

**SOCI 101-001: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**  
**Fall 2016**

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**Course Information**

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**Instructor: Professor Williams**

**Room: CBA 108**

**Times: 2:00 – 3:15 pm**

**Office: 715 Oldfather Hall**

**Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1-2pm**

**Email: [dwilliams9@unl.edu](mailto:dwilliams9@unl.edu)**

**Twitter: @doc\_thoughts**

**Sociology Office: 402.472.6164; Credit: 3; Prerequisite: None**

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**Course Description:**

In this Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 101) course, we will explore the study of human interactions that create and reflect societies, with an emphasis on social science research. Our investigation will be guided by what C. Wright Mill's called the "**sociological imagination.**" Students will be introduced to theories, concepts, research approaches, and empirical findings that examine social patterns linking individual experiences and social environments. This course will emphasize three broad theoretical frameworks (Functionalism, Symbolic Interactionism, and Conflict Theory).

Students will learn and be encouraged to think critically and sociologically on a vast array of societal issues concerning crime, families, health, race/ethnicity, gender and education. 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.

**Achievement Centered Education (ACE) Designation:**

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln seeks to provide quality education to all its students. To that end, 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, projects and multimedia; and

- 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. (2017). Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach (13th Edition). Upper Saddle River: Pearson. ISBN: 978-0-13-420557-1.** The textbook can be purchased at the University Bookstore.

Note: This text comes with 2 free web-based applications (apps) – Revel and Learning Catalytics. Revel allows you to take “self-check” quizzes and graded quizzes. Revel also allows you to access the text through any mobile device or computer. There are numerous computer labs on campus (including in the Sociology department- 7th floor Oldfather Hall). Learning Catalytics allows in-lecture participation using any web-based device.

**Blackboard:**

The Blackboard portal will be used for posting of syllabi, supplementary reading materials, outlines, grades, and other important course information and updates. If you have any limitations using Blackboard, notify me immediately, as computer access is a requirement of this class.

**Course Requirements:**

Lectures: Attendance *will not be* taken at lectures. It is imperative, however, that you attend class on a regular basis. (**Note: I will provide attendance updates to Thompson Scholars’ staff**). Students who fail to attend class regularly may have difficulty fulfilling the requirements of this course. If you need any clarification on course material(s) discussed, please see me; however, I will not provide you with notes from class. Furthermore, 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 we will ask you to leave. You are expected to complete assigned readings and chapter quizzes prior to the class for which it is assigned. This class will use an electronic participation tool, *learning catalytics*, thus you will have opportunities to demonstrate your knowledge in class. All students are required to bring to class and use any form of electronic/wireless device that has the ability to access the internet. Devices are available for check out: learn more at this link: <http://its.unl.edu/t3/computer-labs-equipment-checkout>.

**Exams:**

There are a total of **four (4) examinations for this course**. The format will be multiple choice. All exams are closed book/no notes. Each exam will cover specific topics taught during the semester. All exams will be administered on-line at the Arts & Sciences Testing Center in Love Library. You will have a seven (7) day window during which to take the exam. You must present your UNL Student ID to enter the testing center and take an exam.

For Fall 2016 Semester Hours (applicable to the course testing windows) go to link:

<http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/unltoday/article/digital-learning-center-opens-in-love-library/>

*Note 1:* No new exam may be started after the posted closing time. Students with exams in progress may continue for 30 minutes after closing at which time all exams must be graded.

*Note 2:* Students have the option of retaking exams 1-4 within the scheduled timeframe given by the Instructor. Exam 1: 4 attempts; Exam 2: 3 attempts; Exam 3: 2 attempts; Exam 4: 2 attempts. The highest score for each exam will be recorded as the final score. **SCHEDULE YOUR TIME TO TAKE THE EXAMS AS MANY TIMES AS ALLOWED.** SEE the instructors if you earn a lower score than you

desire on your first attempt. Students who review their first score with the instructor do SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER on subsequent attempts. Each exam attempt involves a random sample of 50 questions from a larger test bank (over 100 questions).

*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 administered at the Testing Center (for example, essay format).

**Chapter Quizzes:**

For each assigned chapter students are required to complete a chapter quiz. The quizzes are part of the **revel** interactive media application for the textbook. You will learn about revel on 8/23/2016. DO quizzes early and look up answers – **these are open book quizzes**. All quizzes must be done before the due date to earn any credit.

