

SOC 101 – Introduction to Sociology©  
Fall 2016

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Office: MH 222K  
Office Hours: T 1-5pm and by appointment (*I encourage you to schedule an appointment. While Tuesday afternoon is preferable, I have a wide range of availability.*)  
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### Course Description

As the course title states, this class is intended to introduce you to central issues in society. The course will acquaint you with a number of sociological perspectives and theoretical orientations. By taking this course, you will develop a sense of the range of issues covered by social scientists and the various perspectives and tools used to understand these issues. We will approach this course through the perspective of political economy, which is, by its very nature, an orientation that dissects the world we live in.

### Course Objectives

- Students will be familiarized with the basic perspectives in sociology.
- The course will facilitate mastery of basic sociological concepts.
- Students will expand their knowledge of basic sociological issues, including issues of social class, race/ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.
- The course is designed to enable the student to understand sociological issues both in United States' society as well as in the global context.
- This course also encourages students to develop a better understanding of their culture and society and how they fit into it, and to apply the sociological perspective to the analysis of social situations.
- The student should gain a knowledge of cultural and social differences, be able to apply sociology to international issues, and to understand the role of the world citizen.

### Required Texts

- *Introduction to Sociology: A Paul Prew Collaborative Custom eBook*
  - This text is available at MNSU-M Bookstores through the purchase of an access code card.
  - You may also purchase the access code through the publisher website at a substantial discount.
    - <http://ashburypublishing.com/elearning/login.php>
    - **Be sure to select the textbook for this class:**
    - “Minnesota State University, Mankato students, *Introduction to Sociology: a Paul Prew Collaborative Custom eBook* (ISBN: 9780979153877)”
  - The access card provides access to the text as well as required course content and study aids.
- *Top Hat* Response System
  - <https://tophat.com/>
  - Join Code: 369879

### Desire to Learn (D2L)

- Each week, you will have a quiz over the week's readings and lecture material.
- On D2L, you will also find assignments, film homework quizzes, and extra credit opportunities.
- Any lecture slides may also be posted on D2L.

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## Critical Thinking and General Education

- Many of the issues that we will cover in this course are complex and do not lend themselves to easy answers.
  - Hopefully, you will develop more questions as we progress through the class.
- We will focus on *political economic* views to understanding contemporary issues.
  - Sometimes, the material may make you uncomfortable – this is natural, and it means that you are confronting commonly held beliefs, which is one of the goals of the sociological imagination.
  - We will look at the world from a variety of social science theories to address a number of social issues like the media, workplace dissatisfaction, racism, etc.
  - Some issues that we will cover may appear unfamiliar to some of you.
    - While I understand that it may be new material to some of you, it is rooted in historical sociological analysis and is information firmly acknowledged internationally.
      - For example, an international student asked me why some of the US students were surprised by the content. For her, it was common knowledge and something that some international students had witnessed first-hand.
- This course is designed specifically to meet the goals of the **General Education Requirements** it fulfills.
  - For example, we will “develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues” - one of the goals of Goal Area 5: History and Social and Behavioral Sciences
  - We will also “analyze specific international problems illustrating cultural, economic, ... social and political differences which affect their solution.” Goal Area 9: Global Perspective
  - In this class, I stress that you “understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.” Goal Area 9: Global Perspective
  - This course also helps you “identify the impact of oppression for individuals from diverse populations.” Diverse Cultures - Purple
- Other General Education Requirements
  - In this course, students will be exposed to the methods and theories used by social scientists.
  - The course will look at a number of social institutions, especially the media, economy and others.
  - Students will also be exposed to other cultures and the relations between various cultures within the US and also other regions of the world.
- Any unease you feel regarding these goals or the course content is part of your intellectual growth and a necessary part of expanding your understanding of the world.
  - The purpose of the course is to create a more informed citizen in an increasingly globalized world to better cope with both the personal and social issues looming on the horizon.

## Sensitive Course Content

Because social science addresses difficult social issues, the class may cover topics that some people have experienced personally. The following topics may produce anxiety for students who have experienced these social issues.

