

SOCL 304- Sociological Theories: Perspectives on Society Fall Online 2024

Department of Society, Culture, Crime, & Justice Studies

Instructor: Bertena Varney, M.A., M.Ed.

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Calendly: Email me to meet and get the new link once it is active. I promise to accommodate.

Office Hours

I work in DSU 2141 from 8am -4:30 and I have walk ins in DSU 2141 from 9am-12pm each Tuesday so all you must do then is to check in at the front desk and ask for me. I will do Zoom appointments throughout the week simply email me and we will arrange a time. But know that there are limited evenings and weekends, but I will try and accommodate.

I am also going to do Virtual Office Hours and Class times on Zoom throughout the week. **These are OPTIONAL but will be a great time to get a lecture (this will be posted on Blackboard later) and have a chance to ask me questions and meet other students. I will email these dates and times in the weekly Blackboard announcements.**

Course Overview:

WKU Catalog Description: Study of the leading developments of schools of sociological theory from Durkheim to the present. Prerequisites: Six hours of sociology.

Course Shared Departmental Goals

1. Identify primary sociological research methods specifically qualitative and library research. (Learn how to do academic research)
2. Describe the logic of scientific reasoning and use these in their discussions. (Think critically and discuss the readings)
3. Describe the application of ethical principles in research.
4. Evaluate the methods, and their rationales, in published research.
5. Synthesize issues of measurement in published research addressing a particular topic/research question
6. Identify sources and paraphrase researchers' arguments and findings.
7. Apply appropriate methodology in an assigned project.

Class Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate comprehension of the concept of theory and its practical applications, as well as recall a variety of concepts associated with numerous sociological theories.
2. Comprehend the foundational works of classical sociological theorists such as Marx, Durkheim, and Weber, and recognize their connections with more contemporary thinkers like Mannheim, Parsons, and Gramsci.
3. Apply fundamental classical social theories to contemporary social issues and dilemmas, situating them within the broader framework of sociological theory.
4. Analyze and evaluate the influence of social and historical contexts on the development and evolution of sociological theories.

5. Critically assess the utilization of theories in explaining both individual behaviors and collective societal phenomena.
6. Establish connections between theoretical knowledge acquired in the course and potential educational and career pathways.

If you are a junior or senior or are required to take SOCL 499 then please keep all notes and material for your Senior Seminar Exam.

Course Material:

Your book will be The Discovery of Society and will be a FIRST ACCESS book which means that you must get it through the bookstore. We will be using Smart Book for 50% of the grade in the class. The rest of the material will be on Blackboard, and I will email you a Weekly Announcement to help keep you on track.

If you do not opt for the Big Red Backpack you will have access to it for 2 weeks only then it will erase all of your grades and you can't complete class.

YOU MUST GO TO THE BOOKSTORE AND BUY IT THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE WORK.

Attendance

You are expected to complete the first week assignments by Friday August 30th at 11:59pm CT or you will be dropped as a no show. You must check in regularly and do work weekly or you may receive a Failed Nonattendance. Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or issues. Do it BEFORE it becomes too big. It is easier to fix at the beginning.

Course Organization

This 3-credit hour course will require 3-6 hours of work each week depending upon how you pace this class and what assignments are due when. There will be required readings, in text work, research, written assignments and preparing for the midterm and final. Please read the pacing guide under the schedule to help you stay on track and be successful.

Technology in the Classroom

You will need access to a laptop. Completing assignments on a tablet or phone is not recommended and I cannot help you with those if there are issues. You will need to use Chrome to access Blackboard, and the Smart Book so please make sure that it is downloaded to your computer.

Names and Pronouns

In this class, we will respect each other by using one's stated name and pronouns. If your name is different than what is on record with WKU, please let us know the first day of class so I may change the roster, and we can use the correct name. Communicate your pronouns the first day of class, as well. You may also email me privately if you wish to discuss it further.

Communication

Communication is over email and Blackboard. You are expected to check your email and Blackboard daily, print the class schedule, and follow the directions. I will be posting reminders about class activities, schedule etc. in Blackboard so "I wasn't aware:" is not an excuse.

You must use your Topper email for me to respond to you. Please put SOCL 304 in the subject and be very concise and thorough in your email. This will help me answer you more quickly.

Please email me at Bertena.varney@wku.edu and NOT through Blackboard as those emails are not always received.

You will receive an assignment sheet that has directions for ALL Projects on Blackboard.

Late Work

Because all the Smart Book Assignments are open day one there will be no late work accepted. You have 5 weeks to complete the first 5 chapters. Please follow the pacing guides to keep you on track.

The visual projects and final projects have set due dates, and you can begin working on them once the 5 Smart Book Assignments for that project are complete. I will accept late work for this with EXTENUATING circumstances. And no matter the circumstances you will lose points each day it is late. We will discuss this on a one-on-one situation so please email me as soon as you think something may prevent you from completing the assignment.

Grading

Smart Book Assignments	500 points
Visual Projects	300 points
Final Project	200 points

Total points 1000 points

900-1000 points A	800-899 points B	700-799 points C
600-699 points D	0-599 points F	

Smart Book Assignments are due 3 times a semester but there is a suggested weekly assignment as each Smart Book Assignment can take more than 1-2 hours to complete so waiting until the weekend of the due date for you would not be wise. These are called pacing guides and help you pace the class. Due to this there is no make-up work as you will have 4-5 weeks to complete each set of Smart Book Assignments.

Projects will be throughout the semester. Topics for the projects must be pre-approved by me. If they are problematic or overdone, I reserve the right to refuse the topic in class. More information on this to be discussed in the assignment sheets on Blackboard.

