

Introduction to sociology, sec 14  
Cleveland Hall, 30E  
9:10-10am M, W, F  
Fall 2016

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### **Description**

This course is designed to provide a broad introduction to Sociology. The first section of the course will provide an introduction to the sociological perspective and the disciplines' application of scientific logic and methods. The second section will examine culture, social structure, and socialization. In the final section of the course, we will explore in more depth two core interests of sociology: deviance and stratification. Throughout the semester students will have opportunities to practice important writing, critical thinking, and quantitative literacy skills.

### **Expected Student Learning Outcomes:**

- 1) Development of a "sociological imagination."
- 2) Understand major theoretical concepts and perspectives in sociology
- 3) Improvement of critical thinking
- 4) Development of quantitative literacy skills.

### **Course Materials**

*The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.* Lisa J. McIntyre

*The Practical Skeptic: Readings in Sociology, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.* Lisa J. McIntyre

i-clicker

### **Course assignments and grading (1000 point grading scale)**

I am trying a new grading system in the course this year. Your final grade will be computed out of 1000 points. Over the course of the semester there will be numerous opportunities to earn points, as detailed below. In total, opportunities worth at least a total of 1200 points will be made available. Perform as few/many of these as you want. Your final grade will be computed out of a 1000 point base.

We will grade submissions with the expectation of college level performance (see the rubric posted on course space in blackboard). That means unacceptable work will receive zero credit. Late submissions will be deducted 10points per day. One minute after the submission deadline is considered late, so don't wait until the last minute and let problems with blackboard cost you points Submissions in a format other than indicated in assignment directions will be considered as missing (0 points) or receive a 10pt deduction, whichever option is easier/faster for the course TA to administer.

**3 exams (350 possible points: 100, 100, 150):** *You must bring a University ID-card to all exams, and should bring #2 pencils as well.* Exams include a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. All material contained in the course text, readings, and lectures is subject to testing. The final course exam is cumulative and will be given during the University provided testing slot during finals week.

**Reading responses (400 possible points; 50 each):** You are expected to complete all of the assigned readings during the week they are listed on the course calendar (see below). Additionally, you may choose to respond to semi-weekly writing prompts provided through Blackboard and generally due by 5pm on Mondays the following week. All reading responses will be posted and submitted over blackboard.

These responses should not be confused with a daily journal of your thoughts and goings on. These are scholarly documents that should be written, revised then set aside for a day or two and read/edited again before submission. Sloppy efforts will be graded accordingly.

**Assignments (250 possible points; 50 each):** There will be five assignments during the semester that are submitted via Blackboard. These assignments are due at the time indicated on Blackboard. Late assignments will be penalized 10pts per day (1 minute counts as late here. All that matters is how Blackboard records the time. This is an arbitrary norm, but at least consistent). If you are having technical difficulties, e-mail your TA *prior* to the closing of the relevant assignment submission period *and attach the work you are having difficulty submitting*. Whenever we receive an actual document, not an e-mail with an explanation/excuse/promise of future action or a submission with an incorrect document, that is the time it will be considered as accepted for submission.

Assign 1: Table interpretations

Assign 2: Table interpretations 2: or find 2 good examples if scored 90% or above on the first assignment

Assign 3: (minor) norm breaking activity

Assign 4: Trading Activity: During the last third of the semester there will be a “special” extended class session to play a trading-based game. Attendance and participation in this game is a pre-requisite to writing a paper that will constitute Assign 4. You will get more detail on this assignment just before or after we do this trading activity.

Assign 5: Implicit bias test

**i-clickers (minimum of 150 theoretically possible points):** To register your i-clicker go to <http://www1.iclicker.com/register-an-iclicker/>.

Throughout the semester I will use powerpoint slides to pose a number of questions that presage the types of questions that will appear on exams (responses worth 2points, correct responses 3points). I will ask a minimum of 50 questions.

Clickers not registered before the major semester break (Thanksgiving or Spring) will be assessed a 25% penalty. Failure to register prior to the final exam is a 50% penalty. Registrations that occur after the end of finals week will not be accepted and offenders will receive a 0 on this portion of their grade.

**Film-days (50 points possible; 10 each):**

There are days marked on the course calendar below as “film days.” I think these films present powerful examples of sociological concepts and so I provide credit to encourage attendance on these days. For each of these days if you attend and respond to BOTH clicker prompts (one at the beginning and one at the end of the period) you will receive 10 extra-credit points. Whether or not you show up in time and stay for the whole period, these films will also be the subject of test questions. I will try hard not to move these days around, but reserve the right to make changes to the schedule if necessary. If changes to the schedule are made they will be announced in class and/or over the blackboard distribution list.

