SOCI 101-003: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY Fall 2021
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
Lectures: Love Library South 102 M/W 9:30-10:20;
Recitation F 9:30-10:20 (Locations TBD)

DR. KELSY BURKE
Email: kburke@unl.edu
Student Help Hours M/F 11:30-12:20, or by appointment
742 Oldfather Hall or via Zoom https://unl.zoom.us/j/6323837010

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS
CINDY MAYS
MAKENA NAIL
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KATELYN SHADOAN

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Email: Cmays5@huskers.unl.edu

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

- Explain the impact of social processes (social institutions, social structure, culture, groups, etc.) on the lives of individuals, including yourself
- Define and apply fundamental sociological theories and concepts to human behavior
- Identify empirical patterns and causes of social inequality in the United States related to social class, race and ethnicity, and gender

Achievement Centered Education (ACE) Designation: As an Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) certified class, Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 101) will facilitate Learning Outcome #6 (using knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspective appropriate to the social sciences to understand and evaluate human behavior). ACE learning outcomes will be assessed by written exams.

Description: In this course, we will investigate connections between our personal experiences and our social environment, what C. Wright Mills calls the “sociological imagination.” You will be introduced to the discipline of sociology—what sociologists study, how they study it, and what they find. You will learn what theories sociologists use to explain social trends—such as those related to crime, health, and education—and you will learn how to interpret data, like the statistics presented in online articles or shared on your Twitter feed. You will learn and be encouraged to think critically about social categories like gender, race/ethnicity, social class, and families. Together, we will explore the world around us through a sociological lens.
**Required Textbook:** Good news! Your textbook for this class, *Terrible Magnificent Sociology* by Lisa Wade (2021, W.W. Norton), is available for FREE. This semester, we have the opportunity to preview this brand new book, and because we are implementing the book prior to its general release, you are able to acquire a digital copy of the book at no cost to you.

You can access the textbook in its entirety via Canvas under the Important Course Information tab. You can also access each chapter as it is assigned in the Canvas weekly modules. For this semester’s special preview, the textbook is only available as an e-book (not hardcopy).

**Weekly Format:** For most weeks, this course consists of Monday and Wednesday lectures and a Friday recitation (in person class of a small group of students) or virtual activity. Each student will be assigned a recitation section led by a graduate teaching assistant (GTA). On all classroom days, our class will be a community focused on supporting each other’s learning. We will do this by being on time, staying until the end of class, and staying alert during class.

Please note the electronic device policy described in detail on pg. 5 of the syllabus: unless special accommodations or instructions have been made, students should not use laptops, smart phones, tablets etc. during lectures.

Our health and safety is a top priority as we continue to learn amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the structure of this class allows you to miss class if you are quarantined or not feeling well. Please note the following:

- **The entire class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays for class lectures that will be recorded and shared on Canvas.** No attendance is taken on these days. If you are healthy, please plan to attend class, as regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of doing well on exams and receiving a high grade at the end of the semester. If you must miss class, plan to watch the recording of the lecture and take notes, just as you would in class.
- **You are scheduled to meet in person for recitation every other week.** During weeks that you are not scheduled to meet for in-person recitation, you will complete an online “Doing Sociology” activity (see page 3).
- **Exams have firm due dates, but with ample and flexible time in advance to complete them.** Other assignments have more flexible due dates.
- **You have the opportunity to attend student help hours with me each week and can attend in person in my office or virtually via zoom.** If you attend in person, I will ask that you wear a mask (as will I).

**Canvas:** The Canvas portal will be used for posting of syllabi, grades, and other important course information and updates. Make sure you receive notifications for announcements sent through its email/messaging system as this is how I and your graduate teaching assistant (GTA) will regularly communicate with the class. You will also complete virtual assignments, reading quizzes, and exams in Canvas.
Note: The Canvas gradebook will record grades for each of your assignments and exams. The “total grade” column in Canvas may not accurately reflect your actual grade in the course—you should instead refer to the syllabus to calculate an accurate estimate of your grade.

### GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3 @ 100 pts each)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Chapter Quizzes (10 @ 10 pts)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Doing Sociology” Participation (8 @ 25 pts)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Grading Scale:

- **A+**: 97-100% (582-600 pts)  
- **A**: 93-96% (558-581 pts)   
- **A-**: 90-92% (540-557 pts)  
- **B+**: 87-89% (522-539 pts)  
- **B**: 83-86% (498-521 pts)   
- **B-**: 80-82% (480-497 pts)  
- **C+**: 77-79% (462-479 pts)  
- **C**: 73-76% (438-461 pts)   
- **C-**: 70-72% (420-437 pts)  
- **D+**: 67-69% (402-419 pts)  
- **D**: 63-66% (378-401 pts)   
- **D-**: 60-62% (360-377 pts)  
- **F**: 0-59% (0-359 pts)

Note: For majors and minors, passing this course requires getting a C (73%) or higher.

#### Exams:

There are a total of **three essay exams for this course**. Each exam is non-cumulative and will cover specific topics from that unit’s assigned textbook chapters, lectures, and “doing sociology” assignments. For each exam, you must answer a single question with an essay that is between 1000 and 1200 words. This question will cover content of multiple chapters and will require you to synthesize assigned reading and other class material.

During exam weeks, we will meet as a class on Monday for an exam review / essay preparation session and will NOT meet for class on Wednesday or Friday to give you class time to write your essay.

There is a five-day window in which students can prepare their essays. Students are permitted to use the textbook and notes. You will receive the exam question at the end of class on Monday and must submit essays via Canvas by Friday at 11:59pm. Additional instructions, including a grading rubric, are available in Canvas and will be discussed in class. **No late exams will be accepted.**

**Make-up Exams** are only allowed under **extreme circumstances, and at the instructor’s discretion**. Students must provide documentation for medical emergencies.

#### Chapter Quizzes:

For each assigned chapter other than the textbook Introduction, there is a reading quiz you will complete in Canvas. The quizzes are a combination of multiple choice and short answer and will be based off of the information contained in the corresponding chapter in your textbook. Do quizzes early and look up answers in the chapter – **these are open book quizzes**. Canvas has a due date for chapter quizzes by the end of the day (11:59pm) on the Monday the chapter is assigned, but for chapter quizzes, there is **NO LATE PENALTY** so long as students complete the quiz prior to the exam that covers that chapter. Each chapter quiz is worth 10 points, and your lowest 2 scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.
**Doing Sociology Participation:** Every week, students are assigned either a virtual or in-person “Doing Sociology” activity, worth 25 points each. During the five weeks when you are assigned to attend in-person recitation on Friday, you will complete your assignment in class. These assignments will involve class discussion, writing prompts, and hands-on activities that must be completed during class time.

During weeks when you are not attending in-person recitation, you will complete a virtual “Doing Sociology” Activity on your own. There are 5 Canvas quizzes set up to guide you through a virtual assignment: these may ask that you read online articles, interpret sociological data, and engage in other activities and writing prompts related to the week’s chapter theme. Due dates are available in Canvas and in the schedules at the end of the syllabus.

Please note: there is NO LATE PENALTY for virtual “Doing Sociology” assignments so long as students complete them prior to the next exam due date. However, **you cannot make up in-person Doing Sociology Assignments as they are participation-based.** You are able to miss recitation due to illness or any other reason twice throughout the semester with no grade penalty. At the end of the semester, your lowest 2 scores from this grading category will be dropped.

**COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

An individual in this course has a documented need for face coverings to be required in this course. Without divulging personal or identifying information, such a documented need might be that a member of their household is unable to be vaccinated or has a health condition that makes vaccines less effective for them. As a result, the College of Arts & Sciences has determined that **face coverings will be required in this course.** If you are unwilling to comply with this requirement, please visit with your advisor about different sections or possible alternative courses that you might take in lieu of this one.

