

Introduction to Sociology Syllabus

Course Information

Course Title: Introduction to Sociology

Class Section: SOC 1301.0W1

Class Location and Time: Online

Professor Contact Information

Zachary R. Simoni, PhD

Office location: Green Hall 2.232

Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30p – 3:00p, and by appointment.

E-mail: zrs160030@utdallas.edu ***(may change in August 2016)

** Please craft e-mails that are professional in style and nature. It may take up to 48 hours to respond. I will not respond to emails after 7pm. **

Course Description

The objective of this course is to introduce you to the discipline of sociology. This class will provide you with the opportunity to learn the basic concepts and perspectives that the practitioners of sociology use every day. More importantly, this class will invite you to critically examine the social world in which we live and help you make sense of social issues outside of our personal experiences.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- 1) Increase student's awareness and understanding of the society in which we live, the social phenomena which we observe, and the world in which we live;
 - 2) View social phenomena specifically from a sociological perspective;
 - 3) Employ a comparative perspective on human societies and other social phenomena;
 - 4) Present alternative explanations or theories of social phenomena;
 - 5) Examine scientific research, various types of research, appropriate methods, technologies and data that sociologists use to investigate the human condition;
 - 6) Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures;
 - 7) Recognize the structural, systemic factors which affect the quality of life of persons of different ages, gender, social class, sexual orientation, disability, and racial/ethnic backgrounds;
 - 8) Address the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural and global forces on human society;
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- 9) Encourage one to think for oneself by obtaining information through appropriate sources; and, finally,
 - 10) Consider alternative explanations and solutions for contemporary social issues.
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Required Textbooks and Materials

Ferris, Kerry and Jill Stein. 2016. The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology. 5th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton. w/InQuizitive.

Ebook:

<https://ncia.wwnorton.com/ebook-realworld5> (\$45 w/InQuizitive)

OR

Paperback:

ISBN: 978-0-393-26430-2 (~\$94 w/InQuizitive)

Course Requirements:

This online course has been set up into FOUR sections:

- 1) Thinking Sociologically,
- 2) Framing of Social Life,
- 3) Understanding Inequality, and
- 4) Social Institutions and Society.

Each section will cover two to four chapters from the textbook. For each chapter, the InQuizitive lessons help students review material they read in the text. A quiz will assess the student's understanding of each Real World chapter; and a film will provide students with a critical thinking opportunity to express their sociological imagination by writing a well-crafted 2-page paper using sociology to explain ideas in the documentary. For each section (2-4 chapters), a comprehensive exam will evaluate the student's understanding of the material covered in that section.

The course Blackboard site is organized into folders by chapter. Each chapter folder will be available the week the material is due. For each chapter, students will be guided through the reading requirements, InQuizitive lessons, Powerpoints, chapter outline, critical writing opportunity, and finally the required quiz. At the end of each section, a comprehensive exam over the section chapters is posted in that week's folder. Below are outlines of, and directions for, each component for each chapter (InQuizitive lesson, critical writing assignment, and quiz). Information for section exams are below as well.

InQuizitive Lessons: In each chapter folder, there is a link to the learning program InQuizitive. This program has been empirically shown to help student to get the most out of studying for the class, by assisting students review the chapter material, as well as,

apply/practice their new found sociological knowledge. Students will be required to complete all 14 InQuizitive lessons, but only the top 10 grades will count towards one's final grade. Grades will be assigned based on the percentage of each unit completed (100% - 10pts, 90% - 9pts, etc.). Instructions to access and use InQuizitive are below.

Please follow these instructions CAREFULLY as failure to do so may influence the ability to record your scores.

1. Visit the book's digital landing page: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/realworld5>
2. Click the green button in the center of the page.
3. Select "No, I need to register, purchase, or sign up for trial access."
4. Enter your name, school email, and create a password.
5. As you complete registration, you'll have two access options:
 1. **If you already have a registration code**, enter your registration code and click "Register my Code." Registration codes are bound into every purchased new book. Purchasing an ebook will provide access to the digital resources for no additional cost.
 2. **If you want to purchase digital product access online**, select the "I want to purchase access" option.
6. The first time you access an activity from the landing page, you'll be asked to enter a Student Set ID number. Enter this student set ID: **17519**

Below, you will find short videos that walk you through the registration and student set process. Before contacting the instructor, please watch these videos in full.

Student Registration: <http://wwnpag.es/i2HBt>

Joining a Student Set: <http://wwnpag.es/i3Y4A>

Critical Writing: There are **14 critical writing opportunities** over videos/films we will watch throughout the semester. You will be required to complete TWO (2) critical writings over the course of the semester. Only the top two critical writing grades will count toward one's final grade, so if you don't like a grade, you are encouraged to write additional commentaries, to increase your score. You are encouraged to write about topics/chapters you find most interesting. Critical writings are due each SUNDAY at 11:59pm the week they are assigned (but you are encouraged to turn them in early).

The **FIRST** writing must be completed on or before **10/9, 2016**.

The **SECOND** writing must be completed on or before **12/11, 2016**.

