

Professor Amy Vasconcellos
Fall 2021
POR-5
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Email Office Hours*: MTWR 8am-5pm

SOC-1A-58606
08/11/2021 to 12/08/2021
Wednesdays @ 6pm – 8:50pm

*Zoom Office Hour Appointments Available Upon Request

Sociology 1A: Introduction to Sociology

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology is the study of people in society—our behavior, interactions, customs, norms and values, cultures, and institutions like religion, education, prison, government, health care, and the family. Sociology studies topics stemming from everyday life and that are often taken for granted as “common sense,” like race/ethnicity, sex, and gender. However, sociology goes beyond taking things at face value and often asks, “Why are things the way they are?” Sociology teaches us that many factors of social structure—like culture, socialization, social interaction, group dynamics, deviance, social stratification, social change, social problems, global processes, and much more—affect the choices we make (our *agency*) and the opportunities we possess (due to our *social location*).

We will soon see in this class that anything and everything can be studied in a sociological manner. Sociologists call this the *Sociological Imagination* or *The Sociological Perspective*. Once you begin to view people’s behaviors, interactions, and institutions through a critical sociological lens, things may never look “normal” again!

REQUISITIES (Recommended)

Advisory, ENGL125 - WRITING SKILLS FOR COLLEGE, Eligibility for English 125

AND

Advisory, ENGL126 - READING SKILLS FOR COLLEGE, Eligibility for English 126

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Kerry Ferris and Jill Stein, *The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology* – 7th Edition - Ebook with Inquizitive ISBN: 978-0393419320 OR Loosefeaf with Inquisitive ISBN: 9780393419320.
Available to purchase through the book store or online:
<https://digital.wwnorton.com/realworld7>
 - *If you have questions regarding the purchase of the book/Inquizitive – you should contact the seller directly.*
- Computer or Similar Device
- Internet Access

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Evaluate sociological findings using the concepts, theories and methods developed by sociologists from their study of society.
2. Explain social behavior from the macro-level and micro-level perspectives.
3. Demonstrate comprehension of the need for cultural relativism in a multicultural society.
4. Identify and describe norms and values of American culture.
5. Display knowledge of the influence of socialization on individual behavior.
6. Identify & describe different types of groups and their influence on individual behavior.
7. Explain the relativity of deviance, and its relation to crime.
8. Recognize inequalities based on race and ethnicity.
9. Recognize inequalities based on sex and gender.
10. Identify the role of family, education and religion on peoples' lives.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply sociological ideas and concepts to everyday life.
- Identify and apply major sociological theories.
- Explain, evaluate, and analyze society using major sociological theories.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Your grade will be based on:

13 Lecture Highlights* – Before Class Begins (Attendance)	100
13 InQuizitives* – CANVAS	100
10 Discussions – End of Class	100
7 Research Workshops – CANVAS	140
2 Documentaries – CANVAS	100
2 Exams – CANVAS	200
1 Final – CANVAS	100
TOTAL POINTS	840

*Lecture Highlights and InQuizitives will be given for each chapter. I will keep the top scoring 10 of each of these. Therefore, 10 points each x 10 scored = 100 points for each.

Grades assigned as A (90-100%), B (80-89.9%), C (70-79.9%), D (60-69.9%), F (0-59.9%) letter grades.

****EXTRA CREDIT.** There will be an Extra Credit opportunity offered during the course worth up to 10 points. There may also be Extra Credit available during Lecture.

A. LECTURES Highlights – 100 points (Bring To Class)

Lectures:

You are expected to attend 14 on-campus Lectures – Wednesdays @ 6pm – each worth 10 points. I keep 10 of these equaling 100 points. Lecture Highlights are your TICKET to class. You will bring a Lecture Highlight to me and be ready to share it in class as we engage in Discussion.

