

Lakes Region Community College
SOSC 124L: Introduction to Sociology
Online
(CRN: 10820)
Fall 2023

Professor: Rachel Sullivan, Ph.D.

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Office: CAT 204

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 9am-10:15am & Thursdays from 12pm-2pm.

I am happy to meet virtually during my office hours (or at a different time by appointment)!

Just send me an email or Canvas message and I'll provide you with a Zoom link.

Course Description

Our daily lives are affected, consciously and unconsciously, by social forces and influences of which we are largely unaware. This introductory course to sociology, the scientific study of society, explores and uncovers the hidden factors behind the behaviors and attitudes of individuals, groups, and societies.

Course Objectives

By the end of this class you will be able to:

- Define key sociological terms & concepts.
- Critically examine the social institutions that make up society.
- Understand the causes and consequences of social division & inequality.
- Recognize and analyze sociological issues that you are exposed to in your everyday life.

Prerequisites

None

Required Materials

Introduction to Sociology (3e) –Conerly et al.

*This is a free textbook available online at the following website:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-3e?Book%20details>

You can view the book online or download a PDF version. If you'd prefer to purchase a print version, you can order it through the LRCC bookstore or through online platforms, including Amazon.

Course Design

This course is run in an asynchronous format, which means that you will not have to log in at a certain class time to access or complete course material. The course is divided into weekly modules (see schedule below for specific dates & readings). Each module consists of:

- Overview lecture(s), which cover key concepts from each of the assigned textbook chapters.

- PowerPoint Slides, which correspond to what is covered in the lecture.
- An activity, which requires you to apply or elaborate on concepts/findings from the lecture(s).
- A discussion board forum, which allows you to reflect on a course concept or related topic while also engaging with your peers.

These materials will all be made available at the start of each module. Some weeks, we will also have an additional assignment due (like the documentary analysis). These are listed on the syllabus and will be made available on Canvas ahead of time.

Course Assignments

Activities (15 @ 3 pts each)	45 pts
Discussion Boards (15 @ 2 pts each)	30 pts
Documentary Analysis	10 pts
Research Review & Presentation	15 pts
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Total:	100 points

Activities: You will be asked to complete an individual activity each week. These activities will differ each week, but they typically will ask you to either: respond to discussion questions related to the textbook reading, apply key course concepts to research and policy scenarios, or read/watch supplemental material and analyze it through a sociological lens. Activities will be evaluated based on completion & appropriate application of course concepts on a 3-point scale.

- 3 pts= Completed all parts of activity & appropriately applied course and/or supplemental materials.
- 2 pts= Did not complete all parts of the activity **or** did not make sufficient connections to course material.
- 1 pt= Did not complete all parts of the activity **and** did not make sufficient connections to course material.

Discussion Boards: You will also be required to complete a discussion board post each week, which tends to be shorter and more in-formal than the weekly activity. Discussion boards also provide you with an opportunity to engage with your classmates in a virtual format. Some weeks the discussion boards will be written, while other weeks you may be asked to record a short video. You have to make two posts within weekly discussion boards: your individual post and a peer response.

Individual Post: This is your initial discussion board response where you answer the prompt or question posed. Your response should be between 200-250 words for written discussion boards. Posts that ask for a video rather than a written response should be between 3-4 minutes. Individual posts are worth up to 1.5 points.

- 1.5 pts: Answered all parts of the prompt and appropriately applied course and/or supplemental material
- 1 pt: Did not complete all parts of the activity **or** did not make sufficient connections to course material.
- .5 of a point: Did not complete all parts of the activity **and** did not make sufficient connections to course material.

Peer Response: This is your opportunity to respond to a classmate's work. You should not just say if you agree or disagree with them, you must contribute to the conversation in some way—i.e. why do you agree or disagree? Or, did you approach the discussion prompt in a different way? How did reading or watching their response make you think differently? Remember, this is a social science course and there is oftentimes more than one “right” answer or way of approaching a prompt! Peer responses should be between 75-100 words for a written discussion board, and about 1 minute for a video response. They are worth .5 of a point.

