

## SOCI 102: Introduction to Sociology

Summer 2020  
5/25/20-6/26/20

Department of Sociology  
Bridgewater State University

**Location:** Online

**Class Credits:** 3

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### Course Background

This course introduces students to the discipline of sociology. It will provide a glimpse into the theoretical frameworks, methods, and approaches that sociologists use to understand the world. You will also be introduced to the concepts, processes, and institutions that are fundamental to the social world. This course aims to help participants question their understanding of themselves, their immediate groups and networks, and their situation within the larger world. Course tasks and discussions are aimed at cultivating a 'sociological imagination' - the ability to place oneself, and our experiences, within the larger social and historical context.

### Course Outcomes

- Ability for critical thinking.
- Capacity for critical reading and analytic thinking that examines assumptions and evidence, in both scholarly texts and journalistic writing.
- Awakening one's sociological imagination.
- Familiarity with the basic terminology used in sociology.
- Awareness of selected sociological concepts, definitions, and theories.
- Understanding selected sociological processes, their drivers, and consequences.
- Ability to contribute meaningfully to conversations about society through sociologically informed perspectives.

### Course Materials

You do not need to buy any book for this course. We will use an Open Source Textbook- Introduction to Sociology V-3.0. This book is available on Blackboard as a pdf file. Download and save this book on your computers. I will also assign and upload other relevant materials- text as well as audio-visual—to complement the text book as and when needed.

Whenever, materials have been assigned for class (except when the syllabus notes 'In class' or 'None'), it is your responsibility to read/watch the material before class. Classroom discussion will be based on such materials, and you will be able to contribute to classroom learning if you come prepared with such materials. Quizzes will also be based on such materials.

### Blackboard Course Site

You need to enroll in Blackboard for this course. All materials, including this syllabus, are available on the Blackboard web site. **Check it regularly for announcements** and any other course materials. The URL for Blackboard at BSC is <http://blackboard.bridgew.edu>. You can log in there and will find much useful information on using Blackboard. More general student support for Blackboard is available at: [http://blackboard.bridgew.edu/student\\_help/](http://blackboard.bridgew.edu/student_help/).

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Bridgewater State University is committed to providing equal access to students with documented disabilities. To ensure your access to this course and the BSU community, students with disabilities are encouraged to collaborate with the Disability Resources Office (DRO). Through the DRO, you

may initiate the confidential process of requesting reasonable accommodations. The DRO can be reached at Disability\_Resources@bridgew.edu or 508.531.2194. If you are granted accommodations, please meet with me confidentially to review how they will be applied in this course.

### **Getting help for Academic Work**

The Academic Achievement Center (AAC) provides students with academic services and resources that propel them toward successful and timely degree completion. With all the services available in the center, the AAC is the largest hub of student academic services on campus. Ideally located on the ground floor of the Maxwell Library in the center of the BSU Campus, the AAC is comprised of four major support areas: Academic Advising (first-semester freshmen), the Disability Resources Office, Learning Assistance (tutoring and academic coaching), and Testing Services. Drop-in learning support areas (Math Services, Accounting & Finance Lab, Writing Studio, Second Language Services), open study space, study rooms available for reserve, and computers are all available for student use. Stop by or call 508-531-1214 for more information about any of the services offered by the Academic Achievement Center.

### **Protecting yourself and your peers from Sexual Violence**

The Office of Equal Opportunity and the Title IX Coordinator work to ensure that all members of the campus community flourish in a supportive and fair climate.

See <https://my.bridgew.edu/departments/affirmativeaction/SitePages/Home.aspx> to learn more. Note the site provides a link to “initiate an investigation of alleged discrimination, harassment, sexual or gender-harassment, domestic or dating violence, stalking or retaliation...” (The associated form indicates that it "is unlawful to retaliate against a student, employee or any other person affiliated with the University for filing a complaint or for cooperating in an investigation of a complaint.”)

### **Instructor’s commitments**

- Communicate course requirements, assignments and other expectations clearly and timely
- Participate in online discussions to ensure optimal learning
- Be available on email to accommodate any questions, concerns and clarifications regarding the course.
- Grade and comment upon deliverables within a reasonable time

### **Student Commitments**

- **Academic Integrity**

All of us are bound by the BSU code of academic integrity and classroom conduct. If you haven’t read it, take time to read it at your earliest. Take extra time to read the protocol and conventions for quoting, paraphrasing and referencing work done by others. Violations of this code will be promptly reported.

The code is here: (<http://catalog.bridgew.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=970>).