- *Theory - The Theory of Alienation*
  - During this section, we will discuss issues of food and dietary choices
- *Social Movements and Social Control*
  - During these sections, we may address the issues of lynching and military combat, which may include graphic images.
- *Gender, Sexuality, and Society*
  - During these sections, we will address issues of sexual assault.
- If you think any of these topics, or others, will be difficult for you to experience, you have a couple options:
  - Since opportunities are provided to improve your grade, you may be able to miss one class and choose not to come during these subjects.
  - Please feel free to contact me ahead of time to make alternative arrangements.
- If you are personally dealing with these issues or others, I have listed some resources on campus that may provide assistance. If you do not see what you need on this list, I may be able to suggest others.

## Course Requirements

For the course, your grade will be based on five components:

- class attendance
- participation in class through Top Hat exercises,
- film assignment quizzes,
- Ashbury - Sociology, A Closer Look Quizzes on the text website, and
- weekly quizzes.
- There will be no make-ups for the class participation or homework assignments, but I will drop your lowest grade in the weekly quizzes section.
  
- **Attendance and Participation**
  - The class will have a seating chart.
  - You will be expected to attend class and your attendance will be a portion of your grade.
    - As part of your attendance, you must be engaged in the class.
    - Therefore, if you are distracted by technological devices such as your phone, tablet, or laptop for a significant portion of the class, *you will be counted absent for that day*. See course expectations below for more information.
    - Also, if you are otherwise distracted or disengaged from the class, *you will be counted absent*.
  - We will have the Top Hat response system to conduct in class exercises.
    - Participation in these exercises will be a portion of your grade.
    - The system will be explained in more detail in class.
  
- **Ashbury - Sociology, A Closer Look Quizzes**
  - On the textbook website, you will find quizzes that cover the “A Closer Look” sections of your text.
    - The “Closer Look” readings are to prepare you for the week’s in-class discussion.
    - For each “Closer Look” reading, you have a required quiz.
      - The quiz is pass/fail and may be repeated.
      - It is meant to prepare you for the coming week’s material and provide practice for your upcoming Weekly Quiz.
  
- **Film Homework Quizzes**
  - Films will be posted on D2L.
    - See the “Content” section of D2L for more information.
  - After watching the film, you must go to the “Quizzes” section.
    - Make sure you have completed watching the film prior to beginning the quiz.
    - You will have a limited time to complete these quizzes.
    - There will be no make-ups for these assignments.
      - Some accommodations can be made for officially sanctioned activities such as National Guard Duty or university-sponsored activities.
        - \* Contact me if your schedule conflicts with a quiz.
  
- **Weekly Quizzes**
  - Quizzes are multiple-choice and are posted weekly in the “Quizzes” section of D2L.
    - Quizzes will be based on the readings, films, and lecture material.
    - The content of each quiz is contained in boxes on the syllabus below, and is listed on D2L.
    - Quiz due dates are posted on D2L and in the syllabus below.
    - There will be no make-ups for the quizzes.
      - Some accommodations can be made for officially sanctioned activities such as National Guard Duty or university-sponsored activities.
        - \* Contact me if your schedule conflicts with a quiz.

## Course Requirements (Continued)

- **Extra Credit**

- During the term, a number of on-campus events will be posted on D2L (and announced in class, if possible).
  - Complete the associated assignment (posted in D2L) and you will receive up to 4% toward your grade in specific grade categories.
  - You may attend up to 7 events (Up to 2 events for Film Homework Quizzes, 3 events for Weekly Quizzes, and/or 2 Specific Overall Events).
  - Submit your assignment in the Dropbox section of D2L.
- **Follow the requirements as they are outlined, or you will receive no credit for the assignment.**

- **Grading for the Course Will Be Based on the Following:**

- 10% Attendance
- 15% Top Hat Participation Exercises
- 15% Film Homework Quizzes
- 20% Ashbury - Sociology, A Closer Look Quizzes
- 40% Weekly Quizzes

- Grades for the course will use the +/- scale and will have divisions as follows:

- 94 and above = A,
- 93.99 – 93 = A-,
- 92.99 – 92 = B+,
- 91.99 – 88 = B,
- 87.99 – 87 = B-,
- 86.99 – 86 = C+,
- 85.99 – 76 = C,
- 75.99 – 75 = C-,
- 74.99 – 71 = D,
- 70.99 – 70 = D-,
- 69.99 and below = F

- ***Notice that any grade below 70% is an F.***

- I am very willing to help students who are struggling with the course requirements.