Each commentary is worth 50 points. The purpose of the critical writing activities is to apply critical thinking skills to address the social problem addressed in the film utilizing a sociological lens.

Directions: Within each chapter section, there is a link to a critical writing assignment. The critical writings provide students with the opportunity to articulate an academic

argument, or take a well-thought out sociological position on the week's film selection

AND relate this back to the class reading material.

The paper should be a well-written full 2-page (double spaced, 1" margins, 11 pt.

Cambria – or similar – font) essay discussing a point/perspective integrating the week's chapter reading material with the film. Papers should conform to either ASA or APA publication style. A superb paper would be well organized and focused. Remember you have limited space to make your argument, so being concise is paramount. An A paper would also synthesize information from various sources (chapter readings and outside readings). Please see the information below for more clarification.

HINT: *This is not a film summary*; you need to integrate sociological ideas from the text, not just summarize the film, or play film critic. I want to know you developed a sociological insight from the film, *not your personal opinion about the film*. Also, keep personal anecdotes to a minimum, and instead try to incorporate course material wherever possible.

HINT: Do not make your paper "longer" by altering margins, adding space between paragraphs, using a larger font size, or added phrases/statements/sentences that do not add quality to the paper. I grade these papers based on content and depth of discussion. This takes the average student approximately 2 quality pages to accomplish.

HINT: You are encouraged to write additional papers if you are not happy with a grade, taking my comments into consideration when writing your next paper. I'll have papers graded within 72 hours of the due date.

Grading Rubric:

A= The paper is well written, utilizes a well thought out sociological argument while incorporating course material pertinent to the film.

B= The paper is well written, and ties in course material but doesn't offer a strong sociological argument to support their perspective.

C= The paper is adequately written but hard to follow at times, mostly summarized the film, very little course material was discussed and the sociological argument is weak.

D= The paper is poorly written, provides a weak sociological argument and did not incorporate any relevant material. The paper relied on opinions and personal anecdotes.

F= The paper is poorly written, does not provide a sociological argument and did not incorporate any relevant material.

Suggested Paper Organization:

First Paragraph: In a short and concise paragraph (3 to 4 sentences), clearly articulate the film's main sociological message and introduce the reader to the critical argument.

Body of the Paper (2 to 3 paragraphs): Using course material and applying a sociological perspective, construct your argument.

Last Paragraph: In a short and concise paragraph (3 to 4 sentences), reiterate the film's main sociological message and clarify your sociological argument.

Quizzes: There are **Fourteen (14) time-limited quizzes (10 mins)**. Each quiz consists of 5 multiple choice questions for a total of 10 pts. Students are encouraged to complete all 14 quizzes, but only the TOP TEN quizzes will be included in the final point tally (the three lowest grades – or zeroes if you skip a quiz - will be dropped). The purpose of the quizzes is to test your conceptual and factual knowledge about the materials that was covered in the Real World chapter. These quizzes will not include material from the assigned films.

Directions: Within each chapter, there is a link to a quiz. The quizzes will only be open from MONDAY at 12:00am through SUNDAY at 11:59pm of the week in which they are assigned. Students will only be allowed to take the quiz once. Considering you have the entire week, late grades are not accepted (see make-up policy below).

Section Exams: There will be **FOUR (4) section exams** during the semester. Each exam will cover 2-4 chapters. Each exam consists of multiple choice and short answer questions (4-5 sentences). The purpose of the section exam is to test your conceptual and factual knowledge about the section material covered.

Small Exam I:	covers Part I - chapters 1 and 2 (50pts)		
Exam II:	covers Part II - chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6 (100pts)		
Exam III:	covers Part III - chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10 (100pts)		
Exam IV:	covers Part IV – chapters 11, 12, 13 and 14 (100pts)		

Points:	GRADES:		LETTER
InQuizitive	10 graded x 10pts each	= 100pts	582-650 = A
Quizzes	10 graded x 10pts each	= 100pts	517-581 = B
Critical Writings	2 graded x 50pts each	= 100pts	452-516 = C
Exams	3 exams x 100 + 1(50)	= 350pts	387-451 = D

If you have any questions on the gradebook, please calculate your grade by hand, before emailing me.

Course & Instructor Policies

Communications:

All official email correspondence will be sent ONLY to the zrs160030@utdallas.edu address. All students are responsible for ensuring that the correct e-mail address is listed in Blackboard by the beginning of Week 1. It is your responsibility to make sure a valid email UTD address is provided. Failure on your part to do so can result in you missing important information that could affect your grade.

Drop/Add:

According to UTD policy, September 7, 2016 is the last day to drop a class without a "W."

Accommodation of Religious Beliefs:

Religious beliefs shall be reasonably accommodated with respect to all examinations and other academic requirements. Please notify me in advance if there is a conflict.

Reasonable Accommodations:

It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow one week advance notice. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations, or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact OSA for a confidential discussion. OSA is located in the Student Services Building, SSB 3.200. They can be reached by phone at 972-883-2098, or by email at studentaccess@utdallas.edu.