Documentary Analysis: For this assignment, you will be required to watch *A Decent Home*, which is a documentary that focuses on mobile-home park communities and the affordable housing crisis in the U.S. It is available to watch for free at this website: <https://www.pbs.org/video/a-decent-home-f2t2p7/>. After watching the documentary, you must write a summary and analysis of the film, which should include a brief overview of the main themes/claims presented in the documentary and an analysis of how the film connects to (or contradicts) course material. This assignment should be about 3 pages double spaced. More specific guidelines will be posted in the assignments folder on Canvas.

Research Review & Presentation: This assignment requires you to take a closer, research-informed look at a topic from our textbook that you find particularly interesting. More specifically, you'll be asked to craft a research question, identify a research article that seeks to answer this question, and then analyze and present the findings from this article. The research review portion of this assignment should be about 4 pages double spaced and should include a summary/description of the article that you selected and an analysis of the findings, making specific connections to course material. The presentation portion should be about 5-7 minutes. Since this is an asynchronous online course, you will be asked to record your presentation and upload it to Canvas. Additional guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

Grading Scale:

A	100 – 93	C	76 – 73
A-	92 – 90	C-	72 – 70
B+	89 – 87	D+	69– 67
B	86 – 83	D	66– 63
B-	82 –80	D-	62– 60
C+	79 – 77	F	59– 0

Course Policies

Online Expectations: Canvas and Zoom are the main technologies that we will be using in this class. All lectures will be prerecorded on Zoom (and posted to Canvas), and Zoom can be used for office hours. All activities, announcements, etc. will be on Canvas, so be sure to get in the habit of checking the course page regularly.

Class Climate: We all arrive to this virtual course with different lived experiences that impact how we view the world. In social science courses, there are sometimes sensitive issues, including gender, race, social class, religion, and related topics, that are assigned. Our different experiences inform how we make sense of these topics. It is my hope that you can use this class to apply sociological concepts to these issues, and respectfully learn from and alongside each other. As we complete activities, let us all be mindful to engage in criticism/evaluation of data and course concepts, not of each other as individuals.

Late Policy: Late assignments will be accepted, but 10% of the overall point value will be deducted for each day that it is late. For example, if an activity worth 3 points is due on 9/10 and you pass it in on 9/11, you could receive up to 2.7 points on that activity.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are not taken lightly— all work submitted must be your own.

Disability Services: Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you have a disability that requires accommodations in this class, please notify the Campus Accessibility Coordinator, Nancy Blais, as soon as possible by phone (603 366 5243) or email (LRCCAccessibility@ccsnh.edu).

Department Chair Information: It is my hope that this course meets your every expectation as a challenging, engaging, and respectful learning experience. If you find this not to be the case, I would welcome the opportunity to address your concerns. This is not only a courtesy; it is a matter of process and procedure. Should we fail to arrive at a mutually satisfactory understanding, you should take the matter to my immediate supervisor, Professor Stephen Freeborn, sfreeborn@ccsnh.edu.

LRCC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement: The content of this course is designed to challenge your viewpoints and perspective as part of your learning experience. It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives are well-served by this course. Students' learning needs will be addressed both in and out of class, and the diversity of students will benefit the class and will be considered a resource and strength. Materials and activities presented in class will respect diversity including: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture.

- Discuss privately with me if you feel your success in the class is being impacted by experiences outside of class. I am always open to listening to students' experiences and want to find acceptable ways to process and address the issue.
- If you feel that something offensive occurred regarding DEI topics in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please let me know.
- Please make me aware if you have a name and/or set of pronouns that are different from those appearing on your official records.
- I encourage you to seek out other resources, such as an academic advisor or another trusted faculty member, if you feel more comfortable addressing issues with these individuals. Anonymous feedback can be submitted [here](#).