In particular be mindful of BSU’ values and policy about **Academic dishonesty**. It is an attempt to misrepresent one’s efforts on any academic assignment or exercise submitted for evaluation. These attempts and examples may be defined as, but are not limited to:

- **Plagiarism:** Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one’s own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the ideas, information, etc., are common knowledge.
- **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use prohibited materials or information in any academic exercise. This definition includes prohibited communication of information during or after an academic exercise.
- **Fabrication and falsification:** Intentional and unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic matter. Falsification is a matter of altering information, while fabrication is a matter of inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.
- **Abuse of academic materials:** Intentionally or knowingly destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other academic resource material.

- **Multiple submissions:** The submission of the same work (including oral reports) in more than one course without prior permission of both instructors.
- **Complicity in academic dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to misrepresent their efforts on any academic assignment or exercise submitted for evaluation.

### **BSU Email Account**

**You must use your BSU email account in this class.** I will accept email from and send email to BSU accounts only. Any email that you send to me in regard to this class is a professional communication so you should strive for proper punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

### **Conduct in This Online Classroom:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university's standards of conduct. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded themselves. Disrespectful behavior to others (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors in the course is unacceptable. Please practice netiquette.

### **Guidelines for a Productive and Effective Online Classroom**

The discussion board is your space to interact with your colleagues related to current topics or responses to your colleague's statements. It is expected that each student will participate in a mature and respectful fashion.

- Participate actively in the discussions, having completed the readings and thoughts about the issues.
- Pay close attention to what your classmates write in their online comments. Ask clarifying questions, when appropriate. These questions are meant to probe and shed new light, not to minimize or devalue comments.
- Think through and reread your comments before you post them.
- Assume the best of others in the class and expect the best from them.
- Value the diversity of the class. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings to class.
- Disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks. Do not demean or embarrass others. Do not make sexist, racist, homophobic, or victim-blaming comments at all.

Be open to be challenged or confronted on your ideas or prejudices.

### **Tasks & Deliverables**

#### **1. Discussion Posts on Blackboard**

Every day you will be reviewing materials assigned by date at the end of this syllabus. These materials will include chapters from the required textbook, other reading materials and audiovisual resources that will be available under 'Course Contents' on the Blackboard. Each set of assigned materials will be accompanied by a set of questions that I will post in the 'Discussion Forum.' You need to craft and submit an original answer to these questions. Your submissions will be called a 'post.' **Each post should be 400 words or more, substantive in content** and should engage with assigned material. Your answers should reference assigned materials (text, film or both) using the formal American Sociological Association (ASA) citation system.

The ASA system can be referred here:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/asa\\_style/in\\_text\\_citation\\_references.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/asa_style/in_text_citation_references.html) &

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/asa\\_style/references\\_page\\_formatting.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/asa_style/references_page_formatting.html)

You will lose points if the answer does not engage with the assigned materials, if it is too short or vague, or if the citations are missing. Please spell-check your answers before you post them. For each post you can get up to **2 points** depending on quality and comprehensiveness. There will be 15 posts in all worth 30 points.

**The deadline for your original posts is 5:00 pm on the day it is due. The discussion thread for posts will vanish after 5:00 pm, and you will not be able to submit your post after this time.**

## **2. Responses to other students' Posts on Blackboard**

You are required to respond to at least two other students' posts to the discussion question for each discussion thread. Each response should be 150 words or more, and should be substantive in form and content. Simply agreeing with another student's post, or praising a post will not count towards points. Give reason/logic/evidence for agreeing or disagreeing, or for adding additional perspectives/examples to the post. You can also use responses to pose questions about a students' post. Each response that you write can get you up to 1 point. You will write 28 responses in all worth 28 points.

**The deadline for your responses is 5:00 pm on the day they are due. The discussion thread for responses will vanish after 5:00 pm, and you will not be able to submit your responses after this time.**

While posts and responses are due by 5 pm, it is always best to submit your posts and responses much before the deadlines. Make sure you type the posts and responses in a separate word file and copy/paste it onto Blackboard. This ensures that Blackboard malfunctions will not cause you to lose unsaved work.

**I do not accept late submissions**, and please do not write to me asking for a time extension if you fail to submit your work within the deadline, or if Blackboard or your computer malfunctions right before the deadline.

I will make accommodations in medical and family emergencies, if they are convincingly documented.

## **3. Exam 1**

This will be conducted online on BB on June 5. It will be based on all materials assigned before the exam. This exam is worth 14 points.