- **If your quiz scores, etc. are lower than you would like, come talk to me.**
  - Feel free to make use of my office hours or make an appointment.
- There may be alternative arrangements or other services that can help you improve your scores.
- See also the “Student Needs” section below.

- During class, we will cover issues relevant to the assigned text, but I will not specifically cover the text material during lecture.

- However, feel free to bring up questions regarding what you have read, and I will try to answer them during lecture.

- I am very willing to work with students during the term to improve their grade. Please come see me!

- However, your lack of effort, planning or reluctance to spend the time with me to improve your grade during the term is not my problem - **YOUR FINAL GRADE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!**
  - **DO NOT EMAIL ME AT THE END OF THE TERM REQUESTING THAT I ROUND UP YOUR GRADE!**
  - Begging to be bumped up to the next letter grade will result in your grade being lowered one-half letter grade **for each interaction, email, etc.**

## Course Expectations

- Because this course is relatively large, I have certain expectations for you when you are in the classroom.
  - **The use of laptops, tablets, cell phones, etc. is not permitted in the classroom unless for the required Top Hat exercises.**
  - Other distractions such as text messages, conversations between students, etc. are not permitted.
  - I will stop the class if students are using laptops, checking cell phones, texting, or otherwise distracting other students in the class.
    - If the problem persists, students distracting others will be asked to leave and/or failed for the course.
  - I request that you abide by these expectations, not for my benefit, but for the students around you.

## Quality of Work and “Academic Honesty”

- Students are responsible for ensuring that their assignments, essays and general intellectual contributions are their own.
  - In other words, I demand that the students’ contributions are the result of their own creativity and critical assessment of the material covered during this course.
  - I encourage students to study together and discuss the course material outside of class, but do not write your assignments together.
  - You may find the University Academic Honesty Policy here:  
<https://www.mnsu.edu/policies/approved/academichonesty.pdf>
  - Intentional or unintentional similarities in papers, exams, assignments, or answers **will result in the students failing the course.**
    - This includes but is not limited to:
      - borrowing portions or whole essays from another source such as a friend, website, or “paper mill.”
      - using authors’ ideas without proper credit,
      - submitting a paper that is not your own work,
      - similarities between student papers,
      - completing assignments or quizzes together,
      - copying answers from others in class,
      - using notes during in-class quizzes or exams,
      - submitting work for others such as attendance sign in, review sheets, assignments, quizzes, “clicker” entries, etc.

## Students’ Needs

- If you are having trouble in the class understanding the material or doing well on the quizzes, **I encourage you to contact me.**
  - If you are worried about how you are doing in the class, contact me early in the term.
    - If you wait until after the middle of the term, it may be too late.
  - There are also resources on campus to aid your study skills and provide tutoring.
    - Check the list of resources on the next page, or ask me about your options.
- Please let me know if you have any need for accommodations in the classroom to meet your needs.
  - I realize that students have different learning styles and different needs.
    - While this is a large class, I will do my best to help you in any way I can.
  - My objective in this course is to get you to look at the world in a different, more comprehensive, way.
    - My goal is not to “weed out” those who cannot do well on an exam.
  - In this way, I do encourage you to use my office hours or make an appointment to discuss the course material, concerns you may have, or general issues relevant to the course.
- For those of you who may have more specific needs, MSU-Mankato provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in education programs, activities or services.
  - Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to participate in-class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the Office of Disability Services (contact info below) and then contact me as soon as possible.

## Resources for Students on Campus

There are many resources on campus for students, especially those new to the campus. Below you can find the location and contact information for various services on campus. They are there for you, so take advantage of them. All of these resources are aimed at helping you succeed and excel while you are here. Please ask me if there is anything I can help you find. I may be able direct you to other offices that can help you out.

