

## Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2017  
[Previous Value](#) [Spring 2016](#)

## Course Change Information

What change is being proposed? (If more than one, what changes are being proposed?)

addition of a distance offering

What is the rationale for the proposed change(s)?

serve our regional campus/ATI student populations and broaden our distance course portfolio

What are the programmatic implications of the proposed change(s)?

(e.g. program requirements to be added or removed, changes to be made in available resources, effect on other programs that use the course)?

n/a

Is approval of the request contingent upon the approval of other course or curricular program request? No

Is this a request to withdraw the course? No

## General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area	Rural Sociology
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org	Sch of Enviro&Natural Res - D1173
College/Academic Group	Food, Agric & Environ Science
Level/Career	Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog	1500
Course Title	Introduction to Rural Sociology
Transcript Abbreviation	Intro Rural Soc
Course Description	Principles of society, major social institutions, and social change; emphasizes social changes in rural life, rural organizations, population, and family living. Au, Sp Sems.
Semester Credit Hours/Units	Fixed: 3

## Offering Information

Length Of Course	14 Week, 12 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course	Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component?	Yes
Is any section of the course offered	100% at a distance
<a href="#">Previous Value</a>	<a href="#">No</a>
Grading Basis	Letter Grade
Repeatable	No
Course Components	Lecture
Grade Roster Component	Lecture
Credit Available by Exam	No
Admission Condition Course	Yes
Admission Condition	Social Science
Off Campus	Never
Campus of Offering	Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark, Wooster

*Previous Value*

*Columbus, Newark, Wooster*

## Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites

Exclusions

Not open to students with credit for 105, Sociol 1101 (101), or 201.

## Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

## Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code

45.1101

Subsidy Level

General Studies Course

Intended Rank

Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

## Requirement/Elective Designation

Required for this unit's degrees, majors, and/or minors

General Education course:

Organizations and Politics; Social Diversity in the United States

## Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Gain basic knowledge and understanding of concepts and content areas in the discipline of Sociology
- Gain an ability to apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning you and your relationships within various human groups
- Gain an ability to apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning rural and urban places in American society, and of other societies around the world
- Gain an ability to think critically about issues and topics affecting American society, and of other societies around the world

Content Topic List

- Social structure
- Social and cultural change
- Major institutions and issues in society, including family religion, social class/inequality/poverty, agriculture/food, social movement, the environment, and crime and deviance
- Rural-urban comparisons, rural communities and the rural sector of American and other societies

## Attachments

- RS1500 Committee Response.docx: RURLSOC 150 response

*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Johnston, Renee L)*

- F2F\_syllabus.rs1500.Spring Semester.Baker Systems.2017.docx: RURLSOC 1500 (F2F)

*(Syllabus. Owner: Johnston, Renee L)*

- de\_syllabus\_eRS1500\_with AS revisions (2).docx: RURL SOC 1500 (online)

*(Syllabus. Owner: Johnston, Renee L)*

**COURSE CHANGE REQUEST**  
1500 - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Neal,Steven Michael  
10/28/2016

**Comments**

- See 10-24-16 email to R Johnston. *(by Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal on 10/24/2016 04:41 PM)*
- See email *(by Hogle,Danielle Nicole on 09/12/2016 03:53 PM)*
- Please make changes requested by COAA. *(by Neal,Steven Michael on 04/26/2016 12:43 PM)*

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Johnston,Renee L	04/15/2016 10:35 AM	Submitted for Approval
Revision Requested	Neal,Steven Michael	04/19/2016 04:55 PM	Unit Approval
Submitted	Johnston,Renee L	04/26/2016 08:23 AM	Submitted for Approval
Revision Requested	Neal,Steven Michael	04/26/2016 08:46 AM	Unit Approval
Submitted	Johnston,Renee L	04/26/2016 09:09 AM	Submitted for Approval
Revision Requested	Neal,Steven Michael	04/26/2016 12:43 PM	Unit Approval
Submitted	Johnston,Renee L	04/26/2016 10:03 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Neal,Steven Michael	05/04/2016 01:52 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Neal,Steven Michael	05/04/2016 01:52 PM	SubCollege Approval
Approved	Neal,Steven Michael	05/04/2016 01:53 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Hogle,Danielle Nicole	09/12/2016 03:53 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Johnston,Renee L	09/28/2016 11:54 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Neal,Steven Michael	09/28/2016 12:10 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Neal,Steven Michael	09/28/2016 12:11 PM	SubCollege Approval
Approved	Neal,Steven Michael	09/28/2016 12:11 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	10/24/2016 04:41 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Johnston,Renee L	10/28/2016 02:47 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Neal,Steven Michael	10/28/2016 03:26 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Neal,Steven Michael	10/28/2016 03:27 PM	SubCollege Approval
Approved	Neal,Steven Michael	10/28/2016 03:27 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen,Dawn Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Hanlin,Deborah Kay Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hogle,Danielle Nicole	10/28/2016 03:27 PM	ASCCAO Approval

