

## SOCIOLOGY 101 ONLINE

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

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### ABOUT THIS COURSE

Sociology, like many other disciplines, is concerned with human action and motivation. But its perspective and concern is unique. Unlike other disciplines, like psychology or biology, sociology goes beyond the individual to examine the social order. How are we able to live together? What happens when things become disordered? Why do some aspects of society change while others stay the same? How have human societies evolved over time, and in what ways are they similar and dissimilar across time and space? What are the compelling problems that face human societies, and why do these problems exist? Sociology is about us. It informs us about the forces that impinge on our private experiences while also providing insight into how those experiences are linked to the existence and maintenance of social institutions and society as a whole. Where do sociologists get their ideas about why people do what they do? They are not plucked from thin air, nor are they based solely on common sense. Sociological inquiry is a structured and systematic pursuit.

### GEC REQUIREMENTS:

Sociology 101 meets the **GEC Social Science requirement**. Students who take this course will: 1) understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies; 2) comprehend human differences and similarities in various social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts; and 3) develop the ability to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize the importance of these values in social problem solving and policy making.

Sociology 101 meets the **GEC Social Diversity in the United States requirement**. Students who take this course will: 1) understand the roles of such characteristics as race, gender, class, ethnicity, and religion in the institutions and cultures of the United States; and 2) recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values.

These objectives are met through the study of the contemporary and historical societies, the operation of major social institutions, and the study of contemporary social problems and processes, through the application of social science research, theory, and methods to these societies, institutions, problems and processes. In this class students meet these objectives through: 1) reading the selected textbook and other assigned readings; 2) multimedia online presentations, including podcasts, streaming video, powerpoint and lecture notes; 3) ten weekly online learning assignments focusing on each week's topics; 4) a reaction paper to a book on social change; 5) three written examinations on the course content and materials; and 6) participation in online discussion forums.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

There are three required texts:

- David M. Newman's *Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life* (Pine Forge Press, 2008, 7<sup>th</sup> edition)
- George Ritzer's *The McDonaldization of Society* (Pine Forge Press, 2008, 5<sup>th</sup> edition)

### REQUIREMENTS

Midterm 1	100 points
Midterm 2	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
<i>Ritzer book paper</i>	50 points
Weekly online assignments (20 pts each)	200 points
Weekly discussion boards (5 pts each)	<u>50 points</u>
	600 points total

## **RULES**

1. Exams will be held in the classroom on the days scheduled; you must present your Buck-ID or other government-issued photo ID to gain entrance to the examination room. Makeup exams will be permitted only in documented emergency situations.
2. Weekly online assignments must be completed by 11:59 p.m. Saturday night. There is no make-up or late submission possible for these assignments.
3. You are required to post to each of the weekly discussion boards dealing with that week's topics. These postings must also be made by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday of each week.
4. There will be no extra credit assignments.
5. There will be no incompletes given for this course.
- 6.. Your paper on Rizter's book, *The McDonaldization of Society*, must be submitted to the electronic drop-box located at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Instructions on both the paper itself as well as how to submit it to Turnitin will be detailed in a separate handout that will be available on Carmen.
7. **Academic misconduct will not be tolerated.** All cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct for investigation. Please refer to the University's Student Code of Conduct for further clarification of academic misconduct, and to the section below, specifically about plagiarism.

## **ABOUT PLAGIARISM:**

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that is sometimes not fully understood by students, and therefore it may be helpful to give separate attention to it.

From OSU's Code of Student Conduct:

*"Plagiarism is the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas"*

**In other words, plagiarism is the act of stealing the ideas and/or the expression of ideas of another and representing them as your own.**

**The most obvious form of plagiarism is copying someone else's work word-for-word, in whole or in part, without acknowledgment, whether that work is a magazine article, a portion of a book, a website on the internet, a newspaper piece, another student's essay, or any other composition not your own.**

**Changing a few words of another's composition, omitting a few sentences, or changing word order or sentence structure does not constitute original composition and, therefore, is plagiarism.**

**All aspects of plagiarism and academic misconduct apply equally to all computer usage.**

**The University regards plagiarism as a very serious matter and deals with it appropriately. The penalties for plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are heavy and severe. All cases of plagiarism are turned over to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct to be investigated and, in cases where violation of the Code of Student Conduct is established, a penalty is imposed which may range from recommending an "E" in the course to dismissal from the University.**

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**This material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact an advisor in our Undergraduate Services, 292-2056 or 292-1175.**

**Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known, and seeking available assistance in a timely manner.**

# TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

All dates are *tentative*; we may move more quickly or more slowly depending on class circumstances, and these dates are subject to change. **Text** refers to the Newman textbook; **Additional podcasts, powerpoint presentations, notes, and short readings are available on the Content area of the course webpage on Carmen.**

<i>Week beginning</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assigned Reading</i>
9/23 (Weds)	<b>Introductory Meeting</b> <i>(YOU <u>MUST</u> ATTEND THIS CLASS MEETING, HELD IN THE SCHEDULED CLASSROOM!)</i>	
9/27 (Sunday)	WEEK 1: Thinking Sociologically	Text ch. 1 & 2
10/4	WEEK 2: The Social Construction of Knowledge	Text ch. 3
10/11	WEEK 3: Culture	Text ch. 4
10/18	WEEK 4: Socialization & the Construction of Self	Text ch. 5
10/25	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 1 – Monday Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30–7:18 in the scheduled classroom</b>	
	WEEK 5: Deviance and Crime	Text ch. 7
11/1	WEEK 6: Groups, Organizations and Institutions	Text ch. 9
11/8	WEEK 7: Stratification: Class inequality & Poverty	Text ch. 10
11/15	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 2 – Monday Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30–7:18 in the scheduled classroom</b>	
	WEEK 8: Stratification: Race & Ethnicity	Text ch. 11
11/22	WEEK 9: Stratification: Gender	Text ch. 12
11/29	WEEK 10: Social Change	Text: Ch. 14
	<b>FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:18 in the scheduled classroom</b>	