

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

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SOC 1101  
Spring 2019, 3 credits

**Professor:** Filiz Garip, Department of Sociology  
[fgarip@cornell.edu](mailto:fgarip@cornell.edu)

**Lectures:** Mondays & Wednesdays from 11:15am-12:05pm in Uris G01

**Section:** Fridays (see below)

**Office Hours:** Professor Garip: Mondays 1:30-3:30pm, 348 Uris Hall

## Teaching Assistants:

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**Course Website:** search for “Soc 1101” in Blackboard ([www.blackboard.cornell.edu](http://www.blackboard.cornell.edu))

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a broad introduction to the field of sociology. Course materials are designed to illustrate the distinctive features of the sociological perspective and to start you thinking sociologically about yourself and the broader social world. To think sociologically is to recognize that being embedded in the world constrains behavior, and that individuals are both social actors and social products. To think sociologically also requires you to recognize that our contemporary world—with its enduring cultural, political, and economic institutions—is as much a social product as we are. We will begin by covering theoretical and methodological foundations of the sociological perspective. We then go on to explore the concept of social stratification and will survey primary axes of social difference. We will then look more closely at how individuals relate to each other, how social inequality is enacted and reinforced in everyday life, and at the way in which the organization of social life shapes individuals and groups through social institutions, social networks, and on-line communication. We conclude class with a look at the future of sociology and how to make social change.

## COURSE WEBSITE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

There is no textbook for this class. All of the **assigned readings** are available as PDFs on the course BB website. Once enrolled in the class, you should have automatic access to all required

readings. We will be using **iClickers** this semester, please purchase, register and bring them to lecture. Also, please come to lecture having read the listed assigned readings for that day.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION**

You are responsible for all the material covered in lectures, section meetings, assignments and required readings. You are expected to complete the readings for each lecture prior to the start of class. In addition, there are three (3) formal course requirements outlined below.

#### **1. Exams [75%]**

The majority of your course grade will be based on three exams, each worth 25% of your final grade. The first **two prelims** will take place during regular class time in our usual lecture room. I do not give make-up exams except in the case of a dire emergency (e.g., long-term hospitalization, death in the family). If you need a make-up exam, you must notify me *and* get my approval at least 12 hours in advance of the scheduled exam time. All make-up exams must be taken within 48 hours of the missed exam.

The **third (final) exam** is not cumulative in the strictest sense, and primarily addresses the material covered in the third segment of the course. This exam will be given only once, during the assigned final exam period. There can be no alternative dates or exceptions, so you must take the final exam during the designated time unless you have documentation of a dire emergency.

#### **2. Weekly Memos [10%]**

You are required to submit **10 short written responses to the readings**. These memos should not summarize the readings, but instead raise questions, analyze arguments, or relate the material to broader themes or current events. Only one memo per week can be submitted and it is due by 7:00am on Thursdays via BB; NO late submissions will be accepted.

The memos should be no longer than 1 page double-spaced (11 or 12 font) and are graded “excellent” (100), “good” (90), “satisfactory” (80) or “unsatisfactory” (0). You are required to include citations in American Sociological Association format when referring to specific readings.

Your TA will review these memos and may use your questions and ideas to guide discussion in section. Your TA may also call on you in section to discuss your memo.

Possible memo weeks: 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29

#### **3. Section Attendance and Participation [15%]**

Attendance at and active participation in **discussion sections** will count for the remaining 15% of your course grade. Sections meet on Fridays and provide a more intimate classroom context in which you can discuss the week’s lecture content and reading materials with your TA (a PhD student in the Sociology Department). Section will be used for further exploration of the course content, not lecture review or grasping of basic concepts. Attendance is mandatory and you must attend the section in which you are officially enrolled. You are expected to contribute to discussions, participate in any group activities, and complete in-class exercises.

Your TA will keep track of your attendance and participation. An absence will only be excused for emergencies (e.g., hospitalization, death in the family) and it is your responsibility to let your TA know of any absences before section. You are allowed one unexcused absence without penalty to your grade.

#### **ATTENDANCE AT LECTURES**

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I know this is a large lecture class, but attendance at all sessions is important. If attendance begins to fall to unacceptable levels in lecture, unannounced but trivially easy quizzes will be introduced as a verification mechanism. These quizzes will count for up to 10% of your final grade (and will therefore reduce the weighting given to other course requirements; i.e., the final exam would then count for  $.9 \times .25 = .225$ ). *Also, please note, no video, audio, or unauthorized photographing of lecture content or materials is permitted.*

#### **EXTRA CREDIT**

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There will be some opportunities to earn extra credit throughout the semester. These will likely be in the form of attending (in person or virtually) some university event or talk and writing up a brief reflection. More details regarding extra credit requirements will be outlined in lecture.

