

**WELCOME! to:**  
**Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology**  
Spring 2016, Sections 2-10, class number 04216-04224, 3 credits

**Syllabus and Course Outline**

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Givens

Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:10-1:00 pm in TODD 116

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-2:00 pm (i.e. right after class) & Wednesdays 11:10-12:10 (i.e. right before class)  
& by appointment

Office Location: Wilson Hall 239

Email: [jennifer.givens@wsu.edu](mailto:jennifer.givens@wsu.edu) (when you email me please write sociology 101 in the subject line)

Teaching Assistants: James McCall, Eric Allen, Marisa Cervantes, Jacobs Hammond, Jesse Mendiola

TA Office Hours: see TA syllabus

Final Exam/EXAM 3: Friday May 6th 1:00-3:00 in TODD 116, no exceptions.

There are 2 Required Texts and you are required to use Top Hat:

1. *The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology* by Lisa J. McIntyre, 6th edition.  
ISBN: 978-0-07-802687-4 or 0-07-802687-3

The chapters in this book will introduce you to important sociological concepts.

2. *The Practical Skeptic: Readings in Sociology* edited by Lisa J. McIntyre, 6th edition.  
ISBN: 978-0-07-802688-1 or 0-07-802688-1

This is the course reader—it is a collection of articles written by sociologists and other social observers. We will be reading from this book throughout the semester. The Writing and Critical Thinking Paper Assignments are designed to help you make sense of these readings.

3. You are also required to use Top Hat.

Course Summary:

This course will introduce you to the discipline of sociology. Sociology, and in turn this class, examines questions such as: What is the nature of society? And what is the relationship between society and the individual? This course focuses on how society functions and is organized, and how society impacts and influences individual motivation, understanding, action, and well-being. Basic sociological ideas regarding social relations, social interaction, social structure, and social change are examined. Students are introduced to key issues addressed by contemporary sociologists including class, race, gender, sexuality, religion, globalization, education, health care, crime, the media, and the environment. Sociology is a social *science*, and thus ideas, discussions, and determinations within this field are based upon empirical research, and thus we will also discuss methods used within the discipline of sociology.

The knowledge gained in this course will aid you in future studies within a variety of fields and careers, and it will encourage the development of critical thinking about important and timely issues.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify how the sociological perspective illuminates understanding.
- Discuss specific areas of study and methods used within sociology.
- Synthesize the local and global nature and impacts of social circumstances.
- Critically examine theoretical perspectives and be able to apply them to current issues.
- Evaluate ideas and debates using the sociological perspective.

### Course Requirements:

Your grade is based on class participation assignments completed in class, 4 papers, and 3 exams. There is extra credit.

Your instructor and TA want and expect you to do well in this class. We want you to learn and understand the material not only because we think it is interesting and important but because we want you to earn good grades. We will do what we can to provide you with opportunities to succeed, but you will have to cooperate. Please make your decision early in the semester and choose success!

Class will consist of lecture, group discussion, small group work, and many supplementary materials such as pertinent documentary films. The value of lectures and activities will be enhanced if you read the assigned materials prior to class meetings. Keep this in mind: Even if you do not attend, you will be accountable for knowing materials covered in class meetings. Find a friend in class who can help you out if you miss. You must stay caught up to do well in this class. Please contact us immediately should problems arise so we can discuss your options. Generally we do NOT accept late work.

45% Midterms & Final Exam (worth 10%, 15% and 20%, respectively, of your grade; 10, 15, and 20 points). Exams are designed to be a motivating and learning experience for you and they allow us to assess your understanding. The exams will provide you with opportunities to integrate materials from lectures, discussions, readings, and other course materials and to show off your knowledge of sociological materials. The exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay style questions. The exams are not exactly cumulative, however some concepts (such as the sociological imagination) and theoretical perspectives may be covered on all exams. (We are loathe to create make-up exams so it is important that you do not miss class on exam days. The rule is: "You Snooze, You Lose." If you encounter some emergency, contact the professor as soon as possible.)

