

**Introductory Sociology (SOCI 101)  
Spring 2017**

**Tues. & Thurs. 9:30-10:45; Location: 139 Teachers College**

Dr. Kimberly A. Tyler  
717 Oldfather Hall  
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 8:15-9:15 am or by appt.

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**Note:** You are required to use black board for this course to view assignments, grades, announcements, use discussion board, etc. If you have any limitations using black board, notify me immediately.

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\*Sociology Main Office: (402) 472-3631; Credit: 3; Prerequisite: None

**Course Description**

In this Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 101) course we will investigate society and human interactions. Drawing on C. Wright Mill's "sociological imagination," we will identify the connections between our personal experiences and our social environment. We will focus on theoretical and conceptual frameworks developed by sociologists and explore how sociologists apply these frameworks to their research. We will also cover sociological terminology as it forms the basis of the discipline.

Students will learn and be encouraged to think critically and sociologically on a vast array of societal issues concerning families, crime, race/ethnicity, and social class, for example. Together, we will explore the world around us through a sociological lens.

**Course Objectives**

Following the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of fundamental sociological theories and concepts;
- Explain the process of sociological research;
- Discover and develop their own sociological imagination and apply it to societal issues;
- Understand the ways in which social institutions are interdependent; and
- Explore how social factors contribute to social inequalities and efforts to create social change.

**Course Format**

This course will consist of lectures, small group and large group discussion.

**Achievement Centered Education (ACE) Designation**

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln seeks to provide quality education to all its students. As such, it has designated certain classes as ACE certified. These classes provide and assess specific learning outcomes. As an ACE certified class, *Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 101)* will facilitate Learning Outcome #6 (using knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to understand and evaluate human behavior). This class will:

- Provide opportunities to increase your knowledge of an individual's relationship with society, key sociological theories, prevalent patterns of inequality, and sociological perspectives on primary institutions through lectures, discussions, readings, and projects.
- Offer opportunities to acquire knowledge relevant to understanding patterns of human behavior.
- ACE learning outcomes will be assessed by assignments, activities, writing exercises, and exams.

**Required Text**

Henslin, James. (2014). Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach (12th Ed.). Upper Saddle River: Pearson.

## Course Requirements

Attendance/Participation: It is expected that students will have regular class attendance. Students who fail to attend class regularly may have difficulty fulfilling the requirements of this course. Class attendance is not limited to merely your presence, but an active and engaged presence. Thus, any display of passive attendance (such as arriving late or leaving early, falling asleep) will be regarded as inactive participation and you will be asked to leave. Your grade for this portion of the course will be reflective of not only your class attendance but also the depth of your engagement and participation. You may miss up to two class periods without it affecting your course grade.

Lectures: You are expected to complete assigned readings **prior** to the class for which they are assigned. Having done the readings will make participation easy and enjoyable. If you need clarification on course material(s) discussed, please see me. Class will be lecture format as well as small group and large group discussion.

### Examinations:

There are a total of four (4) examinations for this course. The format will be multiple choice. All exams are closed book/no notes and your exam will be taken in class during regular class time. Each exam will cover specific topics taught during the semester. The chapters covered for each exam are outlined below.

### Make-up Exams:

Make-up exams are only allowed under extreme circumstances, and at the instructor's discretion. Students must also provide documentation for medical emergencies. Make-up exams may be different from the exam given in class (for example, essay format).

### Group Discussant:

Each student will be expected to share leadership of a small group by serving as a discussant for a *minimum of three class periods*. This will require you to come to class prepared to: (1) summarize the readings, (2) ask your classmates questions that will generate discussion, and (3) report back to the larger group. *You will be required to turn in your summary, notes, and questions at the end of the class period for which you are a discussant to receive a grade.* Being unprepared (e.g., forgetting, not having done the readings, not having notes) will result in a score of 0 for this assignment. No exceptions! The class periods for which you will be a discussant are assigned in advance. If you miss class, contact me as soon as possible to see if you are a discussant for the following class period.