# **RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500**

## **INTRODUCTION TO RURAL SOCIOLOGY**

**Spring Semester, 2017 (29171)**

**Tuesday & Thursday from 2:20 – 3:40 PM//Baker Systems, Room 120**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Joseph F. Donnermeyer, Professor Emeritus  
School of Environment and Natural Resources  
Room 408C, Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Road

**HOME PHONE:** 451-9830

**Cell:** 614 582-4710

**OFFICE PHONE:** 292-9167

**E-MAIL:** [donnermeyer.1@gmail.com](mailto:donnermeyer.1@gmail.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment only. I will, however, be available before and after class.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, I will expect you to demonstrate: **(1)** basic knowledge and understanding of concepts and content areas in the discipline of Sociology; **(2)** an ability to apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning you and your relationships within various human groups anywhere in the world; **(3)** an ability to apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning rural and urban places in American society, and of other societies around the world, including the application of sociological principles to agricultural, food and environmental issues; **(4)** an ability to think critically about issues and topics affecting U.S. society, and of other societies around the world. **Thinking critically means (a) understanding the strengths and weaknesses of different and/or opposing points of view (b) no matter how strongly you believe that you are right and everyone else is wrong.**

### **GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) FULFILLMENTS**

This course fulfills GE requirements for the following: Social Science – Organizations and Politics.

Goals: Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources

Expected Learning Outcomes: 1. students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics; 2. students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts; and 3. students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

## DIVERSITY – SOCIAL DIVERSITY

Goals: Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.

Expected Learning Outcomes: 1. Students describe and evaluate the roles of such categories as race, gender and sexuality, disability, class, ethnicity, and religion in the pluralistic institutions and cultures of the United States; and 2. students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.

**NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: No textbook is required, however, pdf versions of chapters related to each topic in this course can be found on the RS 1500 Carmen site. Each chapter posted on the content page – (under “supplemental materials”) supports/”backs up” the lectures, providing a broader framework for how sociology addresses important dimensions of peoples and societies.**

### COURSE POLICIES:

**1. REGULAR CLASS ATTENDANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.** A substantial proportion of the final grade for this course is based on attendance checks, all of which require that you be here. *Summary and note-taking pages* of course lectures will be posted on CARMEN at appropriate times. ***Print them out and use them, please!*** Some of you learned how to take notes in high school, but some of you are not very good at it or were never asked/required to do much of it. It is now time to learn, since note-taking is an essential skill for the workplace.

**2. MID-TERM:** This mid-term includes everything covered during the first 13 class sessions, and is scheduled for administration during the 14<sup>th</sup> class session on **Thursday, February 23**. The first mid-term is worth **30 percent** of the final grade. It will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions. *Make-up exams will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, and only for an excused absence (i.e., documented, on official letterhead, and judged by me to be legitimate – see attendance checks below).* The make-up exam will be in essay format.

**3. FINAL EXAM:** The final exam is multiple-choice in format and will be given during the scheduled exam period designated for this class during finals week – **Wednesday, 2-3:45 PM, April 25 (in this classroom!)**. The final exam represents **46 PERCENT** of the final grade. It will consist of 46 multiple-choice questions. *It is comprehensive, covering materials from the very beginning of class through the final minute of the final class session.* Questions will be distributed (to be best of my ability) as follows: 12 questions from course material covered up to the first midterm, and 34 questions from course material covered after the first midterm (beginning the 14th class session). *Make-up exams will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, and only for an excused absence (i.e., documented, on official letterhead, and judged by me to be legitimate – see attendance checks below).* The make-up exam will be in essay format.

