

Intro to Sociology  
SOC150-007  
Fall 2017  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:45  
Strong 0002



## Department of Sociology and Anthropology

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Welcome! This general education course will serve as a broad introduction to the wide-ranging and diverse set of ideas and intellectuals that constitute the discipline of sociology. While we will cover both the main theoretical systems of thought and empirical findings on the nature of human society, we will also place a great deal of emphasis on applying these sociological insights within our own lived experiences. Since we all encounter society and human relations on a daily basis, sociology is perhaps the most accessible of all the academic disciplines. In short, to paraphrase the Italian theorist Antonio Gramsci, "all men and women are sociologist." Thus, our task this semester is twofold. First, heeding Karl Marx's view that "life is not determined by consciousness, but consciousness by life," we will uncover the myriad ways in which the broader society as shaped our individual lives. Second, and just as important, we will consider the various means by which individuals and groups have acted collectively in the past in order to build a more just and equitable society.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to fulfill three important objectives:

1. Identify the central theories, concepts, and debates that distinguish and structure the academic discipline of sociology.
2. Develop and apply critical thinking skills in both oral and written capacities. Utilize these skills as both a critical sociologist and an active and engaged community member.
3. Foster a "sociological imagination" by learning how to situate your life course and behaviors within the broader historical, ideational, and material power relations that structure our society.

Specifically, students will be able to:

1. Recognize and apply sociological concepts and definitions in the explanation of social patterns, trends and problems.
2. Understand *the sociological imagination* and how it differs from “common sense.”
3. Understand the historical process through which human beings came to live within a symbolic world we call *culture*.
4. Apply sociology’s theoretical approaches to specific social patterns of human behavior and interaction.
5. Understand the logic of social science research.
6. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different research methodologies used in sociology.
7. Analyze the socialization process and the contribution of the family, schooling, the peer group, and the mass media to individual development.
8. Understand that personalities are not fixed at birth but develop and change as we interact with others over the life course.
9. Apply the sociological perspective to understand the basic social institutions in our society – economics, politics, family, religion, and education.
10. Create a broader vision of U.S. culture by studying cultural diversity.
11. Understand how race, class, and gender are socially constructed ideas that are important dimensions of social stratification.
12. Identify cultural differences within our society as well as those found worldwide by understanding ethnocentrism and cultural relativism.
13. Understand how social problems develop over time and how these problems are handled in our communities and society.
14. Recognize various factors that contribute to social change within contemporary society and how persons working collectively can impact that change.

### Course Readings

Required Textbook: Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum, and Carr’s *Introduction to Sociology*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. Norton. (referred to in the syllabus as “Giddens et al.”)

*You can use a previous edition of the book, preferably no earlier than the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>, but are responsible for any information that is in the tenth edition. Additionally, you must have a registration code for InQuizitive which either comes with a new edition of the textbook or can be purchased at <http://digital.wwnorton.com/introsoc10>*

*Once you have your registration code, join our class, searching with this number: **34734***

## COURSE POLICIES

### **Respectful Learning Community**

Each student is responsible for helping to create and maintain a positive learning environment where everyone can concentrate and focus on course presentations and discussions. This requires refraining from activities that might be distracting to other students, including: having 'side conversations' with other students when the instructor is presenting information; using cell phones (for any reason); using other electronic devices in a manner that is distracting to others.

Although this is a relatively large class, class sessions are designed to include small and large group discussions. Active participation in these discussions by everyone is an important part of the class process. A few topics during the semester will likely generate a variety of perspectives. Every student has a right to express their views, but there is also a responsibility to be tolerant of different viewpoints.

### **Academic Integrity/Dishonesty**

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the University's academic integrity policy plus additional more-specific policies for each class. The University policy, formally known as the "Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures" is available online at [http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3\\_01\\_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3_01_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm) and also at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

You are responsible for being aware of **all forms** of academic dishonesty described by University policy, however, acts of academic dishonesty especially relevant to this course are:

1. **Cheating:** The term "cheating" refers to using or attempting to use unauthorized technology, materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise (whether intentional or not) or taking any action designed to obtain unearned credit in the class. When in doubt about what is authorized, students should consult their teachers.
2. **Plagiarism:** The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work or sections of a work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement (whether intentional or not). This includes any material copied directly or paraphrased from the Internet. The unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials, including material taken from or ordered through the Internet, also constitutes plagiarism. This means submitting someone else's work as if it were your own.
3. **Facilitating academic dishonesty:** Assisting or attempting to assist another to violate any provision of this Academic Integrity Policy, whether or not that action is associated with any particular course, is considered academic dishonesty. (*Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures*, p. 1). This means you help someone else cheat,

including giving your work to someone else.