### Tutoring and Other Services for All Students

Center for Academic Success  
Memorial Library in ML 125 (lower level)  
Phone: 507-389-1791  
Email: academicsuccess@mnsu.edu  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/success/>

### General Information and Help with Study Skills

Student Relations, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Advising "U"  
Armstrong Hall 114  
Phone No: 507-389-6307  
<http://sbs.mnsu.edu/advisingu/advisingu.html>

### Resources for International Students

The International Student Office (ISO)  
Kearney International Center  
250 Centennial Student Union  
Phone: 507-389-1281 (V) or 800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY)  
E-mail: iss@mnsu.edu  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/international/>

### Facilities and Resources for Students with Disabilities

Office of Disability Services  
132 Memorial Library (lower level)  
Phone: 507-389-2825 (Voice/TTY)  
Email: julie.snow@mnsu.edu  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/access/index.html>

### Sexual Violence Awareness Education

The Women's Center  
218 Centennial Student Union  
Phone: (507) 389-6146  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/wcenter/>

### Diversity Resources

Institutional Diversity  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/cultdiv/>  
Institutional Diversity Departments  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/cultdiv/isc/>  
Institutional Diversity Events  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/cultdiv/activities/>

### Resources for First-Generation College Students and Others

Student Support Services  
355 Wiecking Center  
Phone: (507) 389-2797  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/sss/>

### Veterans Resource Center

Centennial Student Union, Room 167  
Phone: 507-389-5726  
[http://www.mnsu.edu/veterans/resource\\_center/](http://www.mnsu.edu/veterans/resource_center/)

### Confidential Help to Assist Students in Resolving Personal, Social, and Educational Concerns

The Counseling Center  
245 Centennial Student Union (CSU)  
Phone: (507) 389-1455  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/counseling/>

### Student Health Services

Medical Clinic  
21 Carkoski Commons  
Phone: 507-389-6276  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/shs/>

### Health Education

100 Carkoski Commons  
Phone: 507-389-5689

### Resources and Volunteer Opportunities for Food Insecurity on Campus and in the Community

Campus Kitchen  
Student Activities  
Centennial Student Union 173  
Phone: 507-389-6076  
Email: Karen.Anderson@mnsu.edu  
<https://www.mnsu.edu/activities/kitchen/>

### Campus Cupboard

The Campus Cupboard is a food shelf for college students experiencing food insecurity with the philosophy of "take when you need, give when you can."  
331 Dillion Ave  
Mankato, MN 56001  
<https://www.facebook.com/campuscupboard/>

If you do not see a campus resource on this list, please let me know, and I can add it to future syllabi and my webpage.

# Weekly Readings

**Readings and Assignments  
Are Due on the Dates Listed**  
*See D2L for Your Homework  
and Film Review Sheets*

**All Readings are from**  
*Introduction to Sociology: A Paul Prew  
Collaborative Custom eBook*  
**unless otherwise noted.**

Week 1 (August 22-24)

Why Study Society? - "The Sociological Imagination"

- a. *Chapter 1. Understanding Society: Sociology and The Sociological Imagination*
- b. *Sociology—A Closer Look: Ethnocentrism*

**Ashbury Quiz: Sociology A Closer Look: Ethnocentrism (Due August 28, 11:59pm)**

<http://ashburypublishing.com/elearning/login.php>

Week 2 (August 29-31)

**Week 2 Quiz - Sociology and the Sociological Imagination - Ethnocentrism (Due September 4, 11:59pm)**

Culture, Ethnocentrism, and Genocide

- a. *Chapter 2. Society and Culture*
- b. *Sociology—A Closer Look: Genocide*

**Ashbury Quiz: Sociology A Closer Look: Genocide (Due September 4, 11:59pm)**

<http://ashburypublishing.com/elearning/login.php>

Week 3 (September 5-7)

*(We Will Not Hold Class Monday, September 5)*

**Week 3 Quiz - Society and Culture - Genocide (Due September 11, 11:59pm)**

Socialization and The Filters of the Media

- a. *Chapter 3. Socialization*
- b. *Sociology—A Closer Look: Media*

**Ashbury Quiz: Sociology A Closer Look: Media (Due September 11, 11:59pm)**

<http://ashburypublishing.com/elearning/login.php>

- c. **Film: Outfoxed** (<http://vimeo.com/24935369>)

**D2L Quiz Homework: Outfoxed Film Quiz (Due September 11, 11:59pm)**

Week 4 (September 12-14)

**Week 4 Quiz - Socialization - Media (Due September 18, 11:59pm)**

Sociological Perspectives and The Theory of Alienation

- a. *Chapter 4. Theory*
- b. *Sociology—A Closer Look: The Theory of Alienation*