I invite you to join me in actively creating and contributing to a positive, productive, and respectful classroom culture. Each student contributes to an environment that shapes the learning process. **Any work and/or communication that you are privy to as a member of this course should be treated as the intellectual property of the speaker/creator, and is not to be shared outside the context of this course.**

**Electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) must be silenced and put away during lecture.** Unless special arrangements have been made, this includes laptops for note-taking, video- or audio- recording, and picture taking. I am convinced by scientific evidence that taking notes by hand is the best way to remember and understand information and that laptops and electronic devices cause distraction to their users and those around them. Students with accommodations that include using electronic devices should contact me directly. Please note: all lectures will be recorded and shared with students via Canvas, so students have the opportunity review all lectures in their entirety.
The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options privately. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). If you are eligible for services and register with their office, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so they can be implemented in a timely manner. SSD contact information: 117 Louise Pound Hall; 402-472-3787.

Email is the best way to get in touch with me. I generally do not check or reply to emails during the evening or over the weekend but will respond to messages within 24 hours during the week. Please follow basic email etiquette. This means your message includes a subject, has a proper greeting (e.g. Hi Dr. Burke,), follows rules of standard written English, and has a closing (e.g. Thank you.).

If a technology problem in Canvas prevents your submission of an assignment, you must contact the appropriate technical support and document that you attempted to fix the problem in advance of an assignment due date (this includes ticket number with timestamps, and screen shots with timestamps). It is your responsibility to ensure your online assignments are successfully submitted on time.

If you are worried about your grade, meet with me and your TA early and often. We both have weekly student help hours that do not require advanced appointment in order to attend (see page 1 of syllabus). If you are unsure of your grade, please calculate points using Canvas and the syllabus before asking an instructor. Grade checks/reports for student athletes, scholarships, Greek society membership, etc. are handled in person by your Recitation Instructor.

If you believe an error was made in grading an assignment or exam, you may address the situation in a type-written memo within 48 hours of receiving your grade. For a request to be considered, you must provide relevant evidence that warrants re-grading. 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 Recitation’s and/or Instructor’s response to the initial request.

By attending this class, you agree to the UNL student code of conduct (http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code). It is your responsibility to know what constitutes academic dishonesty. The penalty for the first act of academic dishonesty will be an automatic failing grade on the assignment or exam. A second offense will result in automatic failure of the entire
course. Students committing academic dishonesty may also be subject to additional university 
disciplinary sanction.

The Writing Center can provide you with meaningful support as you write for this class as well as 
every course in which you enroll. Trained undergraduate and graduate peer consultants are 
available to talk with you about all forms of communication. This class allows and encourages you 
to work with the Writing Center to draft essay exams. For more information visit 
http://unl.edu/writing.

UNL Sociology welcomes students from around the world and recognizes the unique perspectives 
international students bring to enrich the campus community. If your first language is not English 
and/or you are an international student, please come and talk to me about specific ways I can 
support you. For more information on campus-wide resources, visit https://isso.unl.edu/.

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be 
called a different name than what is indicated on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to 
correct me on your preferred pronouns. The closest all-gender bathroom is Love Library 449. See 
other gender-neutral bathrooms on campus at involved.unl.edu/unl-gender-neutral-bathrooms.

UNL offers a variety of options to students to aid them in dealing with stress and 
adversity. Counseling and Psychological & Services (CAPS) is a multidisciplinary team of 
psychologists and counselors that works collaboratively with Nebraska students to help them 
explore their feelings and thoughts and learn helpful ways to improve their mental, psychological 
and emotional well-being when issues arise. CAPS can be reached by calling 402-472-7450 or 
visiting https://caps.unl.edu/. Big Red Resilience & Well-Being (BRRWB) provides one-on-one 
well-being coaching to any student who wants to enhance their well-being. Trained well-being 
coaches help students create and be grateful for positive experiences, practice resilience and self-
compassion, and find support as they need it. BRRWB can be reached by calling 402-472-8770 or 
visiting https://resilience.unl.edu/home.
### Course Outline and Schedule

