Introduction to Sociology
Spring 2018
Soc 101: Sections 700, 800, and 900
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Co-Instructor Information
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Or By Appointment

Course Description
This course provides an overview of Sociology and Sociological research. At the core of all Sociological research are the tools (theories and methods) necessary for scientific and systematic social inquiry. In this course, we will learn and identify key Sociological concepts and research tools used to conduct Sociological research. We will explore basic foundations of Sociology including social inequalities, social institutions, and social interactions. We will use this foundation to inform our Sociological perspective.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of fundamental sociological theories and concepts;
- Explain the relationship between self and society and how self is socially constructed;
- Critically evaluate and understand the way social institutions shape our lives, behaviors, and interactions with others;
- Apply scientific principles to understand the social world through understanding of the process of sociological research;
- Evaluate the quality of scientific methods and data;
- Identify how social factors contribute to social institutions; and
- Use sociological knowledge to inform policy and to promote understanding.

Required Text
ISBN: 9780134658445. The textbook can be purchased at the University Bookstore.

Note: This text comes with a free web-based application – Revel. 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). These applications are required for successful completion of this course.
Pearson Revel Registration Instructions:
This course uses a Pearson digital product which contains important assignments and resources throughout the semester. It is imperative that all students register for Pearson’s REVEL to access textbook resources and chapter quizzes. Here is how to register:

Student Registration Instructions
1. Start from your Canvas Course.
2. Select Pearson Revel from the left navigation.
3. Select Open Revel.
4. Enter your Username and Password. Otherwise, select Create and Account. Note: If you’re also using a Pearson MyLab or Mastering course, register for it first to use the same username and password for Revel.
5. When your accounts are linked, select and access option:
   - Purchase access using a credit card or PayPal.
   - Redeem and access code purchased from the bookstore.
   - If available, get temporary access.
6. Your Revel content appears.

To go back to Canvas, look for the Canvas tab or window in your browser. That’s it. Throughout the semester, please access your Revel content through Canvas.

To upgrade temporary access to full access:
You will see a page with payment options when you access Revel from Canvas. This page appears at regular intervals during your temporary access period. Or, you can select a payment option from the confirmation or reminder email for your temporary access.

Technical Issues
If you have trouble getting access, make sure your laptop or other device is set up to work with Canvas and REVEL. As with any online class, having access to a computer is essential for success in this course. Technical problems are not an excuse for late or missing work. If you do have technical issues, please contact the instructors immediately and include a screenshot of the error if possible. This will let us know that you’re experiencing issues. Instructors have a limited ability to provide basic help. However, there are instances where you may have to contact technical support at either Canvas or REVEL.

Canvas: On the course Canvas page on the left hand menu, there is a “Help” link at the bottom. Clicking this will take you to a variety of help resources for navigating Canvas. It can also direct you to a support hotline or a live chat.
REVEL: Pearson Support website is https://support.pearson.com/getsupport and the phone number is 855-875-1801.

Communication
There are three co-instructors for this course and one teaching assistant. Please contact Kristen Horton first, through Canvas email, but CC all instructors and the teaching assistant. We check my email regularly (but not obsessively) and we will do our best to respond to emails within 24 hours. If you have not received a response to your email after 24 hours, please send your email again. All inquiries regarding REVEL should be directed to Jaala Robinson. To reach you, we will use Canvas. Please take a few minutes to review your contact information in both Canvas and MyRed. It is your responsibility to make sure your contact information is current. If you have a question or comment regarding an announcement or after you have received assignment feedback, DO NOT make a comment on the announcement or assignment as we do not receive notification of your comment. All comments, questions, and concerns should be communicated through Canvas email, should include all instructors and teaching assistants. Make sure to “reply all” if responding to an email.
Class Format
The class is an independent study course (online) wherein students are required to complete the course and assume responsibility for all course guidelines. Please make sure to become familiar with all due dates and course requirements. ALL DUE DATE TIMES ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME ZONE. The course is designed in Canvas with “Modules.” Each module contains the appropriate assignments, PowerPoints, and material needed for each week and all assignment deadlines are noted within Canvas.