The first section activity is worth 2 extra credit points, as is the we ask you to fill out (or opt out of by writing to Vida Maralani). See the section titled "Important Information" for details.

#### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS, POLICIES AND PRACTICE**

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I expect you to do all of the required readings on-time, attend lecture, and be actively involved in your discussions sections. I expect you to learn from and teach each other (including me). **I expect you to be respectful of your peers, TAs and myself by not engaging in activities or conversations not pertaining to class activities (e.g. texting or inappropriate laptop/tablet use) during lecture or section.** I expect you to let me or your TA know when you need help or do not understand something, and I expect you to communicate with us about how we can help you best learn the material.

You can expect me to work to help you understand the material covered in lecture and the texts. I will take your questions seriously, learn from the things you all may teach me and learn from the mistakes I may make. *This course is a work in progress*, and I put great effort into making lecture as interesting, engaging, and informative as I can. Lastly, you can expect me to be respectful of you, honoring the fact that we are all diverse with respect to race, ethnicity, gender, social class, sexual orientation, age, political orientation, dis/ability, place of origin, religion and so on. Many of these expectations are also courtesies I hope you extend to each other as well as myself and the course teaching assistants.

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, PLAGIARISM AND ACCOMMODATIONS**

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All students are expected to adhere to the university's Code of Academic Integrity (found here: <http://www.theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/AcadInteg/code.html>) and be aware of the related consequences. Your work is expected to be your own, and cheating, in any form, is truly not worth it. You are welcome to study in groups for the exams, but you are not permitted to buy or sell notes to or from on-line sources, such as NoteHall.com, Chegg, their current incarnations, or any other such service. This is not strictly illegal (as long as copyright law is obeyed), but *it is my strong belief that such pay-for-notes services undermine the culture of*

*learning at Cornell. I therefore have a class rule that such activity is prohibited. Violators will be subject to an academic penalty in their final grade. As of Fall 2013, the Dean of the Faculty has recommended that all instructors include the following language in their syllabi: "Unless you have the express permission of the instructor, you should not buy or sell course materials. Such unauthorized behavior constitutes academic misconduct."*

Additionally, some of your assignments will be submitted through the *Turnitin* tool on the Blackboard course website. *Turnitin* is a form of anti-plagiarism software that allows student work to be compared to a database of previously submitted work, on-line sources, and published academic materials. As of Fall 2013, the Dean of the Faculty has required that all instructors who use *Turnitin* include the following language in their syllabi: "Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site."

If you find yourself in a bind, come talk to me. It is better to be honest and accept some minor consequences than permanently tarnish your academic record. A clear definition of plagiarism as well as information about disciplinary sanctions for academic misconduct may be found at: <http://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/index.cfm>.

I am happy to make academic accommodations to students in need. As stated on the Student Disability Services (SDS) website (<http://sds.cornell.edu/>), "Students requesting academic accommodations are required to provide an accommodation letter from SDS to the professor within the first two weeks of classes, or at least 2 weeks before accommodations are expected to begin if accommodations are granted or modified further into the semester. This letter verifies that the student is registered with SDS and specifies accommodations. Accommodations will not be provided retroactively. Early notification and active communication with instructors is the best way to ensure that your accommodations are handled smoothly."

#### **OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACTING ME**

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The best way to reach me is to come talk to me during office hours. However, since this is a large lecture class and my office hours are limited, **I encourage you to first consult the syllabus, Blackboard, a classmate, or contact your TA with any questions.** I am also available over e-mail but expect a less speedy response after 5pm and over the weekend.

This syllabus can be understood as a contract between us. However, this class is also a work in progress so I may make minor changes as I see fit for the good of the class. If I do, I will make sure everyone is made aware of these changes in a timely and appropriate matter.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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**Sociology 1101 is participating in Cornell's Active Learning Initiative**, a program designed to infuse our large lecture courses with activities that increase student participation. We expect no risks to you for participating in the study. Later this term, we will ask you to complete a short

(one minute) survey. Otherwise, you'll just do the work of the course, as assigned by your instructor. You might also be contacted in the future and invited to participate in a focus group to provide your feedback on the active learning activities used in the course. If you have any questions, contact Professor Vida Maralani in the Department of Sociology at Cornell. You can reach her at [vida.maralani@cornell.edu](mailto:vida.maralani@cornell.edu) or 607-255-8196.