4. **Misrepresentation of Student Identity:** Quizzes, discussions, and all other interaction conducted through your Blackboard login must be done by you. Having someone conduct work for you is a misrepresentation of identity.
5. **Clarifying Studying together versus working together:** I encourage students to 'study together' and help one another to clarify and understand course concepts. However, when working on written assignments that are intended to be completed independently, you should avoid 'sharing ideas' about the assignment until after you have submitted it. All assignments are to be completed independently unless otherwise specified.

**Consequences:** If you commit an act of academic dishonesty you will receive a '0' for the assignment. Depending on the specific circumstances, I reserve the right to fail you for the course which will result in an 'XF' grade for the course, indicating you failed because of an academic integrity violation. I report all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Academic Integrity Council.

### **Nondiscrimination**

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, 417-836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Please visit the OED website at [www.missouristate.edu/equity/](http://www.missouristate.edu/equity/).

### **Disability Accommodation**

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Director of the Disability Resource Center, Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192 or 417-836-6792 (TTY), [www.missouristate.edu/disability/contact.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/disability/contact.htm). Students are required to provide documentation of disability to the Disability Resource Center prior to receiving accommodations. The Disability Resource Center refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, 417-836-4787, <http://psychology.missouristate.edu/lcd>.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and

ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Emergency Response**

At the first class meeting, students should become familiar with a basic emergency response plan through a dialogue with the instructor that includes a review and awareness of exits specific to the classroom and the location of evacuation centers for the building. All instructors are provided this information specific to their classroom and/or lab assignments in an e-mail prior to the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost and Safety and Transportation. Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional options when applicable with the instructor. For more information go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.

### **Religious accommodation**

The University may provide a reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. In making this determination, the University reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship. The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the University. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their sincerely held religious belief shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a *Request for Religious Accommodation Form* to the instructor by the end of the third week of a full semester course or the end of the second week of a half semester course.

### **Dropping a class**

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar at 836-5520.

### **Audio and video recording course activity**

Students may make audio or video recordings of course activity. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings from the course to individuals who are not students in the class is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and any of the students who are recorded.

## University Resources and Counseling

College can be a difficult and stressful time. If you or a friend is experiencing a high level of stress, there are resources available to you, including the Missouri State University Counseling Center, 331 Carrington Hall (phone number is 417-836-5116), The Springfield Police Department Substation, 636 E. Elm (417-836-5509), the Taylor Health and Wellness Center, 1141 E. Bear Boulevard (417-836-4000), and the Dean of Students Office (417-836-5527). Suicide prevention resources are available at [https://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op1\\_08-suicide-prevention-available-suicide-programs-and-related-procedures.htm](https://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op1_08-suicide-prevention-available-suicide-programs-and-related-procedures.htm)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Readings.** You are expected to come to class having read the assigned reading for that day. We will have in-class discussions and short-answer writing exercises which will draw from the reading.
- **InQuizitive quizzes.** These digital formative assessments are part of the online resources of the textbook. Each quiz will guide you through the major concepts and ideas in the chapter and it is always possible to earn 100% on these (it just may take you longer to finish). 20 quizzes, though I will drop one before each exam (three total dropped).
- **Learning journal.** Using the Blackboard Journal tool (found in the “Content” link), you will write an entry about once every other week in which you comment upon your learning process in the class (marked on syllabus). These are informal, and are the equivalent of one written page (about 300 words). Use the writing to help you think. I will grade and provide feedback on these regularly.
- **Exams.** Three exams are given in this class, with the dates on the syllabus. These will focus on the sections covered in class, but are cumulative in the sense that our learning builds on previous concepts and knowledge. These will use multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions (similar to the InQuizitive format) as well as short answer questions.
- **Essays.** Each student will write two essays on topics related to sociology. There will be five opportunities for you to write an essay (due dates are on the syllabus). These are each 3 pages long (about 1000 words). More instructions will be given in class several weeks prior to the paper’s due date.

## Grade breakdown and grading scale:

Quizzes: 20%  
Learning Journal: 10%  
Exams: 45%  
Essays: 25%  
Total: 100%

A	=	92.95 – 100	C+	=	76.95 – 79.94
A-	=	89.95 – 92.94	C	=	72.95 – 76.94
B+	=	86.95 – 89.94	C-	=	69.95 – 72.94
B	=	82.95 – 86.94	D+	=	66.95 – 69.94
B-	=	79.95 – 82.94	D	=	59.95 – 66.94

### COURSE BLACKBOARD SITE

The Blackboard site includes important information and resources you need to view assignment descriptions, access the textbook InQuizitive reading assignments, submit assignments, and view assignment feedback. All assignment grades, and your current course grade, are posted on Blackboard.

- **Blackboard Notifications**

Blackboard automatically sends multiple types of notifications. This produces a lot of e-mails which makes it difficult to see the important ones. I recommend adjusting Blackboard settings to only send notices that are helpful to you.