40% Writing and Critical Thinking Assignments. These 4 papers (worth 10% of your grade each, 10 points each) will require you to read, understand and write at a "college level." These 4 papers must be turned in ON TIME for credit. \*You will notice that there are actually 6 paper assignments. This is because you get 2 skips! You only have to do 4 of the 6 assigned papers, BUT because you get 2 skips, we DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK and I strongly advise you to save your skips until you really need them. If you complete 5 papers, we will drop the lowest grade – yet another reason not to use your skips unless you need them.

15% Participation. During class you will have 15 assignments (1 point each) in which you will explore the nature of sociological concepts and perspectives and, in the process, increase your fluency in the language of sociology. To earn participation points, you must come prepared to participate. Your participation will require and in part be assessed based on brief writing assignments generally completed during class and submitted via Top Hat. These participation assignments CAN NOT be made up, therefore, you have to be in class to earn the credit.

*We understand that sometimes you might have a valid reason for missing class. For this reason you have the potential to earn up to 5 extra credit points during the semester (explained below).*

Exams will be completed in class. Papers will be submitted online via BlackBoard. Participation assignments must be submitted via Top Hat. Extra Credit assignments will be typed and handed in as hard copies.

The following schedule will be used to determine grades:

Course Grade	Total Points	Percentages	Course Grade	Total Points	Percentages
A	93-100	93-100%	C	73-76	73-76%
A-	90-92	90-92%	C-	70-72	70-72%
B+	87-89	87-89%	D+	67-69	67-69%
B	83-86	83-86%	D	63-66	63-66%
B-	80-82	80-82%	D-	60-62	60-62%
C+	77-79	77-79%	E	0-59	0-59%

**RESPECT:** If you enroll in Sociology 101, we will ask that you cooperate with our attempts to create a positive learning environment for everyone. In our experience, the key to a positive class experience is respect: for other students, for the instructors, for the exploration of ideas and critical thinking, and for the academic process.

Please respect when others are sharing their perspectives, and please respect the community enough to also contribute and share your own. Please arrive ready to learn, participate, and contribute.

Also, please arrive on time and please do not leave early. Notify the professor *in advance* if you have a special circumstance.

Please do not attempt to carry on conversations with other students during class. Even whispering is distracting.

Please silence your cell phones and do not distract yourself or others. For example: no texting, surfing the internet, social media etc., and NO headphones. If you are using your phone or laptop in class, you should be using it for class related purposes.

If you are observed engaging in any of these distracting behaviors, we may ask you to leave the class for the duration of the class meeting immediately. If we can't resolve the problem, you will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

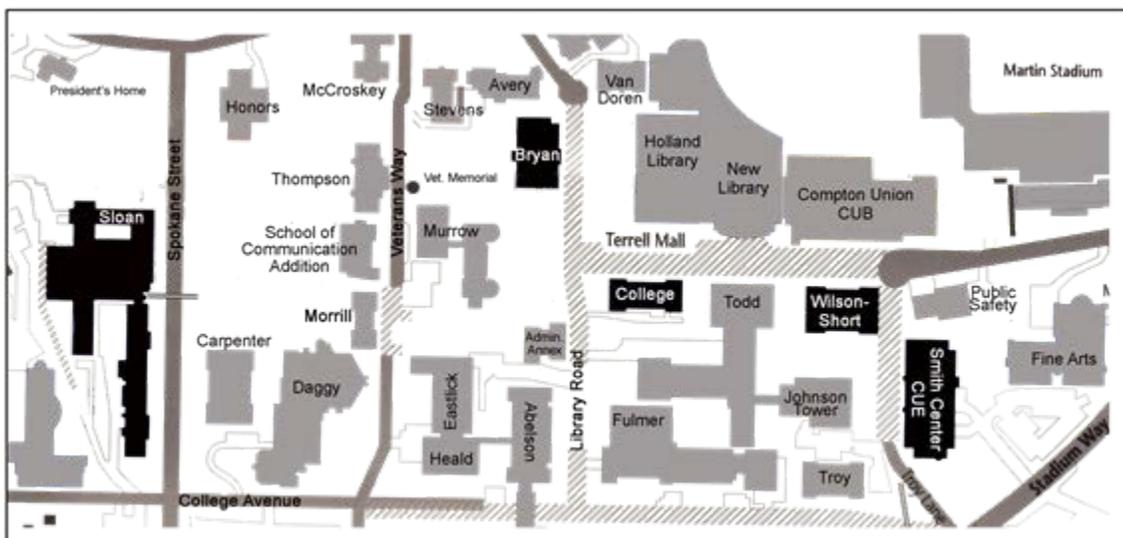
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY is taken very seriously in sociology classes. If you cheat, you give yourself an advantage over other students; an advantage that you do not deserve. Cheating robs honest students and disrespects the entire academic process. Do not cheat.

