

Bridgewater State University
Sociology 102 Introduction to Sociology
Summer 2019

Instructor: Meghan Murphy, PhD
Class Time: 17:30-19:20 Monday- Friday
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Required Readings: You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like A Sociologist 6th Edition (Core or Full Version acceptable) by Dalton Conley. Any additional readings will be posted on our course website.

Course Description:

A survey of the major concepts employed in the systematic study of human relationships, with an emphasis on society, culture, social interaction, socialization, social stratification, social control, social change, and sociology as a field of knowledge.

Course Learning Outcomes:

The main goal of this course is that you develop a sociological imagination. This imagination will help you to understand that sociology has a consistent body of knowledge; it is not just a matter of opinion. The introductory sociology course is a survey course designed to meet the needs of college students in a variety of programs. This course will help you to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the origins of sociology as a discipline and as a social science, including the use of scientific approach in conducting sociological research.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the sociological imagination.
3. Utilize the sociological imagination in reflecting on contemporary social issues and personal experience.
4. Identify the major theoretical perspectives within the discipline.
5. Apply the major theoretical perspectives in understanding social institutions and everyday social interactions.

Course Requirements:

In class Exams (2 total- 25% each)	50%
Film Content Analysis Paper	20%
In-Class Reading Comprehension Quizzes	15%
Attendance / Participation	15%

Attendance:

Attendance and participation will be taken very seriously. I expect all students to attend the vast majority of class meetings. I will take attendance each class. With proper documentation (i.e. doctors note, receipt from mechanic etc.) your absence may be excused at the discretion of the

instructor. I will not excuse more than **two** classes per student. If something comes up during the semester and you find yourself missing more than three classes, it is your responsibility to determine if you should stay enrolled in the class or not. If you fall asleep or are on your cell phone during class you will not receive credit for attendance.

In-Class Reading Comprehension Quizzes:

There will be sporadic in-class reading comprehension quizzes that will count for 15% of your final grade. The quizzes will be short and are aimed to help you keep up with the readings. If you complete the readings on time, the quizzes will be easy since they will cover the main points and concepts of the reading. These will take place at the beginning of class and absent or tardy students will be unable to make these quizzes up- no exceptions (even for excused absences). You be able to use your notes for these quizzes but not your textbook.

Grading standards:

Grades are not given, students earn grades. We do not round grades up, not even by a tenth of a point. Instead, we evaluate course work generously from the outset, using the following criteria:

- **A range** grades (high distinction) are for *superior* quality work that indicates you have mastered the course material both in the sense of understanding and demonstrating *integration* of the concepts and related research literatures.
- **B range** grades (superior) demonstrate that you *know almost all* course material *well*.
- **C range** grades (average) indicate that you understand *many* course-related concepts and materials.
- **D range** grades (minimum passing grades) are earned by demonstrating only *limited understanding* of course material.
- **The grade F** reflects failure to demonstrate rudimentary understanding of the material.

Grade	%	Interpretation	Grade	%	Interpretation
A	94-100%	High Distinction	C	74 - 76	Average
A-	90-93	High Distinction	C-	70-73	Average
B+	87-89	Superior	D+	67-69	Minimum Passing
B	84-86	Superior	D	64 - 66	Minimum Passing
B-	80-83	Superior	D-	60 - 63	Minimum Passing
C+	77-79	Average	F	0 – 59	Failure

Grades:

I don't curve grades, but do round up final grades (e.g., a 69.7 becomes a 70). All papers, exams, and assignments will be graded fairly and objectively. If you feel you have not received all the credit you deserve on any given assignment, you may inform the instructor **IN WRITING**. You must give me a written rationalization/justification of your answer and clearly explain to us why you believe you deserve more credit (that is, explain why you think the exam or assignment was graded incorrectly). I will not consider oral grade appeals made after class or during office hours.

I want everyone to do well, really I do. But I will not ever give unearned higher grades to students who beg or who argue that their grade in this course will affect their financial aid, scholarship, academic standing, prospects for graduation, entry into graduate or professional school, or any other such thing. Please do not waste your time (or mine) by making these arguments. In addition, please **do not ask** for individual opportunities for extra credit. **IF** there are any occasions for extra credit, and there most likely will not be, they will be offered to the entire class, not just to you.

Academic Honesty

See the Catalog and Student Handbook for a complete description of this policy.

<http://catalog.bridgew.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=970>

Please familiarize yourself with BSU's policies on Academic Dishonesty – see link above. Any claim of ignorance of the rules of academic integrity by any student is unacceptable

Classroom Policies:

Show up on time. Stay the whole class. Do not pack up before class ends. If you find you keep being late for class – leave earlier!

Finish assigned readings and assignments on time.

Contribute to discussion as a talker and a good listener. Do not talk when the instructor or your classmates are talking.

Use technology appropriately. Do not engage in side activities or “multitasking” during class.

Speak up. Ask questions. Have an opinion.

If you forget or miss the announcement, you will not be excused from activities or given an extended deadline.

Bring paper and a writing utensil to complete in-class assignments and exams.

Think before you speak!

We cover many sensitive topics. It is easy to speak dismissively about things that don't apply directly to you, but - are you speaking of something that may be personal to someone else in the room?

Hate speech or defamation of any individual or group will not be tolerated and may have serious negative consequences (determined by the case).

Technology Policy:

Do not text during class. I know you know it's inappropriate. You think you are being discreet but you're not. It's distracting to me and other students. Do not put me in the position to call you out in the middle of class, deduct points, or ask you to leave because of your inappropriate use of your phone. It can wait.

I would prefer you **NOT** bring laptops to class unless you have good discipline at using them for course activities and the willpower to stay out of your email and social media while in class. If you are on your phone during class you will **NOT** receive credit for being physically present. I will not necessarily call you out for being on your phone and I will not necessarily tell you that

you are marked absent for the day. It is very obvious AND distracting when students are on their phones during class.

Week	Topic	Reading Due
Week 1 5/27-5/31		
Monday	Course Introduction	
Tuesday	The Sociological Imagination	Ch. 1
Wednesday	The Sociological Imagination cont.	
Thursday	Methods	Ch. 2
Friday	Methods cont.	
Week 2 6/3-6/7		
Monday	Culture and Media	Ch. 3
Tuesday	Culture and Media cont.	
Wednesday	Socialization	Ch. 4
Thursday	Socialization cont.	
Friday	Exam 1	
Week 3 6/10-6/14		
Monday	Social Control and Deviance	Ch. 6
Tuesday	Social Control and Deviance cont.	
Wednesday	Film Analysis	
Thursday	Stratification	Ch. 7
Friday	Stratification cont.	
Week 4 6/17-6/21		
Monday	Gender	Ch. 8
Tuesday	Gender cont.	
	Film Analysis paper due	
Wednesday	Race	Ch. 9
Thursday	Race cont.	
Friday	Exam 2	

This course outline is subject to change with notice.

Exam 1 – covers chapters 1-4

Exam 2 – covers chapters 6-9, film

Exams are not technically cumulative but you will see many concepts repeated throughout the semester and that information will also repeat itself on the exams. Exams will be taken in class. They will be a combination of multiple choice, short-answer, and short-essay. You will not be able to use your book or any notes for the exam.