### Paper Assignment:

Each student will be expected to apply sociological concepts to the world around them, including your everyday life and the larger society. To do this, you will create an *Applied Sociology Journal* over the course of this class. Journals will consist of **4** entries (approximately one page each in length) that include real world examples of concepts discussed in class. These can come from sources such as newspaper articles, magazine articles, journal articles, song lyrics, television shows, movies, etc. Your journal will help you comprehend practical applications of sociology and encourage critical thinking. You will also provide a one-page summary and include your own reflection about how the media depicts the concepts and perspectives of sociology. Specific details will be forthcoming on black board. Your first journal entry is due **March 9<sup>th</sup>**. Your **final** completed journal is due **April 18<sup>th</sup>** during class time.

### Class Presentation:

Each student will have an opportunity to share with the class their findings from their *Applied Sociology Journal*. This will be a brief presentation (~5-7 minutes). Details will be forthcoming on black board.

Late Assignments:

Please note that 10% will be docked off of your grade each day your assignment is late (this includes weekends). I will not grade papers that are submitted 3 days (including weekends) after the due date.

Conflicts due to representing the university (e.g. Band, Athletics, Theatre):

If you will have university related class conflicts, you need to submit official written documentation from the organization leader (e.g. director, coach) highlighting your schedule during the first two weeks of class. If your schedule conflicts with an assignment due date or an exam, you must inform the Instructor via email about this conflict at least 2 weeks in advance, in order for a new assignment or exam date to be scheduled. Please note that make-up assignments or exams may vary from those originally given.

**Grading System Used:**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Percent of Grade</i>
Participation/Attendance	50	11.8%
Exams 1-4 @ 50 points each	200	47.1%
Discussant 3 @ 25 points each	75	17.6%
Paper Assignment	80	18.8%
Presentation	20	4.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale Used:**

A+	98%-100%	B+	88%-90%	C+	78%-80%	D+	68%-70%
A	95%-97%	B	85%-87%	C	75%-77%	D	65%-67%
A-	91%-94%	B-	81%-84%	C-	71%-74%	F	<65%

\*Note: Passing this course requires obtaining a C (75%) or higher. \*Final grades are not rounded up.

Grade Check Request:

Grade checks/reports for student athletes, scholarships, Greek society membership, etc. are handled in person by appointment. Please see me during office hours or make an appointment to see me.

Students with Disabilities:

In accordance with the University policy, if a student has a documented disability and requires accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, he/she should contact the Instructor via email as soon as possible and make this need known. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY. Please contact the Service for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office as soon as possible to have them advance the paperwork to me in a timely manner.

Course Conduct:

We place a high value on respectful conduct in the classroom, representing diversity and acknowledging different opinions and experiences. As a student, classroom conduct respectful to both the instructor and your classmates covers two broad areas:

1. Engaging in classroom behavior conducive to lecture and learning outcomes.

- I expect students to arrive in class on-time. Being late may cause students to miss important announcements. Also, arriving late and interrupting lecture/discussions are disruptive to other students. In

addition, students should not leave early or pack up belongings before class is over. I will respect students by ending class on time. Please wait until the instructor is finished to pack up possessions.

- Students may not record this class using any form of electronic medium unless it is medically necessary and the student is registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office.

-Students are expected to direct their attention to the lesson and participate in classroom activities. Conversations unrelated to class discussions will not be tolerated. If students have something to contribute to class discussion, they should raise their hand. Students will be acknowledged and asked to speak in turn.

- Minimize distractions to classmates (e.g. keep eating during lecture at a minimum).

2. I expect behavior that respects all members of the class. During the semester, we may examine controversial issues. I welcome differing viewpoints and encourage students to express their ideas without personally attacking or demeaning others.

### Academic Integrity:

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has set education objectives that aim to maintain academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, *plagiarism, cheating, submitting unoriginal work in whole or part, fabrication or falsification, abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, and falsifying grade reports.* At minimum, any student found guilty of committing an act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade in this course and will be reported to the Chair of the Department of Sociology and the University Judicial Officer. However, further academic and disciplinary sanctions may also be applied.