Announcements
- Throughout the semester, important reminders and updates will be posted on Canvas.
- It is recommended that students check for announcements regularly and ensure that they are receiving emails from Canvas when announcements are posted. You may need to check your spam!

Student Responsibility for Online Learning
- Students are responsible for reading and reviewing the syllabus throughout the course as it may change.
- Students are responsible for all material throughout the course. This includes material from lectures (PowerPoints), reading assignments (textbook), audiovisual content, videos, and handouts. Not all material will be covered within the PowerPoints, but will be included on quizzes and exams.
- Students are responsible for taking notes and preparing for exams accordingly.
- All students are expected to maintain academic integrity and adhere to the Student Code of Conduct.
- If a student requires accommodation for a disability, they should contact Kristen Horton (lead instructor) immediately to insure proper action is taken.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Introduction Assignment (10 points): Discussion Board introduction assignment. All students are required to respond to the first discussion board prompt. Refer to Canvas for details.

Syllabus Quiz (12 points): Please read the syllabus and take a quiz the first week. Refer to Canvas.

Discussion Board Assignments (208 points): Each week students are required to participate in weekly discussions. A question will be posed every week. These items may relate to current events, materials from the class, or a wide variety of thoughts/ideas/questions. Once I have posted the initial discussion question, the discussion board will be open to class members to respond and contribute. DO NOT COPY posts – any plagiarized posts will receive a zero grade. Students are required to post one original response and post two replies to your peers. Your weekly original response post is due every Wednesday by 11:59pm CST, is worth 8 points, and must be at least 8 sentences. Your original reply post must include at least 1 concept from the textbook, and make reference to the page or section number. The two reply posts are due every Sunday by 11:59 pm CST, are worth 4 points each (8 points per week), and each must be at least 4 sentences long. Some discussion board assignments require additional observation/activity prior to making your original post. Students should plan to complete the task/objective prior to posting their response. Do not leave to last minute! Comments such as “I agree” or “Great post” do not count – the replies must be substantive and should reflect your knowledge of the course material and critical evaluation. Students should use full sentences, proper punctuation, correct spelling, and correct grammar. Proofread all posts. As this is an online course, this activity is meant to take the place of the typical classroom discussion. This is an opportunity to share your opinions, experiences, and understanding of the course material as well as academically engage with your classmates. Please cite page numbers from the text when discussing concepts from the class. This activity will be as interesting and engaging as we make it. Only respectful and appropriate dialogue should be used when contributing to the discussion boards - please refer to the section on creating a ‘non-threatening environment’ later in this syllabus for more information about this expectation. Since there are so many students enrolled, there will be groups made, where each student will post in their assigned groups.
**Topic Assignments/Essay Papers (75 points):** During the course of this semester you will complete three topic assignments which are to be submitted in the format of an essay paper (see Canvas course module “Course Guides and Writing Guides” and “Writing and Writing Center” below under Course Expectations). These essay papers are designed to encourage critical thinking and to practice your research and analytic skills. You are required to complete three papers (25 points each). Specific details and instructions for these assignments will be available on Canvas. Refer to the course schedule for the assignment deadlines.

**Quizzes (195 points):** REVEL Quizzes (15 points each). Students will be required to complete chapter quizzes for each chapter we cover in this course. The quizzes will be taken in Pearson’s REVEL platform. To access the quizzes you will sign into Pearson REVEL.

**Exams (400 points):** There will be four (4) exams, each worth 100 points each. Each exam will be taken in Canvas and timed (75 minutes). The exam format will be multiple choice and true/false. Exam dates are noted in the course schedule.

**Final Project (100 points):** Students will conduct an in-depth sociological analysis using cumulative material from this course. Successful completion will require strong understanding and application of course theories and concepts. This is an essay paper assignment (see Canvas course module “Course Guides and Writing Guides” and “Writing and Writing Center” below under Course Expectations). Full assignment details and instructions will be available on Canvas.