All readings should be completed before class on the week they are assigned. **Assignments are due via Canvas by 11:59pm on the day they are due.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>What is Happening / Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>Welcome to sociology!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>The Science of Social Facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>No recitation: Everyone meets in LLS 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M/W</td>
<td>8/30-9/1</td>
<td>The Self (complete Reading Quiz)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1 | F | 9/3 | Group A In-person recitation: Sociology’s Dead Celebrities  
Group B Virtual: Just the Facts |
| | M | 9/6 | Labor Day (no class) |
| | W | 9/8 | Culture & Construction (complete Reading Quiz) |
| | F | 9/10 | Group B In-person recitation: Sociology’s Dead Celebrities  
Group A Virtual: Just the Facts |
| | M/W | 9/13-15 | Our Identities (complete Reading Quiz) |
| | F | 9/17 | Group A In-person recitation: Baby Name Game  
Group B Virtual: What is Intersectionality |
| | M/W | 9/20-22 | People in Interaction: (complete Reading Quiz) |
| | F | 9/24 | Group B In-person recitation: Baby Name Game  
Group A Virtual: What is Intersectionality |
| | M | 9/27 | Exam review and preparation |
| | W/F | 9/29-10/1 | Essay exam writing (no class): **EXAM DUE 10/1 11:59PM** |
| 5: | M/W | 10/4-6 | Deviance & Defiance (complete Reading Quiz) |
| | F | 10/8 | Group A In-person recitation: Schools & Deviance  
Group B Virtual: Ranking Deviance |
| | M/W | 10/11-13 | Organizations, Institutions, & Structures (complete Reading Quiz) |
| | F | 10/15 | Group A In-person recitation: Schools & Deviance  
Group A Virtual: Ranking Deviance |
| | M | 10/18 | Fall Break (no class) |
| | W | 10/20 | Economic Inequality (complete Reading Quiz) |
| | F | 10/22 | No recitation: Everyone meets in LLS 102 |
| | M/W | 10/25-27 | Institutional Racism (complete Reading Quiz) |
| 8: | F | 10/29 | Group A In person recitation: Dollar Street  
Group B Virtual: The House We Live In |
| | M/W | 11/1-3 | Gendered Oppression (complete Reading Quiz) |
| | F | 11/5 | Group B In person recitation: Dollar Street  
Group A Virtual: The House We Live In |
| | M | 11/8 | Exam review and preparation |
| | W/F | 11/10-12 | Essay exam writing (no class): **EXAM DUE 11/12 11:59PM** |
| 9: | M/W | 11/15-17 | Elite Power (complete Reading Quiz) |
| | F | 11/19 | Group A In person recitation: Cultural Capital  
Group B Virtual: The Take |
| (no reading assigned) | M | 11/22 | TBD |
| | W/F | 11/24-26 | Thanksgiving Break (no class) |
| 11: | M/W | 11/29-12/1 | The Power of the People (complete Reading Quiz) |
| | F | 12/3 | Group B In person recitation: Cultural Capital  
Group A Virtual: The Take |
| 12: | M/W | 12/6-8 | Our Future on Earth (complete Reading Quiz) |
| | F | 12/10 | No recitation: Everyone meets in LLS 102 for exam prep |

**EXAM 3 DUE TUES. 12/14 11:59PM**
Group A Friday Schedule (PRINT ME AS A RESOURCE if you are in Group A!)
Unless otherwise noted, all **in person classes** are in your recitation classroom, which will be assigned to you in the second week of class & you can find in Canvas. **Virtual OYO** means that you complete the assignment on your own in Canvas; there is no class meeting for you on that day.

