

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY
Sociology 0101 Section 001

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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 12:30 - 2:00
and by appointment.

To study sociology is to analyze the relationship between society and the individual. This includes moving beyond commonsense beliefs we hold in our everyday lives. Sociology deepens our awareness of the social world in which we live, and challenges taken-for-granted assumptions about society.

The chance to take this course online is both exciting (class in your bathrobe! at 2 am!) and challenging (self-motivation! technology challenges!). And there are some significant challenges to overcome. First, you need to become adept at PLATO, JING, and the other technologies we will be using. Attending one of the PLATO Course Orientations is a good idea. Second, you must be your own boss. You'll need to make sure you put **8-10 hours a week into this class (the same expectation as in-person classes). An online class is not a regular class without lecture. I promise it will take you as much time as an in-person class;** if you expect to do well by only reading the book and taking the exams you will be disappointed. However, if you put time and energy into watching class videos, participating in discussions, reading and responding to your peers, and exploring sociology, **I promise that you will learn far more than you expect.**

This course will introduce you to the perspectives, theories, and methods of sociology in order to improve your understanding of groups and societies, the way individuals' lives and identities are shaped by present and past social, cultural, political, technological, and economic developments, and the processes that influence social change. Because social organization depends upon relationships among diverse groups of people, a central focus of the course will be the varieties of experience and identities that exist in U.S. society, conflicts that shape institutions within the U.S. from family to the government, and the ceaseless pattern of social change that is going on all around us.

Course Goals

- Understand the basic concepts, theories, and methods of sociology.
- Analyze the social processes that influence people's lives, identities, beliefs, and behaviors.
- Understand the social institutions in which people and groups operate.

Course Texts: There is one book required for this course. The textbook is available for purchase at the bookstore, and is on reserve at the library. You will not be able to do well in this course unless you do the reading. Supplementary readings will be posted on PLATO

- Giddens, Anthony, Mitchell Duneier, and Richard P. Appelbaum. 2009. *Introduction to Sociology, Seventh Edition*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.
- Course website available at: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/soc/giddens7/>

Requirements:	Midterm	25 points
	Final Exam	35 points
	Weekly Modules	40 points
	(Optional Films/Lectures)	(6 points Extra Credit)
	Total	100 points

On-time work must be completed by 11:59pm, on the due date. Work submitted after that time will be considered late. Late work will be reduced one full letter grade per day, starting the day it is due.

Writing: Writing matters. Indeed, it is one of the most important skills one gains at college. Grammar, spelling, structure, and clarity will all affect your grade. When turning in assignments, please make sure to edit and proofread your work.

*****Any time that you use somebody's ideas or words you MUST give credit. Failure to do so is plagiarism. You must provide a citation whenever you paraphrase, quote, or borrow an idea. ***** If I find that you have plagiarized or cheated you will receive a failing grade and will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs. I encourage you to visit Westfield's webpage on academic honesty:

http://www.wsc.ma.edu/Current_Students/Student_Handbook/Academic_Life/Academic_Honesty_Policy.html

Midterm and Final Exam: There will be two on-line exams comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions. You will receive more detailed guidelines before each exam.

Weekly Modules: You are responsible for completing all parts of the weekly module. This includes doing the assigned reading, reviewing the lecture, completing any exercises or films, and participating in discussion. I will monitor the time you spend on each activity and assign points accordingly. Each module will be worth 4% of your overall grade.

Extra Credit: Throughout the course you can attend any school or town events that relate to our course. Each event will be worth **one point** and you may earn up to 6 extra credit points. To earn the points, you need to attend an approved event and turn in a one-page reaction **within one week**.

A Note About the Course: There will be times during this course that sensitive issues will be raised about race, gender, sexuality, religion, etc. Passion is welcome, disrespect is not. With this in mind, it is *absolutely essential* that we each **show respect to all others**, regardless of their views. There is no doubt that the material and discussion in this course can and will arouse strong feelings. If you find these issues too difficult or objectionable to engage with in an academic context, you may want to come talk to me about it OR see how it feels during the first week, OR reconsider taking this course.