A Lecture Highlight is something you learned from the recorded and watched Chapter Lecture for that week – which will be posted on CANVAS every Sunday by 11:59pm. YOU MUST WATCH THE LECTURE EACH WEEK BEFORE WEDNESDAY'S CLASS AT 6PM.

A Lecture Highlight is something **unique** to the lecture that is NOT found in the book.

I use this as accountability for watching the Lecture. You may be called on at any time during in-person Discussion to share yours.

B. CANVAS INQUIZITIVE QUIZZES – 100 points (Due Thursdays)

13 quizzes via CANVAS will be given throughout the course. You will be expected to login to **Inquzitive** (through CANVAS) to take these quizzes. I will keep the top scoring 10 of these. Each quiz will be 10 questions – each question worth about 1 point (points may vary a bit per question on INQUIZITIVE). 10 points each quiz.

Inquzitive is a resource that comes with purchasing your book “The Real Word: An Introduction to Sociology” through the publisher W. W. Norton and Company.

You will access INQUIZITIVE through the activation code that you received from the bookstore, online, or from the attached notecard that comes inside of a physical book.

If you need INQUIZITIVE Tech Support, please contact Norton through this web address:

<https://wwnorton.com/tech-support>

Make sure you contact Norton with your issues BEFORE you inquire about an issue to me. Norton can help you best with technical issues.

C. DISCUSSIONS – 100 points (In-Class)

You will be required to participate in 10 in-class Discussions. Each Discussion will require a submission at the end of each lecture period. There will be 10 lecture periods that incorporate the discussion component.

Discussions usually incorporate chapter material and make it relevant to a current event. 10 points each.

D. Research WORKSHOPS – 140 points (Due Mondays)

You will have certain weeks that center around what it would be like to be an actual sociological researcher. By close to the end of this course, you will have completed a fun, interesting, and rewarding Research Project by completing 7 Workshops! The Workshops will be done in parts as follows:

Select Topic & Define Problem (20 points)
Review Literature (20 points)
Formulate Hypothesis & Choose Research Method (20 points)
Collect Data (20 points)
Analyze Data (20 points)
Finalize Results (20 points)
Share Results (20 points)
Total: 140 points

The Workshops may or may not be individual or group projects. Specifics of the Workshops will be discussed in class.

Although, we will *begin* to understand how sociologists write using the American Sociological Association (ASA) writing format.

The ASA writing style can be found at:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/formatting_in_sociology_asa_style/index.html

E. EXAMS and Final – 300 points (100 points each – Due Wednesdays)

All exams will be multiple choice. You have an entire Wednesday to complete the Exams/Final in about a 2-hour period.

Exam 1: Chapters 1,2,3,4,5,6 (50 questions – 2 points each question) – see Canvas

Exam 2: Chapters 7,8,9 (50 questions – 2 points each question) – see Canvas

Final (non-cumulative): Chapters 11,12,14,16 (50 questions – 2 points each question) – 12/08/2021

LATE WORK POLICY

Late Work Not Accepted:

If you are determined to take this class and pass it, you must be committed to being organized, checking CANVAS routinely, and submitting all assignments on-time.

Extenuating Circumstances:

Exceptions can be made to the Late Work Policy, but only on a case-by-case basis IF extenuating circumstances prevent you from attending class or completing assignments. If you feel you have extenuating circumstances (and you may be asked to submit documentation), please discuss your specific situation with me as far in advance as possible, or immediately after the situation occurs.

Being sick, having a bad internet connection, or working late are NOT acceptable excuses.

Technical Difficulties:

There may be times when CANVAS is not working properly. In that case, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to document the technical issue lies with CANVAS and NOT YOU. (You will NOT be excused or allowed to turn in quizzes/essays/documentary questions late if the cause is YOUR internet, YOUR laptop, or YOUR inability to navigate the system.)