*Final Paper Assignment:*

Media Analysis Paper (MAP) – students will write a paper based upon applying journal articles and chapter content to of a film (movie), radio broadcast, or video presentation. Students are required to submit a draft and a final version. There will be a detailed rubric outlining the expectations for the assignment. The assignment will be checked using “safe assign” to ensure that there is academic integrity. The paper should be a comprehensive answer to a question about the topic and include your application of sociological theory, your own reflection about how the media depicts the concepts and perspectives of sociology. Paper should be between three (3) to six (5) double spaced pages in length (12 font), 1 inch around all margins. The assignment will be submitted through blackboard. Details will follow.

*Late Quizzes and Assignments:*

All assignments are submitted electronically and therefore have day and time stamps. Be sure to submit assignments on time for credit.

**Students who have conflict 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 window, 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.

**Assessments and Associated Points:**

	Percent of Grade	Possible Points
Exams 1-4 @ (100 points) each	65	400
Chapter Quizzes 1-14 (@75 points each)^	20	1,050
Media Analysis Paper (MAP) Assignment	15	100
Total	100	1,550

^Quizzes are in Revel at the end of each chapter; points will be adjusted to match the points in this syllabus.

The following grading scale shows the letter grade associated with percentages students earn:

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F <=59%
A 93-96	B 83-86	<u>C 73-76</u>	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

**Note:** Passing this course requires getting a C (73%) or higher.

**Grade Check Request:**

Grade checks/reports for student athletes, scholarships, Greek society membership, etc. are handled in person by appointment.

**Requisition for Re-evaluation of Assignments & Exams:**

If a student believes an error was made in the assignment of his/her grade on a particular assignment they may address the situation in a type-written memo. For assignments and examinations, if a student believes there was more than one correct answer for a question or points were deducted in error they may submit, **via email**, a report detailing the error within 48 hours of assignment or exam date. For a request to be considered the student must provide relevant evidence from the assigned readings and/or lecture notes in support of the claim. Please note that re-grading means that the grade on the assignment or examination may increase, not change at all, or decrease. The score on the re-graded assignment or examination will then be considered the student's final score. Requests for re-evaluation of re-graded assignment or examination will not be accepted.

If a student is not satisfied with the response to a request for re-evaluation of an assignment or examination grade, the student may contact the chair of the Undergraduate Program in Sociology, in writing, to detail the complaint. Please note, however, that the chair of the Undergraduate Program should be contacted only after a student has submitted a request for re-evaluation, as explained in the above paragraph, and only in the case that the student is unsatisfied with the Instructor's response to the initial request.

**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 the instructor in a timely manner.

**Course Conduct:**

I 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 range of areas that most of you are familiar with. Here are some examples of expectations to support the best learning environment for everyone:

- ✓ arrive in class on-time - late arrivals make it hard to hear the instructor
- ✓ obtain the learning catalytics code for the day and sign in to learning catalytics
- ✓ use electronic devises for class tasks only

- ✓ stay until the end of class time
- ✓ wait until the instructor is finished to pack up possessions.
- ✓ Only students who have a medical necessity and who are registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office can do any recording of the class
- ✓ Direct attention to the lesson and participate in all classroom activities
- ✓ Conversations should only occur when the instructor asks the class to have a discussion.
- ✓ Contribute to class by raising your hand and being called on or writing a comment/question to Learning Catalytics. Students will be acknowledged and asked to speak in turn.
- ✓ Minimize distractions to classmates (e.g. keep eating during lecture at a minimum).
- ✓ Engage in productive dialogue, even on controversial issues; for example focus on ideas, theories, and evidence using respectful language about people we disagree with.

### **Email Etiquette:**

Electronic communication with your professors, instructors, recitation instructors and other UNL personnel constitute formal, rather than conversational, correspondence – similar to business-style email correspondence. As such, your email should be structured professionally beginning with the appropriate salutation (e.g., Good Morning/Day/Afternoon Professor, Dr., Director, Dean, Provost, Chancellor, Mr., Ms., and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ (Last Name)). Unless otherwise instructed, UNL personnel should not be addressed as Hey/Hi/Hello/Yo/what's up \_\_\_\_\_ (First Name).

Likewise, if you prefer to be addressed by a different name other than what is listed on the official class roster, please inform me and your Recitation Instructor as soon as possible, so that I may address you appropriately.

When emailing please identify the course name (i.e. SOCI 101) and end the correspondence by signing your name. I generally respond to emails between 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday. However, if you have not received a response within 24 business hours, please send a follow-up email.

### **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 on the assignment, will be reported to the Chair of the Department of Sociology and the University Judicial Officer. Further academic and disciplinary sanctions may also be applied, however, including dismissal from the university. **Students have been dismissed from the University for Violations of academic integrity.** We therefore strongly urge you to maintain academic integrity.