**4. ATTENDANCE:** On ten (10) random occasions, attendance will be taken. Attendance checks mostly will be in the form of a short question on a current topic. Checks can occur more than once during a single class session. The content of attendance checks will be either about a sociological/social change issue or will be multiple-choice questions about course content (usually the previous class session) that will function as mini “practice” exams.

Attendance checks are worth **24 percent** of the final grade (**3 points each**), that is, up to 8 attendance checks will count. **This policy allows you to miss 2 attendance checks without asking for a special exemption. I reserve the right to deny an attendance check to anyone who walks in late, that is, once the class begins. The class begins when I start talking. An exemption can be requested ONLY after you miss 2 attendance checks.** To be exempted, the absence must be a documented illness, a student organization/sports related activity, or for some other legitimate reason. **Two essential rules for special exemptions: (1) exemptions should be requested BEFORE the class session for which the exemption will apply; and (2) the exemption requires documentation which must be on official letterhead, a legible signature, and a phone number to the clinic /coach / student organization advisor etc. for verification.**

**5. TURN OFF YOUR [symbols] CELL PHONES WHILE YOU ARE IN MY CLASS! Remind me to turn off mine.**

**6. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** For all assignments for this course, the Code of Student Conduct of The Ohio State University applies. Academic misconduct is defined as any activity that compromises the academic integrity of the university or subverts the educational goals of this course. **In this class, the most frequent occasion upon which academic misconduct charges are brought up is when two or more students attempt to communicate during or immediately after handing in an exam. My strict rule is no talking or conversing once the exam has begun all the way through when the student hands in the exam and leaves the room.** *Since students in this class speak a number of different languages, I only have to see students talking to file charges, even though I do not understand the words exchanged between those students. I do not have time to learn the native language of everyone in this class, hence, it is the only way for me to apply a **fair and consistent policy** for all students.* The Code of Student Conduct can be found under “Resources” on webpage for the Committee on Academic Misconduct/Office of Academic Affairs.

**7. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** All students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in Room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Or visit the internet address of this office at <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu> for more information.

**8. INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS:** By its nature, any course in sociology focuses on issues that can be controversial, emotional and/or political. For example, this class may touch on issues related to abortion, terrorism, gay rights, gun control, animal rights, human consumption of foods with GMO’s, the death penalty, ethnic/race prejudice, substance use, environmental regulations, factory farming, animal welfare/rights etc. In addition, there are students in this class from a variety of backgrounds. *You may have strong, even uncompromising feelings about particular issues. **That is terrific!!!!** However, in my class, there is no room for remarks that show intolerance for the points of view of others, or remarks that are explicitly prejudicial to other groups (especially along the lines of race, ethnicity, lifestyles etc.). Remember, one goal of this course is to learn how to think **critically**. That means understanding opposite points of view even as you hold firm to your own opinions/values/beliefs.*

**9. GRADING PHILOSOPHY:** I use the standard OSU scheme.

A	=	93+ PERCENT AVERAGE
A-	=	90 - 92 PERCENT AVERAGE
B+	=	87-89 PERCENT AVERAGE
B	=	83-86 PERCENT AVERAGE
B-	=	80-82 PERCENT AVERAGE
C+	=	77-79 PERCENT AVERAGE
C	=	73-76 PERCENT AVERAGE
C-	=	70-72 PERCENT AVERAGE
D+	=	67-69 PERCENT AVERAGE
D	=	60-66 PERCENT AVERAGE
E	=	UNDER 60 PERCENT AVERAGE

**10. There are no extra points earned from extra work. Don't even bother to ask!**

**11. NOTE:** If you attend class regularly, take good notes in handwritten form or on a computer/i-pad (and do NOT do on-line shopping, facebook, texting, go to the “meet other single students” on-line site etc.) and read the textbook, you should do okay in this course. However, if you are having trouble with this course, please see me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of the semester.