In addition to, but not instead of assigned readings, you may wish to consult other sources (including discussing assignments with other students). This is acceptable but is not required. However, in all instances, you must do your own work and credit must be given where credit is due. There is no excuse for plagiarism, for submitting another's work, ideas, or wording as your own. If you plagiarize, or otherwise cheat, or help anyone else to do so, on any assignment (even extra credit), you will receive a failing grade for the course and your name will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct (<https://conduct.wsu.edu/>). If you are not confident of your ability to avoid plagiarism, you must request assistance from the professor or TA.

The instructor and TA promise to make every effort to offer lively lectures, to stimulate engaging debate, and to provide you with thought-provoking assignments. In return, we ask only that you stay awake, make an effort to appear interested in what's going on, make interesting and relevant contributions to class discussions, and submit your best work.

Students with Disabilities: We are committed to providing assistance to help you succeed in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. Please go to the Access Center during the first two weeks of the semester to seek information or to qualify for accommodations. All accommodations **MUST** be approved through the DRC, located at 217 Washington Building. To make an appointment with a disability counselor, call 335-3417.

Campus Map:



## Course Outline: Intro to Sociology

This is a basic outline to help you keep track of what is due and when it is due. However note:

\* The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.

\*\* Additional information will be provided on Blackboard and in class.

\*\*\* We do NOT accept late work, therefore you will want to be alert to any changes announced either in class and/or on Blackboard.

Class # 1 Jan11:	Introduction to the class. What is sociology?
Class # 2 Jan13:	Introduction to sociology (film!)
Class # 3 Jan20:	Chapter 1 – History: where did sociology come from?
Class # 4 Jan25:	Chapter 2 – The sociological imagination – a key concept!
Class # 5 Jan27:	Chapter 3 – Theoretical perspectives and levels of analysis
Class # 6 Feb1:	Chapter 4 – Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism (extra credit #1 due)
Class # 7 Feb3:	PAPER 1 DUE, (film or speaker)
Class # 8 Feb8:	Chapter 5 – The Vocabulary of Science
Class # 9 Feb10:	Chapter 6 – Methods
Class # 10 Feb17:	PAPER 2 DUE, continue on with course material...
Class # 11 Feb22:	<b><u>EXAM 1</u></b>
Class # 12 Feb24:	(film!)
Class # 13 Feb29:	Chapter 7 – Culture
Class # 14 March2:	Chapter 8 – Social Structure
Class # 15 March7:	PAPER 3 DUE, continue on with course material...
Class # 16 March9:	Chapter 9 – Social Institutions
Class # 17 March21:	Chapter 10 – Socialization
Class # 18 March23:	PAPER 4 DUE, continue on with course material...
Class # 19 March28:	<b><u>EXAM 2</u></b>
Class # 20 March30:	Chapter 11 – Deviance and Social Control
Class # 21 April4:	(film!)
Class # 22 April6:	PAPER 5 DUE, (continue on with film!)
Class # 23 April11:	Chapter 12 – Stratification and Inequality
Class # 24 April13:	Chapter 13 – Inequality and Achievement: Social Class
Class # 25 April18:	(film!)
Class # 26 April20:	Chapter 14 – Inequality and Ascription: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender
Class # 27 April25:	(film!)
Class # 28 April27:	PAPER 6 DUE, Globalization, the Environment, and Social Change & the Sociological Imagination revisited

Final Exam/EXAM 3: Friday May 6th 1:00-3:00 in TODD 116, no exceptions.