If you experience any technical issues, you should call CANVAS IMMEDIATELY (see phone number below) and ask for assistance. If the problem is THEIR FAULT and it caused you to miss a deadline for submission, you can submit the work late ONLY with the proper documentation attached in an email sent to me. CANVAS will also provide you with a follow-up email addressing how to resolve the issue. You should always keep a back-up of all essays and document your points earned. Sometimes a picture is worth 1,000 words.

If you experience a verifiable technical difficulty while trying to submit an essay or Canvas assignment, email me your essay or Canvas assignment BEFORE the deadline.

CANVAS Help: For questions, please call (559) 638-0300

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Student Conduct:

I hold the highest expectations for my students, and my goal is for each of you to be successful in this course. I expect you to watch all lectures, keep up with the readings, and to conduct yourselves in a professional manner.

At times, students may get passionate about a topic. We will be discussing issues dealing with race, sex, sexuality, police brutality, etc. When interacting with others of different opinions (during Discussions), it's best to approach it by trying to understand where they are coming from. Rather than trying to "win," think about adding to the

conversation. You should always be respectful, even if you disagree with another student. This class should be a “safe space” where students feel comfortable expressing their ideas. Therefore, one should **never** make personal attacks, or use derogatory and/or offensive language. Let’s make some ground rules together to ensure a safe space for dialogue and participation.

Classroom Conduct:

- You should be the person completing all of the assigned material.
- No Cheating or Plagiarism. (See below for complete definitions).
- Student essays must be **original**, meaning YOU wrote it.
- Students cannot cut and paste from online sources like Wikipedia or other websites. Cutting and pasting even 1 paragraph is considered plagiarism.
- Students cannot pay someone from a website that writes papers for you.
- Students cannot write papers jointly (unless specified) and cannot copy another student’s work.
- Taking another student’s paper and changing around some of the words and sentences so it is not 100% identical is **STILL** plagiarism.
- Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in a failing grade on the exam or paper or a failing grade in the entire course.
- What consequences are given are up to the discretion of the instructor and will depend on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

Definitions:

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another’s work, supplying one’s work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor’s permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating and is the use of another’s words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or encouraging, permitting, or assisting another to do any act that could subject him or her to discipline.

Class Format:

Recorded Lectures **BEFORE** in-person class will be used to clarify and *supplement* the readings. This means lectures may or *may not* follow the reading assignments. Therefore, completing all assignments – including those in-class and on

CANVAS – is important. This also means I will not be discussing all the readings during video lecture. Even if we do not discuss certain assigned readings Discussion time, etc. you will still be held accountable for information given in the readings. So, make sure you READ EACH CHAPTER assigned.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Adding/Dropping the Class:

1. Students will be dropped if they are “absent” from the **first** class session. Being absent from the **first** class session translates to not attending the Introduction Lecture on August 11th @ 6pm in POR-5.
2. I will “eliminate” 3 INQUIZITIVE Quizzes and 3 Lecture Assignments (this does not apply to the first day or class which all must attended to stay on the first day roster). There are **no** “eliminations” for Discussion Boards, Exams, the Final, or Workshops.
3. It is your job to visit the **ACADEMIC CALENDAR** at: <https://www.reedleycollege.edu/events/index.html> - which states all specific course add and drop dates.
4. If you decide to drop this course, it is your responsibility to officially drop the course through the Admissions and Records Office.
5. If I see no online activity for 2 consecutive weeks – I will exercise an administrative drop.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability that may require classroom or test accommodations, please contact DSP&S SERVICES:

Please contact the DSP&S Office by phone 559.494.3032 or email dsp@reedleycollege.edu with any questions or concerns!

If you think you have a learning disability, but are not sure, they may be able to assist you. All information will be kept secure and confidential.

“Students with Disabilities: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (e.g. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.”

Additional Help

Please feel free to email me any questions you may have. I encourage you to take advantage of the many Student Services offered at the College such as counseling, career and transfer information, writing center, job placement, financial aid, health services and other services available to support you in reaching your educational goal.

Student Services: <https://www.reedleycollege.edu/student-services/index.html>