SOCI 101: Introduction to Sociology  
Focus: Women and STEM  
Fall 2014 CBA 120 T/TH 9:30-10:45 AM

Professor: Dr. Trish Wonch Hill  115 Benton Hall  
Phone: e-mail: phill3@unl.edu  
Office Hours: T/TH 11am-12pm or by appointment

Course Texts:

Additional supplemental readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Goals of the Course:
Upon completions of this course, students should be able to:
1. Identify how history, social forces, and social institutions work together to shape individual biographies and actions, and how individuals shape social structures.
2. See how what we view as objective reality is often socially constructed and socially maintained.  
3. Appreciate how society paradoxically frees and constrains humans.
4. Understand how, when, and why our social worlds function through consensus and order and how, when, and why our social worlds contain conflict, disorganization, and inequality.
5. Understand the limitations of common sense and value of research based information in interpretations of complex social problems.
6. Be familiar with the research methods used by sociologists, and be able to identify reliable research and findings about various sociological topics.
7. Be able to discuss broad trends that influence rates, trends, and decisions made by individuals who have constrained choices.
8. Discuss how and why sociologists study society including what kinds of questions they ask, why they ask them, and how they answer them.
9. Use sociological language to better explain gender and STEM patterns and issues.
10. Understand the limitations of common sense interpretations of gender patterns in STEM fields.

Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) Student Learning Outcomes
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln seeks to provide quality education to all of its students. To that end, it has designated certain classes as ACE certified. These classes provide and assess specific learning outcomes. As an ACE class, Soc. 101-Introduction to Sociology 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, videos, activities, and readings.
• Offer opportunities to acquire knowledge relevant to understanding patterns of human behavior

ACE learning outcomes in this class will be assessed by:
• Exams, Class Blog, Journals

Soc 101 Introduction to Sociology: Women and STEM
Instructor Availability
You are welcome to visit me for any questions, concerns about the class, or just to talk about your interest in Sociology. Outside of office hours, you may contact me via e-mail to communicate with me or to schedule an appointment. I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the week, but often, I am able to respond almost immediately during the day time (8am-5pm). It is fine to send me a reminder after 24 hours if you have not received a response.

Blackboard
In addition to class and office hours, I will use blackboard to post articles, review assignments, and to post important course information and updates. If you have any limitations for using Blackboard, notify me immediately, as computer access is a fundamental requirement of this section.

Communication
Err on the side of communicating questions, concerns, life events, etc., to me as soon as possible. Email is preferable. If you will miss class, notify me as soon as you know. If you have an issue with a due date or assignment, email me prior to the deadline.

What is Sociology?
Sociology is the study of society and human interaction. Though we are often unaware of it, sociological processes are ubiquitous. We are all participants in constructing society, and we are simultaneously influenced and shaped by it. The discipline of Sociology provides a useful and critical framework for understanding how individuals are influenced by social forces and help to shape social forces. We will explore some of the core theories, concepts, and substantive areas of inquiry that make up the sociology discipline. We will also practice with the tools for examining your social world and challenging the taken for granted assumptions about social life. Because this class includes a learning community of women majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), this course will include a substantive focus on gender patterns in STEM disciplines – at the education and career levels.

Format of the Course
Class time will be a combination of lectures, discussion and in-class activities. Outside of class, you will be responsible for journaling and incorporating what you have learned in class with your experiences and news in the social world. All assigned reading must be read before the class meeting time. Several times this semester you will post reflections on readings to begin class discussions. In this class, I often incorporate current events into examples and discussion, you will be expected to be current in international and national current events.