- **Assignment Submissions**

Assignments submitted through Blackboard are processed by 'Safe Assign' which checks for plagiarism. Therefore, all submissions must be a Word document or text file attachment (with a .doc, .docx, .rtf, .odt, .txt, or .pdf extension). If you have an Apple computer, be sure to add the extension to the file name. You need to attach files, do not try to send links to google docs.

Students have had issues with attaching files and submitting assignments, so always verify your assignment was submitted successfully. **You are responsible for verifying that your assignments submissions are successful.**

**All electronically submitted assignments MUST be submitted through Blackboard.** This is a more reliable way for me to track submissions and you can verify your submission.

Do **NOT** submit assignments via e-mail.

If you have a problem with Blackboard, e-mail me to let me know, contact the Helpdesk to resolve the Blackboard problem, then submit your assignment through Blackboard.

Detailed Course Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	WHAT TO DO
<b>PART I: THE STUDY OF SOCIOLOGY</b>		
8/22	Introduction, Syllabus; "How do societies work?"	<input type="checkbox"/> Read the Syllabus <input type="checkbox"/> Acquire access to the textbook and InQuizitive <input type="checkbox"/> Contact Dr. Michalka with any questions
8/24	The Sociological Imagination	<input type="checkbox"/> NO IN-CLASS SESSION <input type="checkbox"/> Follow the instructions on Blackboard for "8/24: The Sociological Imagination" (found under Content) <input type="checkbox"/> Journal Entry #1 due by Friday at 5pm
8/29	What is Sociology?	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. chapter 1 (section 3 optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive for this chapter, by 8/30 at 11:59pm
8/31	How do we study society?	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. chapter 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive for this chapter by 8/31 at midnight <input type="checkbox"/> Journal Entry #2 due by Friday at 5pm
<b>PART II: THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY</b>		
9/5	Culture and Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. chapter 3 (section 2 optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, by 3:30pm
9/7	Socialization and the life course	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. chapter 4 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Paper #1 due</b> via Blackboard (more details will be given in class. Remember, you must write 2 of the 5 possible papers)
9/12	Socialization and the life course	<input type="checkbox"/> Finish reading Giddens et al. chapter 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm
9/14	Social Interaction and the internet	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al chapter 5 (section 3 optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive due by 3:30pm <input type="checkbox"/> Journal Entry #3 due by Friday at 5pm
9/19	Groups, networks, and organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. chapter 6 (section 4 optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive due by 3:30p
9/21	Conformity, deviance	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. chapter 7

9/26	Crime; Review for exam 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Finish reading Giddens et al. chapter 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Paper #2 due</b> via Blackboard (more details will be given in class)
9/28	EXAM 1 on parts I and II	<input type="checkbox"/> Study for exam, and come prepared to do well!

### PART III: STRUCTURES OF POWER

10/3	Stratification, Class and Inequality	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm
10/5	Global inequality	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm <input type="checkbox"/> Journal Entry #4 due by Friday, 5pm
10/10	Gender Inequality	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm
10/12	FALL BREAK	<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy
10/17	Ethnicity and Race	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 11
10/19	Ethnicity and Race	<input type="checkbox"/> Finish Giddens et al. Chapter 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm <input type="checkbox"/> Journal Entry #5 by Friday at 5pm
10/24	Aging	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due at 3:30pm
10/26	Governments, Political power	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 13
10/31	Social Movements and review for exam 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Finish Giddens et al. Chapter 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due at 3:30pm <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Paper #3 due</b> via Blackboard (more will be details given in class)
11/2	EXAM 2 on Part III	<input type="checkbox"/> Study for exam, and come prepared to do well!

### PART IV: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

11/7	Work and Economic Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. chapter 14 (section 3 optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due at 3:30pm
11/9	Families and Intimate Relationships	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. chapter 15 (section 2 optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due at 3:30pm <input type="checkbox"/> Journal Entry #6 due Friday 5pm

<b>11/14</b>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm
<b>11/16</b>	Religion in Modern Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 17 (section 2 optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Paper #4 due</b> via Blackboard (more details will be given in class. If you have not written any of the previous papers, you <b>MUST</b> write this and paper 5. No makeup papers will be allowed)
<b>PART V: SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE MODERN WORLD</b>		
<b>11/21</b>	The Sociology of the Body	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 18 (section 4 optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm
<b>11/23</b>	Thanksgiving – no class	<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy!
<b>11/28</b>	Population and urbanization	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 19
<b>11/30</b>	The environment and society	<input type="checkbox"/> Finish Giddens et al. Chapter 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm <input type="checkbox"/> Journal Entry #7 by Friday at 5pm
<b>12/5</b>	Globalization	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Giddens et al. Chapter 20 (section 4 optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete InQuizitive, due by 3:30pm
<b>12/7</b>	Makeup day and Review	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Paper #5 due</b> via Blackboard (more details will be given in class)
<b>12/14</b>	<b>Final Exam on Parts IV and V – 3:30 to 5:30pm</b>	