Make-up Policy:

Because of the online nature of this course, I do not allow make-ups for quizzes, exams or InQuizitive tests and critical writings. I only allow makeups if there is documentation of a technical error or an extreme emergency. Documentation of a technical error entails an email from IT or a screenshot indicating the date of issue. REMEMBER, not all quizzes and critical writings are used to calculate final grades. Proper evidence of a medical emergency is required for make-up exams. Although I am aware that technical errors do occur with the Blackboard system, students must provide evidence of the technical glitch or error. In the case of a technical error, the student must provide screenshot evidence of the error with a message in Blackboard including the date and time of the error.

Academic Honest Policy:

Faculty expect all members of its academic community to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Academic dishonesty and misconduct includes, but is not limited to, acts of abetting, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and misrepresentation. Candidates are expected to honor the Academic Code of Conduct as detailed UT Dallas Student Catalog 2015-2016. Please consult this resource for additional information regarding the specific procedures to be undertaken when a student violates the UT Student Code of Conduct - UTDSP5003.

<https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003>

Let me make it clear: if you cheat or plagiarize you will fail the course and your name will be forwarded to the University Compliance Office. Please don't do it.

Reservation:

I reserve the right to make changes in this syllabus to better serve the class's needs. Any changes will be announced in advance.

Course Calendar on next page

Intro to Sociology Course Calendar Fall 2016:

Date	Topic	Weekly Objectives
SECTION ONE: Introduction to Sociology		
Week 1: 8/22-28	Sociology and the Real World	Due 8/28 11:59 pm Real World Chapter 1 InQuizitive Lesson 1 Chapter Quiz 1 Critical Writing 1: The Merchants of Cool (2003)
Week 2: 8/29-9/4	Studying Social Life	Due 9/4 11:59 pm Real World Chapter 2 InQuizitive Lesson 2 Chapter Quiz 2 Critical Writing 2: The Stanford Prison Experiment Exam 1
SECTION TWO: Framing Social Life ***Last Day to Drop 9/7***		
Week 3: 9/5-11	Cultural Crossroads	Due 9/11 11:59 pm Real World Chapter 3 InQuizitive Lesson 3 Chapter Quiz 3 Critical Writing 3: Newtown Divided (2013)
Week 4: 9/12-18	Self and Interaction	Due 9/18 11:59 pm Real World Chapter 4 InQuizitive Lesson 4 Chapter Quiz 4 Critical Writing 4: Generation Like (2014)
Week 5: 9/19-25	Life in Groups	Due 9/25 11:59 pm Real World Chapter 5 InQuizitive Lesson 5 Chapter Quiz 5 Critical Writing 5: The Wounded Platoon (2010)
Week 6: 9/26-10/2	Deviance	Due 10/2 11:59 pm Real World Chapter 6 InQuizitive Lesson 6 Chapter Quiz 6 Critical Writing 6: Prison State (2014) Exam 2
SECTION THREE: Understanding Inequality *****YOU MUST COMPLETE ONE CRITICAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT BEFORE 10/9 *****		
Week 7: 10/3-9	Social Class	Due 10/9 11:59 pm Real World Chapter 7

		InQuizitive Lesson 7 Chapter Quiz 7 Critical Writing 7: Two American Families (2013)
Week 8: 10/10-16	Race and Ethnicity	<u>Due 10/16 11:59 pm</u> Real World Chapter 8 InQuizitive Lesson 8 Chapter Quiz 8 Critical Writing 8: Immigration Battle (2015)
Week 9 10/17-23	Constructing Gender/Sexuality	<u>Due 10/23 11:59 pm</u> Real World Chapter 9 InQuizitive Lesson 9 Chapter Quiz 9 Critical Writing 9: Immigration Battle (2015)
Week 10: 10/24-30	Politics, Education, and Religion	<u>Due 10/30 11:59 pm</u> Real World Chapter 10 InQuizitive Lesson 10 Chapter Quiz 10 Critical Writing 10: Dropout Nation (2012) Exam 3
SECTION FOUR: Institutions and Society		
Week 11: 10/31-11/6	The Economy and Work	<u>Due 11/6 11:59 pm</u> Real World Chapter 11 InQuizitive Lesson 11 Chapter Quiz 11 Critical Writing 11: Close to Home (2011)
Week 12: 11/7-11/13	The Family	<u>Due 11/13 11:59 pm</u> Real World Chapter 12 InQuizitive Lesson 12 Chapter Quiz 12 Critical Writing 12: Growing Up Online (2008)
Week 13: 11/14-20	Leisure and the Media	<u>Due 11/20 11:59 pm</u> Real World Chapter 13 InQuizitive Lesson 13 Chapter Quiz 13 Critical Writing 13: The Persuaders (2004)
Week 14: 11/21-27	Take a break...	Take a break...
Week 15: 11/28-12/4	Health and Illness	<u>Due 12/4 11:59 pm</u> Real World Chapter 14 InQuizitive Lesson 14 Chapter Quiz 14 Critical Writing 14: Medicating Children (2004)
Week 16: 12/5	Finals Week	Exam 4 due by 12/11 Please finish it early!!!

***Course calendar is subject to change at the Professor's discretion.