**Ashbury Quiz: Sociology A Closer Look: The Theory of Alienation (Due September 18, 11:59pm)**

<http://ashburypublishing.com/elearning/login.php>

Week 5 (September 19-21)

**Week 5 Quiz - Theory - The Theory of Alienation (Due September 25, 11:59pm)**

Social Stratification

- a. *Chapter 5. Social Stratification in the United States and the World*
- b. *Sociology—A Closer Look: Colonialism*

**Ashbury Quiz: Sociology A Closer Look: Colonialism (Due September 25, 11:59pm)**

<http://ashburypublishing.com/elearning/login.php>

Week 6 (September 26-28)

**Week 6 Quiz - Social Stratification - Colonialism (Due October 2, 11:59pm)**

Structural and Individual Racism

- a. *Chapter 6. Race and Ethnicity*
- b. *Sociology—A Closer Look: Racism without Racists*

**Ashbury Quiz: Sociology A Closer Look: Racism without Racists (Due October 2, 11:59pm)**

<http://ashburypublishing.com/elearning/login.php>

- c. **Film:** *Race: The Power of an Illusion* (Watch Episode 3: *The House We Live In*)  
(<http://mnsu.kanopystreaming.com.ezproxy.mnsu.edu/node/66398>)

**D2L Quiz Homework: Race: The Power of an Illusion Film Quiz (Due October 2, 11:59pm)**

Week 7 (October 3-5)

**Week 7 Quiz - Race and Ethnicity - Racism without Racists (Due October 9, 11:59pm)**

Global Political-Economic Institutions

- a. *Chapter 7. Politics and the Economy*
- b. *Sociology—A Closer Look: Global Inequality*

**Ashbury Quiz: Sociology A Closer Look: Global Inequality (Due October 9, 11:59pm)**

<http://ashburypublishing.com/elearning/login.php>

Week 8 (October 10-12)

**Week 8 Quiz - Politics and the Economy - Global Inequality (October 16, 11:59pm)**

Social Movements

- a. *Chapter 8. Collective Behavior, Social Movements and Social Change*

Week 9 (October 17-19)

**Week 9 Quiz - Collective Behavior, Social Movements and Social Change (Due October 23, 11:59pm)**

Deviance and Social Control

- a. *Chapter 9. Deviance and Social Control*
- b. **Film:** *The Whole World Was Watching* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovDNI3K5R7s>)

**D2L Quiz Homework: The Whole World Was Watching Film Quiz (Due October 23, 11:59pm)**

Week 10 (October 24-26)

**Week 10 Quiz - Deviance and Social Control - The Whole World Was Watching film (Due October 30, 11:59pm)**

Social Control - Iraq War

a. *Sociology—A Closer Look: War in Iraq*

**Ashbury Quiz: Sociology A Closer Look: War in Iraq (Due October 30, 11:59pm)**

<http://ashburypublishing.com/elearning/login.php>

Week 11 (October 31-November 2)

**Week 11 Quiz - War in Iraq (Due November 6, 11:59pm)**

Gender, Sexuality, and Society

a. *Chapter 10. Inequality and Stratification by Sexual Orientation, Gender and Age*

Week 12 (November 7-9)

**Week 12 Quiz - Inequality and Stratification by Sexual Orientation, Gender and Age (Due November 13, 11:59pm)**

People and the Environment

a. *Chapter 11. Urban and Environmental Sociology*

b. **Film: The Story of Stuff** (<http://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-stuff/>)

**D2L Quiz Homework: The Story of Stuff Film Quiz (Due November 13, 11:59pm)**

Week 13 (November 14-16)

**Week 13 Quiz - Urban and Environmental Sociology - Story of Stuff (Due November 20, 11:59pm)**

Contemporary Education in the US

a. **Chapter 12. Education and Religion**

b. **Film: Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk**

(<http://documentarylovers.com/film/declining-by-degrees-higher-education-at-risk/>)

**D2L Quiz Homework: Declining by Degrees Film Quiz (Due November 20, 11:59pm)**

Week 14 (November 21-23)

*Thanksgiving Week*

**Week 14 Quiz - Education and Religion (Due November 27, 11:59pm)**

Week 15 (November 28-30)

Course Wrap Up

**Final Exam Week**

*(No final, but may be used if needed for a makeup day.)*