NO EARLY EXAMINATIONS. Final Examinations will not be rescheduled for the purpose of leaving the institution before the close of the semester (per academic rule 79).

### **Writing and Critical Thinking Paper Assignments:**

- You must choose four of the six papers to write.
- You must turn your papers in ON TIME for credit. Papers will be submitted online, via the Blackboard system. Papers are always due **at midnight** on the date due. Note: your TA may also require a hard copy; if your TA requires a hard copy please make sure you **also** turn in a paper copy by the due date that your TA will set for the paper copy, however, note that the midnight date for on time online submission still applies.
- **Because you are allowed to skip two of the six papers, NO late papers will be accepted, so plan ahead.**
- If you do not get the grade you were hoping for on a particular paper go see the TA during their office hours for advice so you will do better on the next one! If you complete 5 papers, we'll drop your lowest paper grade.
- While I (your professor) will not look over a draft of your paper in advance, if you come by my office hours I am certainly willing to talk through your ideas about the paper and make suggestions. You may also go see your TA in advance. We are here to help!

### **Further instructions for the Papers:**

*The Practical Skeptic: Readings in Sociology* is a book of short articles by sociologists and other social observers. These articles will provide you with opportunities to see how sociologists put sociological concepts into action, and some of what they've discovered about social life. You might need to read these sociological readings more than once to get the point. One technique is to start with the assumption that sociologists are always aiming to answer research questions, so your first step when reading the article might be to try to identify the question the author is trying to answer.

You will note that I list a range of readings for each question, however, read the question itself – sometimes you do not need to read every reading, but need to focus on several, and then can choose which other ones interest you. The advantage to this is that you have some choice in focusing on which readings are most interesting to you.

The advantage to having these as out of class assignments is that you can complete the readings at your own pace and you have time to consider your answers and compose your thoughts in an orderly and polished fashion.

College level writing is required; this means:

- Your paper responds to the prompt with a logical progression of ideas – you can discuss the parts of the question in order, but you should have an introductory paragraph and a conclusion paragraph.
- Paragraphs are coherent (each paragraph begins with a topic sentence and focuses on a unifying idea).
- There are appropriate transitions between paragraphs.
- Your paper responds to each section of the prompt. If the prompt says to respond to a certain number of readings, or certain readings, you do this thoroughly and don't miss any.
- You support each assertion by using (and properly citing) materials from the assigned articles – you must cite the required readings in the paper using the format described below.
- The page limits are a guideline to help you understand the depth that we are expecting. Respect page limits; make sure you include the most important points. Papers that are far below the page limit or far exceed the page limit may lose points.
- Your papers must be typed, double spaced, and use 10, 11, or 12 point font.
- Leave one inch margins on all sides.
- Sentences are complete and free from grammatical and spelling errors.
- Proofread. An occasional error is acceptable, but in general your papers should be free of mistakes. We will not take off for the occasional error, we also do not promise to mark every error.
- It is essential that your answers include proper citations to the readings. Procedures for this are explained below.

A D paper is barely adequate.

A C paper is adequate.

A B paper is a strong paper.

An A paper is an outstanding paper.

## **How to document and cite your sources and avoid plagiarism:**

### **(YOU WILL LOSE CREDIT IF YOU DO NOT DO THIS CORRECTLY!!!)**

Whenever you use material from someone else it is essential that you document the source. You should not take credit for something that is not yours, and if you do not give the source credit this is essentially what you are doing. When you fail to document your source carefully and accurately you commit plagiarism. This can be accidental or intentional, but both are unacceptable and can get you into a lot of trouble.

Do not cheat. Do not plagiarize. (See Academic Integrity section above.)