**LATE WORK**
No late work will be accepted. However, we realize that we all have struggles and priorities beyond this class. Late work will only be considered with a valid reason, including but not limited to, illness with doctor’s note or family emergencies. The lead instructor, Kristen, will determine if the excuse is valid. Please email Kristen, and CC all co-instructors and teaching assistants, as soon as you realize you will miss the deadline. Valid excuses do not include technical issues or computer problems. This being said, any Topic Assignment/Essay Papers turned in late will receive a -1 point per day penalty deduction. Under no circumstances will the Final Project be accepted after the due date deadline.

**GRADE DISPUTE POLICY**
Occasionally there may be an error in how a paper was evaluated or an exam question was constructed. If you believe such an error has been made, we would be happy to review the assignment in question. To prompt such a review, please write a 1 page memo explaining why you think the grade was in error, providing references to the textbook. If the lead instructor, Kristen, agrees that there was a mistake, a second instructor will re-grade your assignment. The final grade could be higher or lower than the original grade granted.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>POINTS PER ITEM</th>
<th>TOTAL POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>10 points (x1)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>12 points (x1)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quiz</td>
<td>15 points (x13)</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- original post</td>
<td>8 points (x13)</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- reply post</td>
<td>4 points (x13)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- reply post</td>
<td>4 points (x13)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic Assignment</td>
<td>25 points (x3)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Exams</td>
<td>100 points (x4)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>100 points (x1)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
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Letter grades will be assigned based on percentage of points earned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97%-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93%-96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77%-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73%-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70%-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67%-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63%-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60%-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0%-59%</td>
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</table>

**Please 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 via email request to Kristen Horton.

**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 class, Sociology 101 - Introduction to Sociology will facilitate Learning Outcome #6 (using knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspective 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 videos; and
- Offer opportunities to acquire knowledge relevant to understanding patterns of human behaviors.

ACE learning outcomes will be assessed by quizzes, discussion board participation, topic assignment/essay papers, and exams.

**Course Expectations**

- **Non-Threatening Environment:** At times, class discussion, discussion boards, may become controversial. While you may not agree with a topic or speaker, please respect the expressed opinions or beliefs. I expect you to show respect for others. This means thoughtfully listening to, or reading, the ideas/questions/experiences of others without judging them. Keeping an open mind is the key! This creates a positive learning environment for everyone. Thoughtful debate is welcomed and encouraged. Use these times to learn about a new topic and broaden your understanding. This is my challenge to you and it is my place to guide these discussions in a healthy direction to promote a positive learning environment. Harassment and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Harassment of any kind is against university and classroom policy. The online environment does not excuse you from following these guidelines as you write and respond to discussion board posts. All faculty, staff and students are responsible for understanding and complying with harassment policies. For more information, visit [http://www.unl.edu/equity](http://www.unl.edu/equity).

- **Academic Integrity:** UNL 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 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 UNL’s Academic Integrity policy ([http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/three.shtml](http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/three.shtml)).

- **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 Kristen Horton via email as soon as possible and make this need known. Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) work with students to develop academic accommodations to meet their needs, including for mental health disabilities such as depression and anxiety. It is the policy of UNL 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 SSD office, 132 Canfield Administration, 402-472-3787 voice or TTY. Please contact the SSD office as soon as possible to have them advance the paperwork to Kristen Horton in a timely manner. Visit http://www.unl.edu/ssd for more information.