**Extra-Credit**

It is possible, but not necessarily true, that extra-credit opportunities will be provided during class sessions on an ad-hoc basis. Attendance in class those days would typically be a pre-requisite to being eligible for those opportunities. *I offer no out of class opportunities for extra credit work.*

**Grading scale (% based on 1,000 point total)**

>94	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
83-6	B
80-2	B-
77-9	C+
73-6	C
70-2	C-
67-9	D+
60-6	D
<60	F

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the university. You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work you submit. You may collaborate with classmates on assignments. However the guiding principle of academic integrity shall be that your submitted work, examinations, reports, and projects must be your own work. Any student who violates the University's standard of conduct relating to academic integrity will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and may fail the assignment or the course. You can learn more about Academic Integrity at <http://conduct.wsu.edu/academic-integrity-policies-and-resources>. Please use these resources to ensure that you don't inadvertently violate WSU's standard of conduct.

**Students with Disabilities:** Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please either visit or call the Access Center (Washington Building 217; 509-335-3417) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations MUST be approved through the Access Center. For more information contact a Disability Specialist at: 509-335-3417 or <http://accesscenter.wsu.edu>, [Access.Center@wsu.edu](mailto:Access.Center@wsu.edu)

**Excused absences:** Athletes and others are eligible to receive partial i-clicker points for days missed with *excused* University absences. To receive these points the burden is on you to assemble and provide your TA with either a comprehensive list of all absences that will occur, or collated individual absence excuse forms. Coordinate this and any other special arrangements with your course TA, not your instructor.

**Safety and Emergency Notification:** Washington State University is committed to enhancing the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors. It is highly recommended that you review the Campus Safety Plan (<http://safetyplan.wsu.edu/>) and visit the Office of Emergency Management web site (<http://oem.wsu.edu/>) for a comprehensive listing of university policies, procedures, statistics, and information related to campus safety, emergency management, and the health and welfare of the campus community.

Wk	Date	Class Material	Readings Topic	Due
1	Aug 22	Intro	Text: introduction, chap 1, 2 Readings: #1 (C. Wright Mills "The Promise")	
	24	Orienting the Discipline		
	Aug 26	Sociological imagination		
2	Aug 29	Sociological Imagination	Text: chap 3, 4 Readings: #2, 3	
	31	Sociological imagination (film day)		
	Sept 2	Sociological imagination		
3	Sept 5	Labor Day: No Class	Text: chap 5, 6 Readings: #5, 6	Monday: response to reading #1 due
	7	Logic and Inquiry		
	Sept 9	Logic and inquiry		
4	Sept 12	Logic and Inquiry	Text: chap Readings: #7	Monday: response to reading #5 due  Wed: assign #1 due on blackboard before class... bring hard COPY to class
	14	Logic and Inquiry		
	Sept 16	Work day		
5	Sept 19	Review	Text: Readings: #8	Monday: reading #7 due  Monday: Assignment #2, tables, due
	21	Test 1		
	Sept 23	Culture		
6	Sept 26	Culture	Text: chap 7 Readings #9, 10, 11	Monday: reading #8 due
	28	Culture		
	Sept 30	Culture		
7	Oct 3	Social Structure (film day)	Text: chap 8, 9 Readings: # 14, 15, 16, 17, 19	
	5	Social structure		
	Oct 7	Social Structure		
8	Oct 10	Socialization	Text: 10 Readings: #20, 21, 22, 23, 24	Monday: reading #14 due
	12	Socialization		
	Oct 14	Socialization		
9	Oct 17	Socialization	Text: Readings: 25	Monday: reading #24 due
	19	Test 2		
	Oct 21	Deviance		
10	Oct 24	Deviance	Text: chap 11 Readings: readings 26, 27, 30	
	26	Deviance		
	Oct 28	Deviance		
11	Oct 31	Environment	Text: Readings:	Monday: Reading 26 OR 27 due  Friday: Assignment #3, minor norm breaking due
	Nov 2	Environment		
	Nov 4	Environment		
12	Nov 7	Trading Activity	Text: Readings:	
	9	Trading Activity		
	Nov 11	Veterans Day: NO CLASS		
13	Nov 14	Inequality (film day)	Text: chap 12 Readings: #31, 32	Monday: Assignment #4, Trading Activity write-up due
	16	Inequality (film day)		
	Nov 18	Inequality		
14	Nov 21	THANKSGIVING BREAK	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
	23			

	Nov 25			
15	Nov 28 30 Dec 2	Inequality Inequality Inequality (film day)	Text: chap 13 Readings: #33, 34, 35	
16	Dec 5 7 Dec 9	Inequality Makeup DAY Individual Appointments	Text: chap 14 Readings: #36, 37, 39	Monday: reading #33 due Friday: assignment #5 due: implicit bias test
17	Dec 12- 16	Final exam this week	final exam: search "wsu final exam schedule" for details on exact timing	