*Note: You can miss two in person classes with no penalty to your grade (your 2 lowest assignment grades will be dropped at the end of the semester)*

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>In person in LLS 102</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>In person</td>
<td>Completed in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>Just the Facts completed in Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>In person</td>
<td>Completed in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/24</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>What is Intersectionality completed in Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>ESSAY EXAM DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/8</td>
<td>In person</td>
<td>Completed in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>Schools &amp; Deviance completed in Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>In person in LLS 102</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>In person</td>
<td>Completed in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>The House We Live In completed in Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>ESSAY EXAM DUE</td>
</tr>
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<td>In person</td>
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<td>12/10</td>
<td>In person in LLS 102</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Group B Friday Schedule (PRINT ME AS A RESOURCE if you are in Group B!)
Unless otherwise noted, all in person classes are in your recitation classroom, which will be assigned to you in the second week of class & you can find in Canvas. Virtual OYO means that you complete the assignment on your own in Canvas; there is no class meeting for you on that day.

Note: You can miss two in person classes with no penalty to your grade (your 2 lowest assignment grades will be dropped at the end of the semester)

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</tbody>
</table>
Be a Sociology Major

Sociology gives real-world skills that employers look for, including how to:

- Conduct research and analyze data
- Communicate skillfully
- Practice critical thinking
- View the United States and the world through a diverse and global perspective

Sociology is relevant for a wide range of careers, including:

- Human services: Counseling, advocacy, administration
- Criminal justice: Corrections, law enforcement, victims services
- Education: Teach (all levels), research, alumni relations
- Government: Statistics, demography, policy analysis, college
- Research: Data analyst, market research, BOSR
- Environment: Public policy, green-energy, non-profit
- Business: HR, management, sales, marketing, PR, computer science, networks
- Law: Logic, critical analysis, diverse perspective
- Medicine/Health: Sociology & medical training, MCAT, MPH
- Graduate school: Census, CDC, NSA, Colleges & Universities

A Sociology major includes:

- Individualized attention - personalized course and career advising
- Foundation Courses
  - Introduction to Sociology, Theory, & Methods
- Foci Areas or Eclectic Paths
  - Inequality, Family, Health, Research Methods, Crime & Deviance
- Electives
- Opportunities to work in a research lab & with researchers
- Opportunities to go to Sociology conferences and to be on the Sociology Undergraduate Advisory Board
- Community-based participatory research with local groups (e.g. through middle school afterschool programs)

Sociology is a flexible major/minor with opportunities for synergies with other disciplines:

- Combine with languages, math, computer science, global studies, etc.
- Earn money and practice research skills (USTARS, UCARE, REU – ask your advisor)
- Graduate with honors – do a senior thesis
  
  Join our department and help us to do even more.
How Do I Know If a Sociology Major Is Right For Me?

You Just Might Be a Sociologist If...

By Nicki Lisa Cole

Updated September 04, 2015. Downloaded 8/16/2016 from:

http://sociology.about.com/od/Sociology101/fl/How-do-I-know-if-a-sociology-major-is-right-for-me.htm

“Is sociology the field for you too? If one or more of these statements describe you, then you just might be a sociologist.

1. You often find yourself asking why things are the way they are, or why traditions or “common sense” thinking persist when they don’t seem rational or practical.

2. People look at you like you’re nuts when you ask questions about the things that we typically take for granted, as if you’re asking a very stupid question, but to you it seems like a question that really needs to be asked.

3. People often tell you that you are “too critical” when you share your perspective on things like news stories, popular culture, or even the dynamics within your family. Maybe they sometimes tell you that you take things “too seriously” and need to “lighten up.”

4. You are fascinated by popular trends, and you wonder what makes them so appealing.

5. You frequently find yourself thinking about the consequences of trends.

6. You like talking to people about what is going on in their lives, what they think about the world and the issues that course through it.

7. You like digging into data to identify patterns.

8. You find yourself concerned or angry about society-wide problems like racism, sexism, and wealth inequality, and you wonder why these things persist, and what can be done to stop them.

9. It upsets you when people blame individual victims of crimes, discrimination, or those who suffer the burdens of inequality rather than seeing and blaming the forces that do the damage.

10. You believe that humans have the capacity to make meaningful, positive changes to our existing world.

If any of these statements describe you, then talk to a fellow student or professor at your school about majoring in sociology. We'd love to have you.” Can you add to this list?