- **Writing and Writing Center:** There are multiple written assignments in this course. On all written assignments for this course you should use a scholarly writing style: coherent and well-reasoned, integrative, and with a minimum of spelling and grammatical errors. All work submitted for grade evaluation should be a polished demonstration of your writing ability, not an unedited “rough draft.” Please format all written assignments double-space with 1” margins on all sides; do not include extra spaces between paragraphs (go to paragraph settings and click on the box “Don’t add space between paragraphs of the same style”); use 12 point Times New Roman font; use indent-style paragraphs; number the bottom right-handed corner of each page; no title page is necessary (list name, assignment, and due date on separate single-spaced lines left-justified in the header of the first page only). Please use in-text citations to reference the source for everything that is not an original idea, and include a reference list at the end of the paper. You should use ASA format. The UNL Writing Center can provide you with meaningful support as you write for this class as well as for every course in which you enroll. Trained peer consultants are available to talk with you as you plan, draft, and revise your writing. Students who would like to take advantage of this additional assistance in the development of their writing skills are encouraged to use the UNL Writing Center located in 102 Andrews Hall. More information is available at http://www.unl.edu/writing/home.

- **Course Pace:** Online courses can be difficult if not taken seriously from the start. In order to maximize your success in this course, keep up with the readings each week and consider answering the discussion questions at the end of each module. Keeping up with the work at the beginning of the class will help you in not being overwhelmed with the work later on.

**SEE BELOW FOR FULL COURSE SCHEDULE**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 8 - January 14</td>
<td>Register with REVEL&lt;br&gt;Read the Syllabus</td>
<td>&quot;Introduction&quot; Assignment due Sunday, 01/14 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;&quot;Syllabus Quiz&quot; due Sunday, 01/14 by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>January 15 - January 21</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Discussion Board original response due Wednesday 01/17 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board two replies due Sunday 01/21 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Ch. 1 Quiz due Sunday 01/21 by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>January 22 - January 28</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Discussion Board original response due Wednesday 01/24 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board two replies due Sunday 01/28 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Ch. 2 Quiz due Sunday 01/28 by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>January 29 - February 4</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Discussion Board original response due Wednesday 01/31 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board two replies due Sunday 02/04 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Ch. 3 Quiz due Sunday 02/04 by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 5 - February 11</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>** Exam 1 opens Monday 02/05 at 8:00am and closes Friday 02/09 at 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board original response due Wednesday 02/07 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board two replies due Sunday 02/11 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Ch. 4 Quiz due Sunday 02/11 by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>February 12 - February 18</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Discussion Board original response due Wednesday 02/14 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board two replies due Sunday 02/18 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Ch. 5 Quiz due Sunday 02/18 by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>February 19 - February 25</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Discussion Board original response due Wednesday 02/21 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board two replies due Sunday 02/25 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Ch. 6 Quiz due Sunday 02/25 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Topic Assignment: Research Methods due Sunday 02/25 by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>February 26 - March 4</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>** Exam 2 opens Monday 02/26 at 8:00am and closes Friday 03/02 at 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board original response due Wednesday 02/28 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board two replies due Sunday 03/04 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Ch. 8 Quiz due Sunday 03/04 by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 5 - March 11</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Discussion Board original response due Wednesday 03/07 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board two replies due Sunday 03/11 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Ch. 10 Quiz due Sunday 03/11 by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>March 12 - March 18</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Discussion Board original response due Wednesday 03/14 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Discussion Board two replies due Sunday 03/18 by 11:59pm&lt;br&gt;Ch. 11 Quiz due Sunday 03/18 by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>March 19 - March 25</td>
<td>Extra Credit Opportunity</td>
<td>Ch. 18 Quiz worth 15 points&lt;br&gt;Ch. 22 Quiz worth 15 points</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Final Pointers for Success

- Online courses can be difficult if not taken seriously from the start. In order to maximize your success in this course, keep up with the readings each week. Keeping up with the work at the beginning of the class will help you in not being overwhelmed with the work later on.
- Be honest in your work. Don’t cheat. Don’t plagiarize. Plagiarism will be taken seriously and your grade will be affected in a serious fashion.
- Respect your classmates’ contributions on the discussion board. This is especially important in this class where information is about people’s personal experiences. You can disagree with a perspective that I or another student may present, but you should treat the material, idea, and person with respect.
- Take responsibility for your own learning. If you have a question regarding an assignment or any course material, ask it! Students that alert me to any questions or issues tend to improve their work in the class. Keeping on top of your work and communicating with me when questions or issues arise will be to your benefit.