Throughout the class, you will use the iClicker system to answer questions and give us feedback on what you are learning. This keeps you engaged, and lets us know when we need to provide more direction. To participate, you will need to purchase either an iClicker remote or the iClicker REEF software for your mobile device. The clicker costs \$30-40 and can be used for multiple classes. The software costs \$14.99 for a 6-month license.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE SPRING 2019**

#### **Week 1**

[W] 1/23: **Introduction and Course Overview**

*Assigned readings:* please closely read the class syllabus

#### **THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

#### **Week 2**

[M] 1/28: **What is Sociology? What do Sociologists do?**

*Assigned readings:* Berger 1963; Smith-Lovin & Moskovitz 2017

[W] 1/30: **Sociological Theory and the Sociological Imagination**

*Assigned readings:* Mills 1959

[F] 2/1: **Discussion sections**

#### **Week 3**

[M] 2/4: **Social Facts and Sociological Questions**

*Assigned readings:* Durkheim 1895; Schwalbe 1998

[W] 2/6: **Research Methods**

*Assigned readings:* Conley 2013

[F] 2/8: **Discussion sections**

#### **SOCIAL STRATIFICATION, INEQUALITY & SOCIALIZATION**

#### **Week 4**

[M] 2/11: **Social Stratification and Inequality**

*Assigned readings:* Lemert 2013 [Marx & Engels]; Davis & Moore 1945; Tumin 1953

[W] 2/13: **Social Class and Mobility**

*Assigned readings:* Lareau 2002; Miller (NYT) 2015; Kraus and Tan 2015 (skim)

[F] 2/15: **Discussion sections**

### **Week 5**

[M] 2/18: **Socialization—Race, Class and Gender**

*Assigned readings:* Van Ausdale & Feagin 1996; Granfield 1991; Kane 2006

### **STRUCTURE, CULTURE & INTERACTION**

[W] 2/20: **Structure and Culture**

*Assigned readings:* Merton 1938; Wray 2013

[F] 2/22: **Discussion sections**

### **Week 6**

[M] 2/25: **No class – February break**

[W] 2/27: **Interaction and The Self**

*Assigned readings:* Cooley 1902; Goffman 1959

[F] 3/1: **Discussion sections**

### **Week 7**

[M] 3/4: **Exam Review (optional; in class)**

[W] 3/6: **Prelim Exam 1 (in class)**

[F] 3/8: **Discussion sections (cancelled)**

### **SOCIAL DIFFERENCE – RACE, GENDER, SEXUALITY & DEVIANCE**

### **Week 8**

[M] 3/11: **Race & Ethnicity**

*Assigned readings:* Winant 2000; Trillin 1986

[W] 3/13: **Gender**

*Assigned readings:* Lorber 1994; England 2010

[F] 3/15: **Discussion sections**

### **Week 9**

[M] 3/18: **Sex and Sexuality**

*Assigned readings:* Wade 2017; Pascoe 2005

[W] 3/20: **Deviance**

*Assigned readings:* Becker 1963; McLorg & Taub 1987

[F] 3/22: **Discussion sections**

## **SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS – FAMILIES, SCHOOLS & THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

### **Weeks 10**

[M] 3/25: **Marriage and the Family**

*Assigned readings:* Cherlin 2004; Jacobs & Gerson 2016

[W] 3/27: **Crime, Punishment and Social Control**

*Assigned readings:* Sampson & Raudenbush 2004; Wakefield & Uggen 2010

[F] 3/29: **Discussion sections**

### **NO CLASS 4/1 & 4/3 – SPRING BREAK**

### **Week 11**

[M] 4/8: **Education, Schools and Schooling**

*Assigned readings:* Parsons 1959; Davies & Guppy 2014

[W] 4/10: **Prelim Exam 2 (in class)**

[F] 4/12: **Discussion sections** (cancelled)

## **SOCIAL NETWORKS, GLOBALIZATION AND HEALTH**

### **Week 12**

[M] 4/15: **Social Networks**

*Assigned readings:* Christakis & Fowler 2009

[W] 4/17: **Globalization**

*Assigned readings:* Mills 2009; Hochschild 2000

[F] 4/19: **Discussion sections**

### **Week 13**

[M] 4/22: **Health and Inequality**

*Assigned readings:* Braveman et al. 2010; York Cornwell & Currit 2016

[W] 4/24: **Illness and Death**

*Assigned readings:* Conrad & Barker 2010; Timmermans 1999

[F] 4/26: **Discussion sections**

## **CONNECTEDNESS AND LIFE ONLINE**

### **Week 14**

[M] 4/29: **The Small World Problem**

*Assigned readings:* Milgram 1967; Uzzi & Spiro 2005 (skim, focus on pages 447-465; 492-498)

[W] 5/1: **Life Online**

*Assigned readings:* Eitzen 2004; Turkle 2011; Toma et al. 2007

[F] 5/3: **Discussion sections**

**THE FUTURE OF SOCIOLOGY**

<b>Week 15</b>
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[M] 5/6: **Genetics and Sociobiological Processes; Social Change and Public Sociology**

*Assigned readings:* Shanahan et al. 2010; Freese & Shostak 2009; Alwin 2002; Burawoy 2006; Schwalbe 1998 (review)

**Final Exam: University assigned date between May 11-18**