Academic Integrity
Academic honesty is a vital element for preserving the integrity of all academic institutions and it is the responsibility of each one of us to maintain this integrity. Any academic dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism hurts us all and will result in an automatic failure in the class, and can mean dismissal from the university. Certain procedural rights are guaranteed to all students charged with academic dishonesty who are subject to disciplinary action; they are outlined in the Regent’s Bylaws and the Undergraduate Bulletin. In addition, any student who believes that he or she has been graded unfairly may appeal that grade following standard university procedures. It is expected that you have read and understand your rights and responsibilities as a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student. These are available in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

Soc 101 Introduction to Sociology: Women and STEM
Grading:

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<td>Journal/ Class Blog</td>
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<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
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Absences/Late Assignments
If you have to miss class, let me know ahead of time if possible. The first thing you should do if you miss a class is check blackboard for lectures, updates and assignments. If you have questions, find a friend or email classmates about what was covered. Late assignments will be deducted 20% of the total grade for every 24 hour period it is late, including weekends.

Exams
There will be three exams in this course. They will primarily consist of multiple choice questions, and short answer essay questions where you tie the reading into a real world example to demonstrate critical thinking. Missing an exam will result in a 0 unless there is a valid, documented reason for missing. Valid missed exams will need to be made up within one week of the scheduled exam date. Additionally, you must notify me before the exam if you are forced to miss. Under no circumstances will I give an exam early.

Journal/Class Blog
Periodically throughout the semester you will have journal assignments. Out of these, you will choose two share on our class blog. Journal assignments can be related to pictures, art, news, or may be related to an assigned field/research experiment you conduct outside of class. You will learn more about these assignments during the first week of class.

Final grades will be assigned as:

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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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A note about grades
I focus primarily on student learning. If earning a certain grade is important to you, feel free to ask me to “pre review” your work and to assist you in reaching your goal. Please do this by asking me for help with your learning and not in terms specifically about grades. I do not round up grades once the semester has ended for any reason, an 86.9 is a B.

Accommodations for students with disabilities
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. 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, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) provides individualized academic support for students with documented disabilities. Support services can include extended test time, textbooks and handouts in alternative formats (electronic texts, Braille, taped texts, etc), classroom notes, sign language interpreters, and transcriptionists. SSD not only accommodates students who have visible disabilities, but also students with other types of disabilities that impact college life.

If you have a documented disability that is impacting your academic progress, please call SSD at 472-3787 and schedule an appointment with the Director or the Assistant Director.

If you do not have a documented disability but you are having difficulties with your coursework (such as receiving low grades even though you study more than your classmates or find you run out of time for test questions when the majority of your peers finish their exams in the allotted time), schedule an appointment with the SSD office to discuss the challenges you are experiencing.

Students’ rights/responsibilities
- The class schedule is tentative and is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and/or on the class web page. Not knowing about syllabus changes, including changes in assignments, because of class absence or for not checking the class Blackboard website are not legitimate excuses for failure to complete the course requirements. Changes to the class schedule are primarily made to give students more time to cover class materials.
- Staying in the class past the first day (once the syllabus has been handed out and discussed) implies consent to the conditions set out in this document.
ABOUT YOU:
I find learning about students helps me to teach them. Therefore please send me Email before the third class (phill3@unl.edu) with the following information (Skip questions you prefer not to answer). In the Subject line past: Information about me for Soc 101 (Last name). Please copy this page from the web version of the syllabus and type your responses below each question:

1. Full name, preferred name for class (Should I address you by a nickname?)
2. Preferred email address and contact information (telephone numbers)?
3. Expected grade in this class; Expected graduation date; plans to obtain this grade
4. Hopes/expectations for the class?
5. Any concerns about this class? What are your plans for coping if necessary?
6. Do you have demands that may make meeting the demands of this class difficult? If yes, what are your plans for managing all of your demands?
7. Do you plan to attend graduate/professional school (or are you in graduate/professional school)?
8. Describe the kind of student that you are. Describe how you study, how you do homework, what kinds of classes you like/dislike, what kinds of assignments you like/dislike. Describe what you find most challenging about your college experience (in or out of class, strictly academic or not).
9. Is there anything else about you that I should know in order to help you to be as successful as possible?