but is a bit brief.

3=Student addresses only a minor point from the module.

2=Student knows the topic of the week, but does not demonstrate videos were viewed or assigned material was read.

1= Student does not demonstrate any understanding of material in the module. Student simply says "I agree" and copies the original posters words.

## 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. Note that Bb gradebook is for display purposes only. It will not “show” that a paper you submitted is extra credit. So instead of calculating a percentage of points earned based upon the bb totals, please sum your total points, determine how many points you have left to earn and determine if you can attain your desired grade using the following rubric.

4 exams 50 pts each	200
2 papers at 10 pts each	20
<u>Discussion board (5x9)</u>	<u>45</u>
Total points possible	265

A= 90% or 238-265 points earned

B= 80% or 212-237 points earned

C= 70% or 185-211 points earned

D=60% or 159-184 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.

## **Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement**

*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](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.*