## **12. COURSE OUTLINE: RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500**

### **SESSIONS 1 THROUGH 14 (January 10 through February 23)**

Introduction to RS 1500 & Theme of the Course//Defining Social//Definitions of Sociology and Rural Sociology//Six Core Sociological Concepts//Defining Rural & Urban//The Triangle and the Hourglass//The 7 Big Changes (top of the hourglass)//Three Sociological Theories//Ways to Study Societies and Peoples//Culture and Elements of Culture//Examples of 4 Different Cultures//Socialization//*The midterm is on Thursday, February 23, during regular class time (in this classroom!).*

*Read: Chapter 1 (People, Place and Society: An Introduction to Sociology), Chapter 2 (Sociological Research), Chapter 3 (Culture), and Chapter 4 (Socialization)*

### **SESSIONS 15 THROUGH 29 (March 13 through April 20) (March 13 – 17 is Spring Break week. No classes!)**

The Three Sociological Universals – (1) The Family; (2) Social Class and Inequality in American Society; and (3) Religion (with a rural emphasis). (special focus on the Amish).

The Sociology of Food and Agriculture (no chapter)

Crime with a rural emphasis

*Read: Chapter 5 (Families), Chapter 6 (Social Class), and the religion section of Chapter 7 (Education and Religion), and Chapter 9 (Deviance).*

**FINAL: Wednesday, April 26, 2-3:45 PM (in this classroom!)**



# SYLLABUS: RURAL SOCIOLOGY 1500

## INTRODUCTION TO RURAL SOCIOLOGY

### SPRING 2017

## Course overview

### Instructor

Instructor: Joseph F. Donnermeyer, Professor Emeritus

Email address: [donnermeyer.1@osu.edu](mailto:donnermeyer.1@osu.edu)

Phone number: 451-9830 (Home); 292-9167 (Office); 614-582-4710 (Cell)

Office hours: By Appointment, Room 408C, Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Road & by phone

### Course description

This is a completely on-line course that will be delivered using Carmen, The Ohio State University's learning management system. Course content, including lecture presentations and videos, will be delivered using Carmen (<https://carmen.osu.edu/>). Carmen will also be used to complete quizzes, exams, and discussions. Other resources, such as the University Libraries, may also be used. This course is self-paced yet all course requirements must be completed during the semester of offering. All discussions, quizzes, and exams must be completed by the due date shown on the syllabus.

### General Education (GE) Fulfillments

This course fulfills GE requirements for the following:

#### Social Science – Organizations and Politics

Goals: Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources

#### Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics.

2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

## Diversity – Social Diversity

Goals: Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.

### Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students describe and evaluate the roles of such categories as race, gender and sexuality, disability, class, ethnicity, and religion in the pluralistic institutions and cultures of the United States.
2. Students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.

## Course learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of concepts and content areas in the discipline of Sociology
2. Apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning themselves and their relationships within various human groups anywhere in the world
3. Apply sociological concepts to issues and topics concerning rural and urban places in American society, and other societies around the world, including the application of sociological principles to agriculture, food, and environmental issues
4. Think critically about issues and topics affecting U.S. society, and other societies around the world by understanding the strengths and weaknesses of different and/or opposing points of view

## Course materials

### No Textbook Required:

No textbook is required, however, pdf versions of chapters related to each topic in this course can be found on Carmen. Each chapter posted in Modules supports the lectures, providing a broader framework for how sociology addresses important dimensions of peoples and societies.

## Course technology

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours>, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>
- **Phone:** 614-688-HELP (4357)
- **Email:** [8help@osu.edu](mailto:8help@osu.edu)
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

## Baseline technical skills necessary for online courses

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen (<https://carmen.osu.edu>)

## Necessary equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Speakers or head phones for listening to lecture material

## Necessary software

- [Firefox web browser](#) (the best browser for Carmen)
- [Microsoft Office](#), or a free alternative such as [LibreOffice](#)
- [Adobe Reader](#), or an alternative PDF reader

# Grading and faculty response

## Grades

Assignment or category	Points
Discussions (5)	15
Quizzes (5)	15
Midterm 1	20
Midterm 2	20
Final Exam	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