They may include but are not limited to Photo Essays, Digital Timelines, Social Media Campaigns, Podcast Series, Multimedia Presentations, or others that may be suggested. These creative projects offer students opportunities to engage with sociological theory in innovative ways, fostering deeper understanding and critical thinking skills while leveraging the benefits of online learning platforms.

These will be posted as an assignment sheet on Blackboard in plenty of time to complete them.

Final Exam will be a comprehensive essay/ project that you will have a week to do, and you are allowed to use your books and notes.

Schedule Pacing Guide

Assignment	Suggested Due Date for Smart Book to stay on track	Required Due Date for All Assignments 11:59pm CT
Chapter 1	August 25	September 22
Chapter 2	September 1	September 22
Chapter 3	September 8	September 22
Chapter 4	September 15	September 22
Chapter 5	September 15- 22	September 22
Visual Project		September 29
Chapter 6	September 29	October 27
Chapter 7	October 6	October 27
Chapter 8	October 13	October 27
Chapter 9	October 20	October 27
Chapter 10	October 20-27	October 27
Visual Project		November 3
Chapter 11	November 3	November 24
Chapter 12	November 10	November 24
Chapter 13	November 17	November 24
Chapter 14	November 17	November 24
Chapter 15	November 17- 24	November 24
Final Project		December 5

Technology in the Classroom

You will need access to a laptop. Completing assignments on a tablet or phone is not recommended and I cannot help you with those if there are issues. You will need to use Chrome to access Blackboard, and the Smart Book so please make sure that it is downloaded to your computer.

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Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism constitutes presenting someone else's ideas as your own. Any concept, statement, or summary derived from or influenced by published sources (including internet websites) must be appropriately cited in all written assignments. Students are required to uphold the utmost ethical standards concerning academic integrity. Plagiarism will have severe consequences and will not be tolerated. Even unintentional plagiarism does not exempt a student from accountability. When uncertain, always cite the source. A plagiarism detection tool, SafeAssign, may be utilized to verify originality in submitted work.

ADA Accommodations

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, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodation directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

WKU Pregnant and Parenting Students Statement

Western Kentucky University does not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its educational programs or activities, including classes or extracurricular activities, on the basis of pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related conditions such as, but not limited to, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom. Students who seek pregnancy or pregnancy-related accommodations should make their requests as soon as possible via WKU's Title IX Website at www.wku.edu/titleix/ under the heading, "Pregnancy or Pregnancy-Related Conditions." Students can also contact the Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, via email at ena.demir@wku.edu or by phone at (270) 745-6867 to request accommodations or seek assistance. We encourage students and faculty to work together to establish a plan that allows the student to complete the class and coursework without jeopardizing academic integrity and course standards. The Title IX Coordinator can help facilitate conversations between students and faculty regarding appropriate and reasonable accommodations.

If you are a WKU student and believe that you have experienced an incident(s) of discrimination or harassment based on pregnancy (or pregnancy related conditions or issues), please report it to the Title IX Coordinator via email at ena.demir@wku.edu or by phone at (270) 745-6867.

Additional resources for pregnant and parenting students can be found on WKU's Title IX Website at www.wku.edu/titleix/.

Title IX/ Discrimination and Harassment

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). 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 Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators or Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429. 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.

Chat GPT and Generative AI Statement

AI tools prohibited:

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are not permitted for any type of work in this class. If you choose to use these tools, your actions will be considered academically dishonest and a violation of the [WKU Student Code of Conduct](#).

Inclusions Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to ensuring all members of our campus community have access to equitable and inclusive learning, working, and living environments. At the heart of our mission, we seek to provide holistic education and employment experiences that prepare students, faculty, and staff to become effective scholars, contributors, and leaders in our diverse and evolving communities. Consistent with our campus purpose statement and creed, this classroom will be a respectful space, welcoming all sexes, races, ages, national origins, ethnicities, gender identities/labels/expressions, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientations, faith/non-faith perspectives, income levels and socio-economic classes, political ideologies, educational backgrounds, primary languages, family statuses, military experiences, cognitive styles, and communication styles. If at any time during this course you are excluded or feel a sense of alienation from the course content, please feel free to contact me privately without fear of reprisal.

Land Acknowledgment Statement

The history of our community and land gives us the opportunity to recognize, respect, and appreciate our place within that history. Western Kentucky University (WKU) honors and acknowledges the Indigenous peoples' land on which this University was built. All land in the state of Kentucky was once Indigenous territory, which is why it is our duty to acknowledge that WKU exists on Native land. This region of Kentucky was home to both the Shawnee (Shawandasse Tula) and Cherokee East (CWJᏍᏆᏚᏉ Tsalaguweti) tribes.

We also honor and acknowledge the former residents of Jonesville. According to the [Jonesville History Project](#), "Jonesville was a predominantly African American community in Bowling Green, Kentucky, that was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the expansion of the WKU campus. This incident echoed a pattern across the country where the power of eminent domain was utilized to seize property from minority communities for large public works projects under the guise of urban revitalization."

Things you should know and review.

Academic Integrity <https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php/>

Student Code of Conduct <https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/student-code-of-conduct.php/>

Student Handbook - <https://www.wku.edu/handbook/index.php>

Student Complaint Procedures <https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-complaint.php>

Student Grievance Procedure https://www.wku.edu/sarc/student_grievance.php

Student Ombuds Office https://www.wku.edu/academicaffairs/student_ombuds.php

Student Legal Services https://www.wku.edu/sga/initiatives/student_legal_services.php

Counseling Center <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/>

Active Shooter Preparedness

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chr4C4dgvHs&list=PL94ISBTWeKAR0SHb9fel_LXlqypvMqbfY