Have a Question?: You are always welcome to contact me for clarification. The easiest way to do so is through Canvas, but you are also welcome to directly email me (rasullivan@ccsnh.edu). If you have a longer or more detailed question, I encourage you to stop by or sign up for virtual office hours.

Class Schedule

*While I expect us to follow this schedule, it may shift a bit as the semester unfolds. If that happens, I'll keep you in the loop & will update the syllabus.

** All readings listed are from the Conerly et al. Openstax textbook. Additional short readings, which correspond with activities, will be posted within certain modules.

Module	Topic(s)	Reading	Assignments
#1: Mon 8/28- Sun 9/3	An Introduction to Sociology	Chapter #1	Activity #1: due by 11:59pm, 9/3 Discussion Board #1: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 8/31 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 9/3
#2: Mon, 9/4- Sun 9/10	Sociological Research	Chapter #2	Activity #2: due by 11:59pm, 9/10 Discussion Board #2: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 9/7 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 9/10
#3: Mon 9/11-Sun 9/17	-Culture - Society & Social Interaction	Chapter #3 & Chapter #4	Activity #3: due by 11:59pm, 9/17 Discussion Board #3: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 9/14 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 9/17
#4: Mon 9/18- Sun 9/24	-Socialization -Groups & Organization	Chapter #5 & Chapter #6	Activity #4: due by 11:59pm, 9/24 Discussion Board #4: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 9/21 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 9/24

#5: Mon 9/25- Sun 10/1	-Deviance, Crime, & Social Control -Media & Technology	Chapter #7 & Chapter #8	Activity #5: due by 11:59pm, 10/1 Discussion Board #5: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 9/28 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 10/1
#6: Mon 10/2- Sun 10/8	-Social Stratification in the U.S. -Global Inequality	Chapter #9 & Chapter #10	Activity #6: due by 11:59pm, 10/8 Discussion Board #6: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 10/5 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 10/8
#7: Mon 10/9- Sun 10/15	Population, Urbanization, and the Environment	Chapter #20	Activity #7: due by 11:59pm, 10/15 Discussion Board #7: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 10/12 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 10/15
#8: Mon 10/16- Sun 10/22	Race & Ethnicity	Chapter #11	Activity #8: due by 11:59pm, 10/22 Discussion Board #8: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 10/19 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 10/22 Documentary Analysis: due by 11:59pm, 10/22
#9: Mon 10/23- Sun 10/29	Gender, Sex, & Sexuality	Chapter #12	Activity #9: due by 11:59pm, 10/29 Discussion Board #9: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 10/26 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 10/29
#10: Mon 10/30- Sun 11/5	-Aging & the Elderly -Relationships, Marriage, & Family	Chapter #13 & Chapter #14	Activity #10: due by 11:59pm, 11/5 Discussion Board #10: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 11/2 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 11/5
#11: Mon 11/6- Sun 11/12	Religion	Chapter #15	Activity #11: due by 11:59pm, 11/12 Discussion Board #11: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 11/9 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 11/12
#12: Mon 11/13- Sun 11/19	-Education -Government & Politics	Chapter #16 & Chapter #17	Activity #12: due by 11:59pm, 11/19 Discussion Board #12: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 11/16

			Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 11/19
#13: Mon 11/20- Sun 11/26	Work and the Economy	Chapter #18	Activity #13: due by 11:59pm, 11/26 Discussion Board #13: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 11/23 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 11/26
#14: Mon 11/27- Sun 12/3	Health and Medicine	Chapter #19	Activity #14: due by 11:59pm, 12/3 Discussion Board #14: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 11/30 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 12/3
#15: Mon 12/4- Sun 12/10	Social Movements & Social Change	Chapter #21	Activity #15: due by 11:59pm, 12/10 Discussion Board #15: Individual Post- due by 11:59pm, 12/7 Peer Response- due by 11:59pm, 12/10
#16: Mon 12/11- Fri 12/15	Course Wrap-up & Research Presentations	No new reading	Research Review & Presentation: Due by 11:59pm 12/15