See course schedule, below, for due dates

## Discussions

You will complete a total of **five (5) discussions** throughout the semester. *Discussions will be submitted online using Carmen Discussions. Each discussion will be open on Carmen for 1 week and you must submit your response by 11:59pm on the Wednesday of this week.* Discussion prompts are designed to enhance your understanding of key concepts by having you reflect on and connect sociological theory and methods in the rural context. Each discussion submission should be written in your own words and be between 250-500 words in length. You will not be able to view your classmates' responses until you submit your own response. **At 12:01am on the Thursday of this week you will be assigned at least one classmate to respond to.** Your response should be 3-4 sentences in length and reflect the major concepts in which your classmate presented in his/her submission. You are welcome to respond to additional classmates in addition to the one(s) in which you were assigned. **Your assigned peer response must be submitted by 11:59pm on the Friday of this week.** In order to receive full credit for a class discussion, you must submit your discussion prompt AND respond to the classmate(s) in which you were assigned to review within the appropriate deadline. If the discussion closes before you complete it you will earn a grade of 0%. Each discussion is worth 3% of your final grade.

## Quizzes

You will take a total of **five (5) quizzes** throughout the semester. The quiz questions will be based on assigned readings and videos. *Quizzes will be taken online using Carmen. They will be open on Carmen for 1 week and you can take the quiz any time during this week. You will be given 1-2 hours to complete the quiz on Carmen.* If the quiz closes before you complete it you will earn a grade of 0%. Each quiz is worth 3% of your final grade.

## Exams

All exams will be taken online using Carmen. Exams will be open on Carmen for approximately 24 hours and you can take the exam anytime during these 24 hours. You will be given 60-100 minutes to complete the exam. If you fail to complete the exam on Carmen before it closes you will earn a grade of 0%. You will NOT come to a classroom to take the exam. Rather, you take the exam from a location of your choosing that has Internet connection (e.g., dorm room, library). Each student must complete the exam on her or his own. You are NOT permitted to receive assistance from anyone else during the exam. You are NOT permitted to take the exams as part of a group.

*Make-up exams will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, and only for an excused absence (i.e., documented, on official letterhead, and judged by me to be legitimate). The make-up exam will be in essay format.*

## Mid-term Exams (2)

You will take two (2) mid-term exams. The first mid-term includes everything covered during the first 4 weeks of class, and administered online on **Friday, February 3**. The second mid-term includes only content covered between Weeks 5-9 and will also be taken online on **Friday, March 10**. **Each mid-term is 20% of the final grade, for a total of 40%**. Each will consist of **25-50 questions**. Questions types may include but are not limited to multiple-choice, True/False, Fill-In-The-Blank, and/or Ordering. A significant number of exam questions will come from material presented in lecture videos. Additional material will be drawn from the assigned readings and videos.

## Final Exam

The final exam is multiple-choice in format and will be given during the scheduled exam period designated for this class during finals week. **The final exam represents 30% of the final grade. It will consist of 30-60 questions.** Questions types may include but are not limited to multiple-choice, True/False, Fill-In-The-Blank, and/or Ordering. *It is comprehensive, covering materials from Week 1 to Week 14.* Questions will be equally distributed (almost), with about 1/3rd of the questions representing material up to the first midterm, about 1/3rd from material covered between the 1st and 2nd midterms, and about 1/3rd since the second midterm. A significant number of exam questions will come from material presented in lecture videos. Additional material will be drawn from the assigned readings and videos.

## Late assignments

If you miss the due date FOR ANY REASON you earn 0%. Do NOT wait until the last hour to complete exams and assignments. Technical glitches such as a bad Internet connection, bad Internet browser, a computer that “crashes”, a battery that runs out of power, etc. are NOT acceptable excuses for missing a deadline and you will earn a grade of 0%. Generally speaking, if you miss a deadline FOR ANY REASON then you will earn a grade of 0%. If you miss a deadline for medical or other reasons outside of your control, which must be documented, contact Dr. Donnermeyer by email ([donnermeyer.1@osu.edu](mailto:donnermeyer.1@osu.edu)).

## Grading scale

93–100: A	77–79.9: C+	
90–92.9: A-	73–76.9: C	
87–89.9: B+	70 –72.9: C-	Below 60: E
83–86.9: B	67 –69.9: D+	
80–82.9: B-	60 –66.9: D	



## Faculty feedback and response time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

### Grading and feedback

For large weekly assignments, you can generally expect feedback within **7 days**.