## **4. Exam 2**

This will be conducted online on BB on June 19. It will be based on all materials assigned after Exam 1. This exam is worth 14 points.

## **5. News Analysis**

In this writing assignment you will apply your evolving sociological understanding to events happening and being discussed in the real world. You will identify and select any substantive news report or an Op-Ed piece from a major newspaper or news channel, and then react to it using concept(s)/theories that we have covered in this course. Your writeup will briefly describe the news/Op-Ed, summarize its main points briefly in about 200 words, then identify the chapter and the relevant concepts and theories from that chapter that you want to use as a lens to analyze this news/Op-Ed piece, and then write how this news/Op-Ed agrees/disagrees with or complicates these concepts/theories (about 200 words). The last section of the write up should include your reaction/response/comments (about 300 words or more). The writeup in total should be 750 words or more, and should include a formal citation of the news/Op-Ed piece using the American Sociological Association (ASA) style manual. The citation is in addition to the 750 words.

Your name should be on the top of the word document, and once completed you can upload your writeup on a dedicated thread under ‘Discussions’ on Blackboard.

You will write 2 such news analyses over the semester. The first is due on June 17 , and the second is due on June 18. Each writeup is worth up to 7 points and points will be awarded based on how well you meet the stated expectations.

**Grading Scheme**

In this course, each student can get up to 100 points. These points are divided across the following deliverables:

Posts- 15 @ 2 point each	= 30 points
Responses- 28 @ 1 point each.	= 28 points
Exam 1	= 14 points
Exam 2	= 14 points
News Analysis 1	= 07 points
News Analysis 2	= 07 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 100 points</b>

Letter grades will be issued based on these scores and the following grading policy.

100-point	Grade	4-point Equivalent	Description
95-100	A	4	Superior
90-94	A-	3.7	Superior
87-89	B+	3.3	Good
83-86	B	3	Good
80-82	B-	2.7	Good
77-79	C+	2.3	Satisfactory
73-76	C	2	Satisfactory
70-72	C-	1.7	Satisfactory
65-69	D	1	Poor
0-64	F	0	Failure

### Schedule for Readings /Posts/Responses

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tasks &amp; Deliverables Due</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Assigned Materials</b>
25-May	1. Introduce yourself to your peers. 2. Post questions about the course, syllabus, & deliverables etc	Introductions/Expectations/Deliverables	Syllabus
26-May	1. Submit Post on Chapter 2	Sociology: Basics & History	Chapter 2
27-May	1. Submit Post on Chapter 11. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on chapter 2	Societal Development	Chapter 11
28-May	1. Submit Post on Chapter 12. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on chapter 11	Culture	Chapter 12
29-May	1. Submit Post on the assigned Movie. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on chapter 12	Culture	Watch assigned movie on Culture- Borat. Movie will be available on Blackboard.
1-Jun	1. Submit Post on Chapter 13. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on assigned movie	Socialization	Chapter 13
2-Jun	1. Submit Post on the assigned chapter. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on chapter 13	Social Constructionism	Luckmann, Thomas. <i>The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge</i> . Garden City, N.Y: Anchor Books, 1966. Pp. 33-48.
3-Jun	1. Submit Post on question raised by instructor. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on assigned chapter	Social Constructionism	Luckmann, Thomas. <i>The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge</i> . Garden City, N.Y: Anchor Books, 1966. Pp. 33-48.

4-Jun	1. Submit Post on the assigned chapter. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts submitted on June 3	Social Interactions and Performance	Erving Goffman: The Presentation_of_Self_in_Everyday_Life-Introduction, Pages 1-9
5-Jun	Exam 1		All materials assigned until June 4
8-Jun	1. Submit Post on chapter 19. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts submitted on June 4	Gender & Sexuality	Chapter 19
9-Jun	1. Submit Post on chapter 22. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on chapter 19	Family	Chapter 22
10-Jun	1. Submit Post on chapter 18. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on chapter 22	Race & Racism	Chapter 18
11-Jun	1. Submit Post on chapter 17. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on chapter 18	Crime, Deviance & Social Control	Chapter 17
12-Jun	1. Submit Post on chapter 21. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on chapter 17	Economy	Chapter 21
15-Jun	1. Submit Post on chapter 20. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on chapter 21	Stratification	Chapter 20
16-Jun	1. Submit Post on chapter 20. 2. Submit Responses to two other students' posts on chapter 20	Stratification	Chapter 20
17-Jun	News Analysis 1		
18-Jun	News Analysis 2		
19-Jun	Exam 2		All assigned materials after Exam 1