If you are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please see an academic advisor, talk to your professor/instructor, and become familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy (See <http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/three.shtml>).

**Personal Identities & Class:**

The university blackboard system allows students to change personal information although the system resets every night. 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 an email and let me know what your preferred name and pronouns are.

For example, I prefer to be called Professor Williams or Dr. Williams and my preferred pronouns are him & he.

Gender is central to the lives of many students and sex specific bathrooms are ubiquitous on campus. Gender neutral bathrooms can be harder to find; here is a link to their locations:

<http://involved.unl.edu/unl-gender-neutral-bathrooms>

The university was not originally designed for parents or new mothers. There are lactation spaces and refrigerators around campus to support lactating mothers (e.g. in the Sociology Department on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of Oldfather Hall). If student parents encounter other barriers to success in class, please communicate with the class professor to find a way to overcome the barriers.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Tuesday	8/23	Course Introduction ( <b>Revel</b> ) & Sociological Perspective	Course Syllabus/Chapter 1
	Thursday	8/25	Sociological Perspective	Chapter 1
2	Tuesday	8/30	Culture	Chapter 2
	Thursday	9/1	Culture	Chapter 2
3	Tuesday	9/6	Socialization	Chapter 3
	Thursday	9/8	Socialization	Chapter 3
4	Tuesday	9/13	Social Structure & Interaction	Chapter 4
	Thursday	9/15	Social Structure & Interaction	Chapter 4
5	Tuesday	9/20	Social Research	Chapter 5
	Thursday	9/22	Social Research	Chapter 5
6	Tuesday	9/27	Societies & Social Networks	Chapter 6
	Thursday	9/29	Societies & Social Networks	Chapter 6
7	Tuesday	10/4	Deviance & Social Control	Chapter 8
	Thursday	10/6	Deviance & Social Control	Chapter 8
8	Tuesday	10/11	Social Class in the U.S.	Chapter 10
	Thursday	10/13	Social Class in the U.S.	Chapter 10
9	Tuesday	10/18	Fall Break	
	Thursday	10/20	Sex & Gender	Chapter 11
10	Tuesday	10/25	Sex & Gender	Chapter 11
	Thursday	10/27	Race & Ethnicity	Chapter 12
11	Tuesday	11/1	Race & Ethnicity	Chapter 12
	Thursday	11/3	Collective Behavior & Social Movements	Chapter 21
12	Tuesday	11/8	Collective Behavior & Social Movements	Chapter 21
	Thursday	11/10	Marriage & Family	Chapter 16
13	Tuesday	11/15	Marriage & Family	Chapter 16
	Thursday	11/17	Health & Medicine	Chapter 19
14	Tuesday	11/22	Health & Medicine	Chapter 19
	Thursday	11/24	Thanksgiving Holiday	
15	Tuesday	11/29	Education	Chapter 17
	Thursday	12/1	Education	Chapter 17
16	Tuesday	12/6	Social Change & the Environment	Chapter 22
	Thursday	12/8	Social Change & the Environment	Chapter 22
	Thursday	12/15	Final Exam (Exam 4)	

Assignments	Due Dates	Portal
Quiz: Chapter 2	8/29	Revel
Quiz: Chapter 3	9/5	Revel
Quiz: Chapter 4	9/12	Revel
Test 1	9/16 - 9/23	Testing Center
Quiz: Chapter 5	9/19	Revel
Quiz: Chapter 6	9/26	Revel
Quiz: Chapter 8	10/3	Revel
Test 2	10/7 - 10/14	Testing Center
Quiz: Chapter 10	10/10	Revel
Quiz: Chapter 11-12	10/24	Revel
Test 3	11/4 - 11/11	Testing Center
Quiz: Chapter 21	11/7	Revel
Quiz: Chapter 16	11/14	Revel
Quiz: Chapter 19	11/21	Revel
MAP DRAFT	11/22	Blackboard Safe Assign
Quiz: Chapter 17	11/28	Revel
Quiz: Chapter 22	12/5	Revel
Final Paper Due	12/6	Blackboard Safe Assign
Test 4 (Final)	12/8 - 12/15	Testing Center

\*Quiz due Monday at 11:59 -- Quiz opens a week prior

\*\*Exams are open for a week. Exams close Friday at noon from the Friday that it's open

**Note:** Exam 1 (4 attempts); Exam 2 (3 attempts); Exams 3 and 4 (2 attempts)