### E-mail

I will reply to e-mails within **24 hours on weekdays**.

### Discussion board

I will check and reply to messages in the discussion boards every **24 hours on weekdays**.

# Attendance, participation, and discussions

## Student participation requirements

Because this is a distance-education course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

- **Logging in: AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK**  
Be sure you are logging in to the course in Carmen each week, including weeks with holidays or weeks with minimal online course activity. (During most weeks you will probably log in many times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*. It is our recommendation that you spend at least 12-15 hours on this class per week.
- **Contacting Dr. Donnermeyer: OPTIONAL**  
Periodic announcements will be posted on Carmen under News. If you have questions or concerns about the course or course material, please email me at [donnermeyer.1@osu.edu](mailto:donnermeyer.1@osu.edu). If you would prefer to speak face-to-face, please contact me via email to set up an appointment. In person meetings will be held on The Ohio State University campus or alternatively by phone. If you are required to discuss an assignment with me, please contact me at the beginning of the week.

## Discussion and communication guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Informality (including an occasional emoticon) is fine for non-academic topics. Please remember that all writing is meant to be read by someone else, or you at a later time. Bad, sloppy writing is a sign of disrespect to the instructor and to fellow students.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across well online. Disagreeing with someone by making negative, insulting comments is not using your sociological imagination.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. (For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.)
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.

## Other course policies

### Policies for this online course

- **Quizzes and exams:** You must complete the midterm and final exams yourself, without any external help or communication. Some weekly quizzes are included as self-checks without points attached.
- **Written assignments:** Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow **APA** style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in--but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.
- **Reusing past work:** In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.
- **Falsifying research or results:** All research you will conduct in this course is intended to be a learning experience; you should never feel tempted to make your results or your library research look more successful than it was.



- **Collaboration and informal peer-review:** The course includes many opportunities for formal collaboration with your classmates. While study groups and peer-review of major written projects is encouraged, remember that comparing answers on a quiz or assignment is not permitted. If you're unsure about a particular situation, please feel free just to ask ahead of time.

## Ohio State's academic integrity policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

**If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.** If COAM determines that you have violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages ([COAM Home](#))
- *Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity* ([Ten Suggestions](#))
- *Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity* ([www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm](http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm))

## **Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities**

### **Requesting accommodations**

If you would like to request academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, contact your instructor privately as soon as possible to discuss your specific needs. Discussions are confidential.

In addition to contacting the instructor, please contact the Student Life Disability Services at [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307) or [ods@osu.edu](mailto:ods@osu.edu) to register for services and/or to coordinate any accommodations you might need in your courses at The Ohio State University.

Go to <http://ods.osu.edu> for more information.

### **Accessibility of course technology**

This online course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.

- [Carmen \(Canvas\) accessibility](#)
- Streaming audio and video
- Synchronous course tools

### **Statement on Title IX**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu)

## Course schedule (tentative)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments	Directions
1	January 9-13	Introduction to Rural Sociology	
1	January 13	Discussion 1 - Introducing Ourselves	Carmen Discussion Board
2	January 16-20	The Sociological Imagination and Social Change	
2	January 20	Discussion 2 – Re-Introduce Yourself In the Hourglass	Carmen Discussion Board
3	January 23-27	Sociological Theory and Sociological Research	
4	Jan 30-Feb 3	Culture	
4	February 3	Midterm 1 (Covers Weeks 1-4)	Carmen Quizzes
5	February 6-10	Social and Cultural Diversity in America	
5	February 10	Quiz 1 – Social and Cultural Diversity in America	Carmen Quizzes
6	February 13-17	Socialization and The Family	
7	February 20-24	Inequality and Social Class	
7	February 24	Discussion 3 – What Causes Poverty?	Carmen Dropbox
8	Feb 27-Mar 3	Religion	
8	March 3	Quiz 2 – Religion	Carmen Quizzes
9	March 6-10	The Amish Subculture	
9	March 10	Discussion 4 – What Holds the Amish Subculture Together?	Carmen Dropbox
9	March 10	Midterm 2 (Covers Weeks 5-9)	Carmen Quizzes
March 13-17, Spring Break			