In this class you will mainly be citing the authors of the chapters in the red Readings book. For this reason you do not need a works cited or references page unless you bring in some outside source (which is not required or even encouraged). Therefore, we will mainly just be using in-text citation to document sources. If you use words or ideas from someone else or are referring to a point from or quoting from one of the readings simply insert (in parentheses) the author's last name, the date of publication, and the page number from which you are quoting, paraphrasing, or borrowing ideas. If you mention the author's name in the text just put the date and page number in parentheses. Here are some examples:

Researchers find that blah blah blah (Mills 2015, 106).

Smith writes, "blah blah blah" (2014, 56).

Or

Smith (2014, 56) writes, "blah blah blah."

The first example is an example of a paraphrase – where you put the ideas of someone else into your own words. The second examples are of direct quotes – where you use the exact wording of another, and place these words exactly as they appeared in the other's text in quotation marks.

## **Paper Assignments:**

### **Paper 1: The Sociological Imagination**

**Assigned Readings: #1, #2, #3, (you will need to discuss at least 3 of these, see below)**

**Page limit: 5 pages**

Mill's conception of the sociological imagination is central to this course and to the discipline of sociology. In your introductory paragraph pretend you are talking to your friends or family and briefly explain: a.) What is the sociological imagination, b.) how does it relate to the role of context, and c.) how does the sociological imagination help us to reframe personal troubles as public issues? Next, in the body paragraphs of your essay apply these concepts to three topics; how does the sociological imagination shed light on: a.) the issues related to family that Stephanie Coontz discusses in reading #2, b.) the case of Hernando Washington that Lisa McIntyre discusses in reading #3, and c.) explain to what extent you conceive of your life as shaped by social factors outside of your control. In your conclusion, address how you think your friends or family would react to the sociological perspective.

### **Paper 2: The Research Craft**

**Assigned Readings: #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 (you will need to discuss all 5 of these readings)**

**Page limit: 4 pages**

Discuss the research methods used in sociology in 4 of the assigned readings for this paper (hint: see pages 19, 29, 41, & 64). Compare and contrast the methods used, and drawing upon reading #6, discuss the research ethics involved in sociological research. Use examples. Propose your own research question, and describe how you would design a study using the methods described in the books and course materials, illustrating that you understand sociological research methods and ethics.

Hint: think about chapters 5 and 6 in the Core Concepts book regarding the research methods used in Sociology. For example is it qualitative or quantitative, participant observation, etc., what are the variables, what are the research

questions and hypotheses being tested. Some of the readings have methods sections that should help you answer the question clearly (again, hint: see pages 19, 29, 41, & 64).

### **Paper 3: The Power of Culture and Social Structure**

**Assigned Readings: #8 - #19 (you need to cover 4 of these readings, see below)**

**Page limit: 5 pages**

Explain how social scientists use the term culture, according to Kluckhohn. Then explain how the readings by Miner, Anderson, Laz, Quinn, and Grazian (choose 2 to discuss) illustrate that appropriately studying culture requires the use of cultural relativity but that studying it from a social science perspective can lend new insights to the topics. Which of the insights from the readings are most interesting to you? Now considering the concept of social structure, and the readings by Goffman, Zimbardo, Paules, Adams and Bettis, Anderson, and Molotch, explain what social structure is and use 2 of the readings to illustrate the concept. Discuss how both culture and social structure are created by humans AND shape individual behavior, and think about how social structure can affect cultures, for example, how did the cultures differ in the two cases of male cheerleaders, and why?

### **Paper 4: Social Institutions and Socialization**

**Assigned Readings: #20 – 24 (choose at least 3)**

**Page limit: 5 pages**

After completing the readings this week, you may never think of going to the doctor in the same way again. Explain how individuals are socialized to fit into existing social structures, and choose at least 3 readings from this section to support your points. Explain how this socialization is functional and meets societal needs, but also how this also inhibits change and could have other negative outcomes.