If you are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please see an academic advisor or become familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy (See <http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code>).

### Personal Identities:

Not all students go by their legal name or find that the set information in blackboard does not accurately portray who they are. Please send me an email and let me know what your preferred name is (if different from black board). You can call me Professor Tyler or Dr. Tyler. When sending me an email, please address me as such and identify yourself (i.e., provide your full name) and the class (i.e., Soci 101).

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASS SESSIONS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

The following is an outline for our progression through the material. Actual dates and assignments may change based on how rapidly we progress. All readings should be completed before class on the day they are assigned. You will be informed of any changes either in class or through black board. Not knowing about syllabus changes due to class absence **is not** a legitimate excuse for failures to complete course requirements.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS
1/10 1/12	Course Introduction & Sociological Perspective Sociological Perspective continued	Course syllabus & Chapter 1 Chapter 1 con't
1/17 1/19	Social Research Social Research	Chapter 5 Ch. 5 con't

1/24	Culture	Chapter 2
1/26	Culture	Ch. 2 con't
1/31	Socialization/Review for Exam	Chapter 3
2/2	<b>Exam #1</b>	<u>Exam #1 includes Ch. 1, 2, &amp; 5</u>
2/7	Socialization	Chapter 3 con't
2/9	Social Interaction	Chapter 4
2/14	Social Networks	Chapter 6
2/16	Social Networks	Ch. 6 con't
2/21	Deviance	Chapter 8
2/23	Deviance/Review for Exam	Ch. 8 con't
2/28	<b>Exam #2</b>	<u>Exam #2 includes Ch. 3, 4, 6, &amp; 8</u>
3/2	Social Class in the U.S.	Chapter 10
3/7	Social Class/Race & Ethnicity	Ch. 10 con't; Chapter 12
3/9	Race & Ethnicity/Sex and Gender	Ch. 12 con't; Chapter 11
		<b>First Journal Entry Due: March 9</b>
3/14	Sex & Gender	Ch. 11 con't
3/16	Marriage and Family	Chapter 16
3/21	<b>No Class – Spring Break!!</b>	
3/23	<b>No Class – Spring Break!!</b>	
3/28	Marriage and Family/Review for Exam	Ch. 16 con't
3/30	<b>Exam #3</b>	<u>Exam #3 includes Ch. 10, 11, &amp; 12</u>
4/4	Collective Behavior & Social Movements	Chapter 21
4/6	Collective Behavior / Review Journals / Q&A	Ch. 21 con't
4/11	Social Change and the Environment	Chapter 22
4/13	Social Change / Review Journals / Q&A	Ch. 22 con't
4/18	Presentations	<b>Journals Due: April 18</b>
4/20	Presentations	
4/25	Presentations	
4/27	Presentations/Review for Exam #4	
5/2	<b>Exam #4</b> – 10:00 am (Tuesday)	<u>Exam #4 includes Ch. 16, 21, &amp; 22</u>

**VERY IMPORTANT Points to Remember:**

1. Please turn off cell phones before the start of class (i.e., no texting during class).
2. Recording of class is not permitted (see syllabus p. 3 for exception).
3. If you are going to be late for a class or have to leave early, please inform me ahead of time.

4. Do not make a habit of coming to class late or leaving early. This is unacceptable as it causes disruption and hampers learning for everyone.
  5. Only hard copies of written assignments will be accepted. DO NOT EMAIL ME PAPERS. The only exception to this rule is your first journal entry due in March.
  6. I do not share notes so missed material must come from your classmates.
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**UNL Student Resources:**

UNL academic calendar: <http://registrar.unl.edu/academic-calendar>

Writing Center: <http://www.unl.edu/writing/home>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <http://health.unl.edu/caps/>

Undergraduate Bulletin: <http://bulletin.unl.edu/undergraduate/>

Student Involvement: <http://involved.unl.edu/>

Department of Sociology: <http://soc.unl.edu>