10	March 20-24	Social Movements and Social Change	
10	March 24	Quiz 3 – The Sociological Dimensions of a Social Movement	Carmen Quizzes
11	March 27-31	The Sociology of Food and Agriculture	
11	March 31	Quiz 4 - The Sociology of Food and Agriculture	Carmen Quizzes
12	April 3-7	The Environment and Social Change	
13	April 10-14	Crime and Society	
13	April 14	Quiz 5 – Crime and Society	Carmen Quizzes
14	Week 14 (Apr 17-21)	Crime with a Rural Emphasis	
14	April 21	Discussion 5 - Sociologically Describe Rural Crime	Carmen Dropbox
TBA, Finals Week (April 26 – May 2)		Accumulative Final Exam (Covers Weeks 1-14)	Carmen Quizzes

Dear ASCC SBS Panel Members,

Thank you for your feedback concerning RurlSoc 1500 Online. We assure you that maintaining academic integrity has been a major focus in our development and we plan to follow a number of best practices to ensure the highest level of academic integrity and rigor is held for the course's online assessments. Some of these best practices include:

1. **Using a variety of question types** - online assessments will not be limited to only multiple choice but will also include other question types supported by Carmen such as fill-in-the-blank and ordering.
2. **Randomization** - online assessments will be completely randomized. This includes the order in which questions are presented as well as the order in which question answers are presented, where applicable. (e.g. multiple choice and ordering type questions)
3. **Use of a large question bank** - as part of our course development, we have built an extensive question bank (~250 questions). Online exams will pull 30-50 questions from this question bank for each assessment. This will make it so that the questions included on an individual student's exam are unique from their peers' and the likelihood of students seeing the same questions is highly unlikely.
4. **Blind results** - once student submit their assessment, they will see only their score but not their exam questions or answers. Exam questions and answers will not be released to students except by request. Students will then only see full test results during in-person or virtual office hours.
5. **Long-term building of question bank** - to further protect exam integrity, new questions will be added to the course question bank each semester. This will diminish the effectiveness of collaboration between previous and currently enrolled students.
6. **Questions will be displayed one at a time** - this, coupled with question randomization will further discourage collaboration
7. **Restricted availability** - students will only have access to attempt the exam during a small window - 12-24 hours. Students will be able to login to Carmen at any time during this window to attempt their exam
8. **Enforced time limit** - Students will be given a limited amount of time to take the exam - 1 minute per question. In addition, once the allotted time expires, the assessment will automatically submit to be graded.
9. **Conceptual and higher-level questions** - exam questions have been designed so that students cannot easily look up the answer (i.e. What is the definition of ... ). Questions require students to apply one or combine multiple concepts learned in the course to new situations. Students may

- also be asked to interpret images and graphs.
10. **Clearly established rules and expectations** - a reminder of the expectations for student behavior concerning academic integrity will be included as part of every online assessment. These expectations will include clear statements such as "**Getting help** on the exam is **not** permitted" and "**Collaborating or taking the exam with others** is **not** permitted". Both of these statements, along with corresponding icons, are part of the Distance Education Carmen template provided by The Office of Distance Education and eLearning. In addition to establishing clear rules, a statement about and a link to the OSU Student Code of Conduct will be included. These rules and reminder of the OSU Student Code of Conduct will be included as part of the exam Instructions and must be viewed as part of the process of attempting the online assessment.

Following the above best practices will ensure that our online assessments meet the highest level of academic integrity. As such, a formal proctoring service will not be used for the course. We have considered a number of proctoring services currently available on the market however, these services pass undue financial burden onto the learner and moves counter to the University's affordability initiative (<https://president.osu.edu/2020-vision/access-affordability-and-excellence.html>). In addition, we have also considered requiring students to take exams at an OSU testing center. However, this may also place undue burden on the learner and goes counter to ODEE's distance education classification where "distance education is defined as those courses that are 100% distance (with no scheduled in-classroom or on-site activities)." (<https://online.osu.edu/tuition-and-fees>).

Thank you again for your inquiry concerning our online assessments. We hope that we have satisfactorily addressed all of your concerns. Please let us know if you need additional information.