### **Paper 5: Deviance and Social Control**

**Assigned Readings: #25 - #30 (choose at least 3)**

**Page limit: 5 pages**

Use at least 3 of the readings from this section to explain how deviance is socially constructed, not merely a matter of individual personal choice, and an inherent part of any society.

### **Paper 6: Inequality**

**Assigned Readings: #31 - #39 (choose at least 5)**

**Page limit: 6 pages**

The readings by Ehrenreich and Kelley are personal accounts of experiences with sociological topics and are both are very entertaining and readable. Consider reading these two readings with a group of your family and friends; how might your family and friends react to the sociological insights, especially regarding inequality, contained in these readings? What additional insights on the topic of inequality could you add to the discussion from three of the *other* readings in this section? For example, if people haven't studied sociology, are they more likely to be resistant to the insights that the sociological approach, as Loewen suggests? Or, what might be their responses to concepts such as racism, or the job ghetto, and how might you draw from the readings by Feagin and Newman and Lennon to add a sociological perspective to the discussion? You could also return to the reading earlier in the semester by Molotch and discuss how equal treatment sometimes results in unequal outcomes.

### **Extra Credit:**

This semester you have the opportunity to earn up to (but not more than) 5 extra credit points.

This means if you earn an 85 in the course, but you do 5 extra credit assignments, your final grade will be an A-.

Here are the directions if you would like to earn these (optional) points:

#### **Option 1: Exploring the WSU Academic Community Extra Credit (1 point)**

**Due:** Typed hard copy due in class on Monday February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please turn in to your TA. Don't forget to include your name and id #.

Visit my WSU webpage (you can Google me or use the following link):

<https://soc.wsu.edu/people/faculty/tenured-and-tenure-track/givens-jennifer/>

Read my bio.

1. Pose a Question: I list a lot of areas in which I do research. Within one of these areas, pose a research question. In other words, pose a question that you would like to understand better, or that you think it would be important for people in society to better understand. Also, make sure it is a sociological research question, one that can be answered with empirical evidence.
2. Find another professor in the Department of Sociology, at WSU, and describe what they study and why it interests you.
3. Find a professor, NOT in Sociology, at WSU, who studies the environment and/or who has a global/international focus, who I should network with: list their name, email, department, college, and a one sentence summary of why you chose them.
4. Think of something else you want to learn more about (it could be related to sociology, but it doesn't have to be). Pose a question about it. Find a professor in any department at WSU who you might like to take a class from or work with. Describe what they study and why it interests you. List their contact info.

#### **Option 2: Exploring Events at WSU (1 point for each one; you can earn a max of 5 extra credit points)**

**Due:** Typed hard copy due in class *within one week of the event*.

Please turn in to your TA. Don't forget to include your name and id #.

There are always events happening on the WSU college campus that are not directly related to your courses but that are designed to enrich your learning. For example, there are some events related to the book *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, the WSU Common Reading Book for the 2015-2016 academic year <http://commonreading.wsu.edu/> and the events calendar:

<http://commonreading.wsu.edu/calendar/> and there are also events put on by CEREO, the Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach <https://cereo.wsu.edu/seminars/>

To earn the extra credit: Attend any official public event on campus (in other words a guest lecturer in one of your other classes wouldn't count) and *within one week of the event* turn in to your TA a hard copy response based on your attendance at this event that includes the following:

1. The title of the event as it appears on a WSU web page and the WSU url link to the event
2. The date and time of the event
3. A three to five sentence summary of the event
4. A three to five sentence paragraph that SPECIFICALLY links something from the event to a sociological concept, perspective, theory, method, or something else we have discussed in class; in other words, how did your experience at this event make you think about/relate to sociology?
5. A final thought about the event, a most memorable moment, or a question it raised.

**EACH OF THESE ASSIGNMENTS IF DONE CORRECTLY IS WORTH ONE POINT; YOU MAY EARN 5, BUT NOT MORE THAN 5, EXTRA CREDIT POINTS IN ONE SEMESTER.**

You must submit a paper copy, you will not submit these via Top Hat or Blackboard, but you will be able to track your credit for these on Blackboard.